

Roebuck #1 and #2 Cemeteries, Chilton County, Alabama

By Derric Scott

There are two **Roebuck Family Cemeteries** in the far southwestern part of Chilton County less than a ½ mile apart. The two cemeteries contain graves of members of the same immediate families and, except possibly for the intervening timeframe of the known burials, there's no explanation for them being separate. The Cemeteries of Chilton book names the eastern most "Roebuck #1" and the western most "Roebuck #2." Note: instead of the early "Robuck" spelling we'll use "Roebuck."

Robert Monroe Roebuck was born in 1796 in South Carolina to Revolutionary War veteran Robert Roebuck, **VI** (b. 1754). At the time of this birth, the Roebuck family was in the extended, decades long, process of migrating from Virginia, where the father Robert, **VI**, was born. Perhaps the son Robert's middle name was changed from his father's or perhaps he wanted to start over, but for whatever reason, he was called "Senior" (so the expected Robert, **VII**, became Robert, **Sr.**).

Fifteen to twenty years later the family was in Elbert County, Georgia where, in May 1810, Robert, Sr. married Franky White. In the 1820 Census Robert, Sr.'s family was also listed in Elbert County. Robert, VI, the patriarch, died on 4 September 1815, also in Elbert County.

According to Robert, Sr.'s death notice in the 8/16/1883 Chilton View, he came to the Chilton County area about 1818. Considering he was in Georgia in the 1820 FC, it is more likely he came early in the 1820s, moving to Bibb County, Alabama. The name "Robert" continued ... Robert Monroe Roebuck, Jr., was born 28 August 1847; and he had a son Robert Newton born 26 January 1873. The name Josephene/Joseph was also apparently reused several times for women in the families.

In the 1840 Census in Bibb County, Alabama, Robert, Sr. only lists one female – a teenager; therefore his first wife, Franky, may have died by then. In 1838 he married Elisabeth Foshee in Bibb County and she appears with him in later Censuses (not sure why not 1840). Elisabeth is buried at Mt. Carmel nearby. Robert, Sr.'s daughter "Joseph" Adella (b1863 – d1881) predeceased him by two years and was buried in the Roebuck Family Cemetery #1. Robert, Sr., lived a long life, died 10 August 1883, and was also buried in Cemetery #1. Robert, Sr., and "JosephAdella, daughter" are written on the same headstone. That was likely short for Josephene Adella. Separate footstones for each were made (R. R. and J. A. R.).

About 17 years before Robert, Sr.'s death his daughter-in-law, Amanda A. Broadhead Roebuck, had died (11 December 1866) after only about a year of marriage to Robert, Jr. She is the only visible burial in Roebuck Family Cemetery #2. Robert, Jr. and his second wife, Mary Donovan Roebuck, are buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Having arrived in Bibb County ca. 1820 makes the Roebuck family one of the earliest families to settle in the area. They appear to have lived the whole time on land around the cemeteries in the area of Bibb County that would later become Chilton County.

The Roebuck Family Cemetery #1 is 350 feet in the woods west of County Road 339 and likely has up to 7 burials. The only headstone visible is the one for Robert, Sr. and daughter "JosephAdella." There are several visible depressions as well. The *Cemeteries of Chilton* lists more burials, but those markers aren't visible today.

Roebuck Family Cemetery #2 is in a very precarious spot on County Road 337. It is on about a 10 foot high embankment on the side of the road with a deep "wash/gulley" on the other (east) side of the grave. The whole area is about 20 feet wide from road embankment on the west and the wash/gulley on the east. There are no obvious indications of any other burials.