

The true age of Lemuel Carter Deceased 1861 Caswell County, North Carolina.

A review of documents related to Lemuel Carter died 1861 in Caswell County, North Carolina suggest to me his true age is estimated to be 1780-1782. Taking into consideration the 1850 Census for Halifax County, Virginia and the 1860 Census for Caswell County, North Carolina and the probate records. There is no doubt in my mind the L. Carter and Lemuel Carter are the same person. My belief is the 1860 census more correctly denotes the estimated age of Lemuel Carter, son of Richard Carter who dies ca 1796 in Halifax County, North Carolina.

If you look at the 1860 census you will see L. Carter and/or the census taker reports his age as 75. You will note this number 5, is the same as the 435/441 noted on line 1 followed by 436/442 on line two for Mary Kersey. If you subtract 75 from 1860 you get 1785. The math here would indicate the age of 11. Lemuel was a minor when his father died and he was of the age to be able to choose his own guardian. I think Virginia law at the time says you have to be at least 14 to be able to choose your guardian. Since L. Carter is alone, my assumption is his wife Martha or Patsy Powell is deceased prior to 1860

A review of the Lemuel Carter in the 1850 census for Halifax County, Virginia suggests to me either the census taker or the person giving the information was not aware of the correct ages of the parents. The children are some of the children mentioned in the Caswell County, North Carolina probate for Lemuel Carter. Lemuel Carter b 1823 is not in the 1850 or 1860 census as he marries in 1845 in Missouri and can be found there in the 1850 and 1860 Census records and several post Civil War tax records in Mexico, Missouri.

If you look closely at the 1850 census it shows Lemuel Carter was age 76 and his wife Martha is age 60. These dates are suspect for a couple of reasons. One, there is a bond showing Lemuel Carter and Patsy Powell married ca 1801 in Halifax County, Virginia. David Powell, her father signed the bond. If Martha 'Patsy' was 60 in 1850, this would indicate a birth date of 1790 and an age of 11 when she married which is highly unlikely. I suspect she was at least childbearing age at the time of the marriage which would be at least 15 -16. Two, if Lemuel Carter was age 76 in 1850, it would suggest a birth year of 1774 which would indicate he was 22 years of age when his father Richard Carter is reported deceased. This would conflict with the documents showing Lemuel Carter was a minor in 1796 and was allowed to choose his own guardian.

Another item contributing to confusion on this Lemuel Carter d 1861 family is his son Lemuel Carter Jr born 1823 had a brother named John Carter born ca 1817, a son and grandson both named John Flint Carter, one born 1852 and one born 1881.

Please note the work of Mary Frances Eggleston at this website:

<http://www.eggisland.com/reynolds/>

or <http://reynolds.eggisland.com/>

Click on ----> Caswell County Court Record

-- Children of Lemuel Carter and Patsy Powell

<http://www.eggisland.com/reynolds/getperson.php?personID=I67959&tree=reynolds1>

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Carter DNA Project