

Individual Summary

Name: Monroe Cole
Sex: Male
Father:
Mother: Ann Cole (abt 1851 - Jul 3 1928)

Individual Facts

Birth abt 1864 Noxubee County, Mississippi
Death unk
Burial Old Bethel Springs Black Cemetery, McNairy County, Tenn

Marriages/Children

1. Laura Williams

Marriage unk Never married
Children William Carter Cole (abt 1888 - Dec 28 1975)

2. Eliza Augustus

Marriage Oct 16 1889 Obion County, Tenn
Children Charles S Cole (Sep 17 1891 - Mar 4 1922)
Monroe Jr Cole (Oct 6 1892 - unk)

Notes (Individual)

General: If he was born in 1864 he was born a slave. Birth dates on census could vary about 2 years either way. Census was taken every ten years about May, June and July and at that time parents were probably in the fields working and some child had to answer the questions. So it is estimated Monroe was born 1864 to 1866.

He has never been found in any other census after 1870. It is thought he died sometime after 1910. In 1900 and 1910 census women told how many children that had born and how many were living at that time. Both years Ann always said one child born and one child alive.

It has always been told in McNairy County Monroe Cole was buried in the Old Bethel Springs Black Cemetery that has been lost to time and elements. Years ago a CME Church was located on the west side of Bethel Springs near the cemetery. (Top of hill, just off Parkway St.) Due to the fact that members of the congregation slowly moved to the east side of town, the church was relocated east of the railroad and a new cemetery was started nearby. Some 40 graves or more unknown graves according to T C Williams. Several veterans are buried here. During the Civil War, Confederate soldiers dug a trench on a hill that overlooked the little town of Bethel Springs then the Union Army moved in and stayed until the war was over. Several black soldiers died and were buried in this cemetery. There have not been any burials in this cemetery for many, many years. Only about 22 graves are known which included Monroe Cole and Charlie Cole, dates unknown. Cemeteries of McNairy County, Tennessee by Nancy Wardlow Kennedy.

CME Methodist Church of Bethel Springs: The first colored church was organized in Bethel Springs. The CME Church was located in west Bethel Springs in the 1800's. The members were from the slave families and consisted of the following people: Mr Bob Rpussey, George Erwin, Bridge Turner, Jim Wiley, Ada Rowland, Bob Floyd, Bill Floyd, Lizzie Stephen, George Williams, Von Langdom and Ann Langdom. Also Erin Tournill and Settie Tournill. Several years later they decided to relocate to the east side of the town, later called the Roast. Some members died and some moved away and the congregation went down. submitted to Reflections by Mrs T. C. Williams.

Notes (Family #1)

Notes (Family #2)

Prepared by:
McNairy Tennessee Office of County Archives
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