

## The Dicey (James) and Guilford Brooks Family

Origins of the Brooks family associated with Roberts Settlement are deeply rooted in North Carolina counties which were near one another. An Eastern Cherokee Application signed on August 17, 1908 by Bryant Brooks, son of Dicey and Guilford Brooks, stated that his parents were born in Halifax County, North Carolina. Guilford Brooks married Dicey James on August 6, 1823 in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. He may have been the same "Gilford Brooks, free colored person" enumerated in the 1830 census living near Jamestown (now Jamesville), Martin County, North Carolina with another adult female (age 24-35) and two other persons under the age of 23.

Guilford Brooks and his family had a brief stay in Rush County, Indiana where other members of the Brooks family resided before he began cultivating the 40 acres of land purchased in Hamilton County in 1835 adjacent to Micajah Walden. Sometime after 1840, he and his family arrived at Roberts Settlement and became a permanent part of this close-knit community surrounded by the families of Kessiah (James) and Henry Winburn, Priscilla (Hunt) and Hansel Roberts. Melissa and James "Long Jim" Roberts, Mary (Corby) and Micajah Walden and others.

March 2, 1847, Guilford Brooks along with his neighbors, Hansel and Stephen Roberts, were trustees of School Number One at Roberts Settlement according to a deed transfer of a land parcel from Elias and Mariah Roberts to the trustees of Roberts Settlement with provisions to build a permanent meetinghouse. This is the land on which the present day chapel and cemetery are located.

Census records indicate that there were at least eight children born to the couple who survived into adulthood. Two of their sons, Calvin and Lorenzo, were members of Indiana's only Black Civil War regiment, the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops.

Daughter, Mary Jane Brooks, married William Wright Roberts, son of James (Long Jim) and Lavina Roberts. Some of their children settled in Noblesville.

Guilford Brooks and son, Carter Brooks, are interred at Roberts Cemetery in Atlanta, Indiana. Dicey (James) Brooks moved to Indianapolis after Guilford died and lived with their son, Calvin, who was a barber. She passed away some time before July 1907.