

COPY

Sept. 9, 1951  
Rt. # 4  
Sevierville, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Shope:

I received your letter of Sept. 4th and appreciate your invitation to attend the Anderson family reunion on Sept. 16th, but doubt that I shall be able to attend. Mrs. Van Frazier also invited me to the reunion.

I have some new data on Mansfield Anderson and family before they moved to Macon County. Mansfield Anderson and wife Harriet were members of old Eusebia Presbyterian Church in Blount County, adjoining this County (Sevier). They were first listed in the Church records on May 29, 1827. Their children listed in this Record were: James W., b. Jan. 11, 1828; Hannah C., b. Jan. 11, 1825; Joseph B., b. Oct. 7, 1829; William Thomas, b. Feb. 20, 1832; Harriet, b. Sept. 1, 1833, d. Aug. 14, 1836; Robert H.S., b. March 25, 1834. Then in 1835 Mansfield Anderson received a land grant in this County, and settled on Walden's Creek soon after this date. He was still living here in 1840 because I found him in the Census record for that year, but he does not appear in the Sevier County census of 1850. In August I attended the Siler family reunion in Franklin (my wife is a Siler descendant), and in checking deeds and grants I found that Mansfield Anderson was issued a land grant in Macon County in 1849; therefore he must have moved from Sevier County to Macon about that time.

Mrs. Van Frazier writes me the following which I think is in error: "In 1797 James Anderson came to the United States and settled in Miss. His wife's name was Harriet Black whom he married after the war of 1812, and settled in Blount Co. Tenn. While there he had four children born. Their names were Hannah, James, Joseph and William. He then moved to Sevier Co. Tenn. Robert, John, Hettie and Hulda were born there. He then moved to Macon County, N.C. and settled about 12 miles north of Franklin on Alarky Creek later moved up the Tenn." This sketch fits Mansfield Anderson and wife Harriet as I have shown by the above which is all proven by contemporary records. Of course his name may have been "James" Mansfield, but in the original records it is just "Mansfield." I doubt that that he first settled in Mississippi and then moved to Blount County, Tennessee. Mississippi was not being settled at that time, but Blount County and for that matter all of East Tennessee was being settled by Virginians and North Carolinians during this period. Harriet Anderson was named Black, as you were able to find out, and she was the daughter of Joseph Black, an early settler in Blount County, Tennessee. Joseph Black settled in Blount County about 1790, and helped found Blount County and its county seat, Maryville. Black's blockhouse in this County (Blount) was probably built by him. It served as a place of refuge for the early settlers when the Indians attacked. Joseph Black also served in the constitutional convention of 1796, and was a member of the committee which wrote this State's first constitution. He represented Blount County in Tennessee's first legislature which met at Knoxville, March 28, 1796. So you see he was a very prominent man in the early days of Tennessee. He came to Tennessee from Virginia, as did most of our early people. I have a Bible record of his death which was April 13, 1842. The son of Mansfield and Harriet whose name was Joseph B. Anderson was doubtless named for him.

I became interested in this family when I found in my father's home a letter, dated Sept. 16, 1866, from W.T. Anderson of Macon County to my great grandfather, Joshua Nichols of Sevier County. I think I sent you a copy of this letter which described the family of Mansfield Anderson and Harriet. I sent a copy to the Franklin Press and to several other Macon County people. You were able to give the best information about the family. Mrs. Van Frazier is the only Anderson descendant that I have corresponded with about the family, and she hope to obtain more information. In the letter to my great grandfather, W.T. (William Thomas) Anderson addressed him as "Dear Cousin." Therefore I knew that there was a relationship with my Nichols family. The father of Joshua Nichols was John Nichols, my great-great grandfather, and he married Esther V. Black, a daughter of Joseph Black of Blount County. You learned from someone that Joseph B. Anderson was named Joseph Black, and that he name came from his mother "who was a Black." I believe you also was told that the mother's name was "Huldah". She had a daughter, "Huldah," but her name was Harriet.

I shall give you in the following a sketch or outline of this Black family that I have been able to work out.

Joseph Black, b. 1765, in Pennsylvania; d. April 13, 1842, wife unknown.

Children:

Joseph Black Jr., b. 1781, in Virginia; d. 1864. He moved from Blount County, Tennessee to Anderson County, Tennessee, and served as a lieutenant in an Anderson County company during the war of 1812. Married Catherine Henry, b. Aug. 8, 1784, Blount County, d. July 24, 1849. Data about Joseph Black Jr. found in Goodspeed's History of Tennessee, pp. 1104-1105.

Esther V. Black, b. Nov. 7, 1790; d. Mar. 18, 1865; m. John Nichols, Jan. 13, 1814; he b. Mar. 4, 1787; d. Mar. 16, 1865.

I have Bible records and tombstone records for these dates. Their children were:

Bance B. Nichols, b. Oct. 24, 1814; Joshua Nichols, b. Sept. 5, 1816; Alexander C.B. Nichols, b. Oct. 6, 1818; Flayl Nichols, b. July 21, 1820; Jane B. Nichols, b. June 8, 1822; Nancy Nichols, Dec. 19, 1823; Joseph B. Nichols (Joseph Black), b. Feb. 25, 1828; Mary H. Nichols, b. April 21, 1830; John W.A. Nichols, b. July 30, 1832; Martha Jane Nichols, b. Dec. 20, 1825.

Alexander Carmichael Black, b. 1795; d. May 15, 1818, in Blount County, Tennessee. From Bible record.

Harriet Black, b.                      d.                      m. Mansfield Anderson, he b. 1797; d. Feb. 15, 1862 (Mrs. Van Frazier gave this information for "James" Anderson, who I think is the same as "Mansfield" Anderson.

I am sure that there were other children of Joseph Black Sr., but I have not found them yet. I shall send a copy of this letter to Mrs. Van Frazier. I hope that someone will read this letter and the letter written by W.T. Anderson to Joshua Nichols to the reunion. I shall appreciate any more information that either you or Mrs. Van Frazier may be able to find. I have never found an old Bible record of the family of Joseph Black Sr. Such a record may have been carried by the daughter, Harriet Anderson, to Macon County. This would be invaluable. Why not ask the family about this at the reunion. I have heard of a Black family Bible in the possession of a descendant near here, but have not seen it yet.

Again let me thank you and also Mrs. Van Frazier for your assistance in tracing this family. I shall send another copy of the letter from W.T. Anderson to my great grandfather.

Sincerely yours

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J.A. Sharp