

Where Did Your People Come From?
Dorothy Granberry, Geneva Miller Historical Society

Our ancestors came to Haywood County from other places. For many of us that place was somewhere in NC or VA. But some of us had ancestors from other places. Take the case of Tom and Elliza Stubbs. They were both born in MS during the last twenty-five years of the eighteenth hundreds.

Sometime during the seven years between 1910 and 1917, they moved to Haywood County. Just what brought them here is lost to time. Perhaps they came for job opportunities. Maybe friends told them Haywood County was a good place to live. Maybe they were fleeing the ever-expanding grip of MS segregation. Whatever the reason, they came and brought with them their son, Frank Hunter Stubbs who was between the ages of seven and fourteen, depending on the year they came. You see Frank had been born in MS in 1903 according to public records.

The Stubbs family eventually settled into a tall white frame farmhouse just outside Brownsville on Kings Lane, right off Highway 70 West. The family were stalwart members of Farmers Chapel CME Church. Their son, Frank Hunter Stubbs, married Zelma Hennings from nearby Madison County.

Frank and Zelma Stubbs had four children, a boy and three girls - Frank Jr., Antoinette, Peggy and Margaret. The children grew up and as adults moved away to places like Milwaukee, Hampton, VA, and Cleveland, OH.

Tom Stubbs, the grandfather, died in 1952 and his wife, Eliza, in 1994. The last of the third Stubbs generation to live in Brownsville, Margaret Stubbs, passed away recently in Cleveland, OH. Margaret and her sister, Peggy, were friendly, intelligent, pretty girls known by everyone at Carver High School in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Margaret was a cheerleader and possessed an unforgettable smile. Perhaps one day in the future someone will chronicle Margaret's move to Cleveland and the family and community she created there just as her grandparents, Tom and Eliza, did so here in Haywood County.