

2014 STUBBLEFIELD FAMILY REUNION
Viola Valley Homecoming
Saturday, August 9, 2014, at the Farm, Viola, TN

Arrangements: Carolyn Stubblefield, Jim & Beth Stubblefield, Landon Stubblefield, Anne Napier
Emcee: Steve Stubblefield
Summary: Anne S. Napier, August 27, 2014

This year's reunion celebrated 200 years of the Stubblefield Farms in Warren County, Tennessee. Anticipation for the event built for several years, and we were not disappointed! We had a record attendance of 106 family members and guests. Descendants of William & Wilmuth Stubblefield, J.R. & Sallie Stubblefield, and Jeff and Mollie Hall attended.



Thanks to Carolyn, Jim and Beth and their sons Grant and Bryan for working to make this year's reunion special. The bar-be-que prepared by Ben Bailey was excellent. Carolyn's slaw, beans, local watermelon, and strawberry cake and Coon Hunters cake were all delicious. Others contributed tempting, tasty desserts, including cakes and pies.

The farm was especially beautiful. This was the year for soybeans (instead of corn) in the field next to the house, which meant we had a view of the valley including Steve's adjacent part of the original Stubblefield farm. Skies were mostly gray and sometimes threatening, with only an occasional patch of blue, but it didn't rain, and the heat and humidity were tolerable.

Carolyn's grandson Bryan designed the reunion logo used for the t-shirts and nametags. I handled the t-shirt and meal orders. Carolyn didn't know about my math impairment when she assigned the task, but everything balanced, and everyone who ordered shirts got what they ordered. My father, Herman Hall Stubblefield, provided commemorative coffee mugs with a sketch of the Old House for each family. My son Brett helped distribute the shirts & mugs. Mary Catherine Moudy brought some of her beautiful greeting cards for each family. Locksley updated the family genealogy and distributed a CD. His son Landon brought sound equipment which made it possible for us to hear announcements and comments, and his other son Madison helped with the photos. Dale Collier took lots of pictures which he shared for the reunion website.

Family members came from 35 towns and cities in 11 states and one foreign country. Dale came the longest distance. He lives in Gruendau, Germany, 5,096 miles from Elgin, OK, where his mother Sarah lives. They travelled 816 miles from Elgin to Viola. Dale's round trip was 11,825 miles, not including any local miles in OK or TN. Mary Catherine & Alvin Moudy, their daughter Carolyn & granddaughter Rebecca Bloodworth came second farthest, from Happy, Texas, 1,043 miles from Viola. *Note:* These distances are from the Distance Between Cities website and are approximate, but give us an idea of how far Dale, Sarah, the Moudys & Bloodworths travelled.

Elizabeth Pirtle was pleased to have four generations of her family at the reunion. She is 95 years old, the oldest family member. Herman Hall S. is 93, the next oldest. The youngest family member at the reunion was Henry Stubblefield, son of John & Jennifer, grandson of Steve and Jill. He was born May 8, 2014.

Dressed as Wilmuth, co-founder of the farm with her husband William, Carolyn made comments about the early days of the farm and community, when she needed "a poultice and a gun" because there was no medical provider or law enforcement, adding that Viola is so far from such services, it's the same way now. Jim talked about safety on the farm (don't fall in a hole, climb in the barn, or step in a nest of ants). He asked Herman to say the blessing for the meal.

After our delicious lunch, several people talked about their memories of the farm. Herman is the only one living who was born on the farm. He talked about the Old House where he was born. His youngest brothers James and Charles were also born in the Old House. His sister Sarah was born in a house on Bouldin Street in Viola. In addition to living on the farm, the family lived in various other places in the area before Herman Powell bought the house that James' daughter Sandy now owns, which is across the road from Steve's fields. Herman H. was about 10 years old when the family moved there. Herman P. owned the part of the farm that Steve, his grandson, now owns.

Larry Pirtle and Jack S. talked about visiting the farm as they were growing up, and the annual July 4th reunions that Uncle Royce & Aunt Ruth hosted for many years. Larry told about running through a field because he was late to help Uncle Royce put up hay. He remembers vividly how the stalks hurt his bare feet. Jack talked about J.R.'s saddlebags that his father had, which finally deteriorated to the point that Jack couldn't keep them. Carolyn's son Jim showed a saddle with saddlebags that were also J.R.'s. Herman said he remembered using the saddle Jim displayed. Ray Russell talked about meeting an older member of the Druid Hills Church of Christ in Atlanta about 30 years ago. When she found out Ray's mother is a Stubblefield, she told him J.R. baptized her when she was a teenager. Doug Bufford showed J.R.'s shotgun, which he has had refurbished.

John Hall and Webster sisters Susan Thompson, Pam Wallace & Trish Woolwine, descendants of Jeff & Mollie Hall, attended the reunion. They are also related to the Stubblefields through William & Wilmuth. John is an architect in Dallas, TX, and he was delighted to be able to see some of the houses his great-great-grandfather Jeff built.

The reunion was held on the same weekend as the annual Viola Valley Homecoming. The homecoming parade was Saturday morning, and several went to watch it or went during the afternoon for music and other activities.

In addition to visiting with each other, family members enjoyed just being on the farm, walking to the creek and the Stubblefield Family Cemetery, which Jim and Carolyn are maintaining.

There were plenty of left-overs, and Jim, Beth, & Bryan, Steve & Jill, John, Jennifer, John Stephen & Henry, John, Jane & Johnny Kaylor, and Anne & Brett Napier joined Carolyn for supper and lots of conversation and laughter.

It was a wonderful reunion – we just didn't have enough time to talk with everyone long enough! Thanks to all who attended and to those who helped in various ways to make the day go smoothly.

Attendance: 106

Berry, Caroll – Brentwood, TN	Pirtle, Larry & Charlotte – Nashville, TN
Bloodworth, Carolyn Moudy, Rebecca – Happy, TX	Russell, Carl & Carol – Manchester, TN
Brown, Vicki – Nashville, TN	Russell, Ray & Rhonda – Boone, NC
Bufford, Doug, Grant – Murfreesboro, TN	Stubblefield, Brad – Belvidere, TN
Bufford, John & Rose – Franklin, TN	Stubblefield, Brad & Hilary Vonderheide – Bethpage, TN
Bufford, LaNelle – Franklin, TN	Stubblefield, Carolyn – Gastonia, NC, & Viola, TN
Calwell, Alicia & Chad, Brooks, Wyatt – Christiana, TN	Stubblefield, Dwayne & Leanne, Clay – Franklin, TN
Collier, Dale – Gruendau, Germany	Stubblefield, Erin – Manchester, TN
Collier, David & Ursula, Julia, Daniel – Brentwood, TN	Stubblefield, Herman – Birmingham, AL
Collier, Sarah – Elgin, OK	Stubblefield, Jack & Betty – Brentwood, TN
Crossland, Janet – Canyon, TX	Stubblefield, Jim & Beth, Grant, Bryan – Brentwood, TN
Durbin, Karen & Tim, Riley, Rainey Pirtle – LaVergne, TN	Stubblefield, Jim & Tanya, Layla, Gage – Gallatin, TN
Durette, Zach & Beth – Candler, NC	Stubblefield, Jimmy – Tullahoma, TN
Edwards, Julie & Tim – Murfreesboro, TN	Stubblefield, John & Jen, John Stephen, Henry – Olive Branch, MS
Hall, John – Dallas, TX	Stubblefield, Kent & Diane, Natalie – Ballwin, MO
Hildreth, Laura & Eric – McMinnville, TN	Stubblefield, Landon – Nashville, TN
Hoover, Ailene – Viola, TN	Stubblefield, Locksley – Hoover, AL
Johnson, Glenna & Steve, Jillian, Skylar – Brentwood, TN	Stubblefield, Madison – Pittsburgh, PA
Jones, Rich – Murfreesboro, TN	Stubblefield, Sandy – Viola, TN
Jordan, Alison & Chad, Haley, Abby – Brentwood, TN	Stubblefield, Scott & Sandra, Jordan, Jonathan – Jonesboro, AR
Kaylor, Jane & John, Johnny – Gastonia, NC	Stubblefield, Steve & Jill – Viola, TN
Lindsey, Lisa & Ken – Shelbyville, TN	Thompson, Susan & John – Tryon, NC
Moudy, Mary & Alvin – Happy, TX	Wallace, Pam – Franklin, TN
Napier, Anne – Hendersonville, NC	Williams, Susan & David – Rome, GA
Napier, Brett – Hendersonville, NC	Williamson, Claire & Nathan, Grant – Tallahassee, FL
Newton, Ashley – Beaumont, TX	Woolwine, Trish – Nashville, TN
Newton, Jeanne & Mike – Franklin, TN	
Pirtle, Elizabeth – Nashville, TN	