

OLD CARNEFIX PLACE

The property known as the Old Carnefix Place is located in Appomattox County Virginia off State road 654 and 736.

The last Carnefix to live in this house were James Howard and Ann Gordon Carnefix, brother and sister. They were born here and remained here to their death. The last died in 1967. The property was then sold to the Stanley brothers and later to Mr. Millner who now owns the property.

While renovating the house, Mr. Millner found a date carved in one of the roof support timbers of 1809, which we believe to be around the time of original construction. The original structure was put together with mortise and tenon joints and pinned with wooden pegs. Timbers were hewed to form corner post similar to the two legs of a right triangle. All of the original support timbers were hand hewed. Floor boards were sawed, probably by hand or at best with a water powered sawmill and then notched on the underside to make a level floor.

Since early records of Appomattox and Buckingham County were destroyed, it is hard to trace anything in this area, formally Buckingham County. However an early Carnefix Journal does indicate that a David T. Mann and his wife Lucy Walker did own this property prior to the Carnefix Family. Lucy Walker Mann was sister to Mary L. Carnefix wife of George W. Carnefix who were parents of Joel Walker Flood Carnefix, the first Carnefix to live in this house.

Joel W. F. Carnefix was orphaned and raised by his Grand father, Rev. Gaberial Walker. Joel served an apprenticeship to Jessie Davidson, Agricultural Builders and Contractors. Being eager to move West he found himself in Tennessee and married Elizabeth Thorp of Clavis Tenn. and had one son by this marriage, John William Carnefix. (A direct line to the Carnefix living in this county today.) All this was happening about the beginning of "The War Between the States". Joel enlisted with the Fifth Tennessee Calvary and was transferred to the 63rd Tennessee Regiment of Infantry. Before the war ended he served with The Army of Northern Virginia, was wounded and captured, then taken to Point Lookout Prison until the 6th of June 1865. During the war Joel's wife died. Upon release from prison Joel moved back to Virginia and later married Sally Ann Gordon. There were ten children from this marriage of whom James Howard and Ann Gordon were brother and sister.

The origin of the Carnefix family has not been documented by me at this time. Indications are that we were Low Land Scotts who migrated through Northern Ireland and later England and finally to the New Continent. If you were to look in a Latin Dictionary, you will find a word CARNIFEX (butcher) which indicates a Roman influence on the name. Possibly this influence was from the time of William the Conquerors occupation of that area. As you can see the name has remained very close to that Latin word and may be tied to a trade of that time.

Records show that families by the name Cannifax gave support to and served in both the "Revolutionary War" and "The War Between the States". The earliest records of any Cannifax that I have found were in Lancaster County Virginia for a deed to property in 1726. Today there are a few descendents scattered throughout the United States who have the last name of Carnefix or one of its spellings,

Joel Carnefix
Nov. 1991