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Sons of Peter Romine and Susannah--evidence for and against

Establishing that Layton #2, Abel and Zachariah were the sons of Peter and Susannah Romine is done by the Fauquier Co, deed of 1774 which specifically states that fact. The evidence for James, Samuel and Job (Jacob) is circumstantial.

In 1771, a Peter Romine pays the taxes for a James Romine in Loudoun Co, VA. Loudoun Co was the home of Peter and Abigail Romine since 1759. Layton Romine #1 is Loudoun Co by 1774 when he receives a tax exemption. Peter and Abigail are known to have had a son by the name of Peter so it becomes very difficult to sort out the references to Peter Romine in Loudoun Co. The land in Fauquier which Peter and Susannah leased was very near the Loudoun Co border and they probably actually did most of their business in Loudoun rather than in Fauquier. To sort it all out is going to take an actual year by year read of the Loudoun Co tax lists as the abstracts just don't clear up the connections.

If this Peter of the 1771 tax list is the Peter of the Fauquier Co deed, than James is probably his son. If it isn't that Peter, than it is much more difficult to identify either of them. It most likely is not Peter, husband of Abigail. Their children are pretty well documented and James wasn't one of them.

So we are left with 4 possible interpretations:

1. James, of 1771 tax list, was a son of Peter and Abigail who died early, without marrying or having children.
2. The tax record is in error and should have said that Layton Romine paid the taxes for James Romine and thus James is probably a son of Layton Romine.
3. James, of the 1771 tax list, is a son of Peter Romine Jr., the son Peter and Abigail.
4. James, of the 1771 tax list, is the son of Peter and Susannah Romine.

The problem with number 1 is that it forces us to create what might be a fictional son for Peter and Abigail as there is no other supporting evidence, even circumstantial.

Number two is not good because it forces us to declare the public record wrong without any other supporting evidence...we would just be declaring the record wrong in order to make it fit into our theory. This is something that we want to avoid doing.

Number 3 has an age problem as Peter Jr. was probably born in the mid-1740's. He could not easily have had a son born in 1755 to be 16 in 1771.

Number three has a similiar problem, however. Peter, husband of Susannah, is thought to have been born in 1739, which would make him 16 in 1755, just barely within the realm of possibility.

However, all the other evidence is pretty overwhelming. Abel and James joined in Feb 1777 in Capt. Portfield's co of the militia and both are said to have deserted in Aug 1777. By Dec James is evidently in Montgomery Co, VA where the names of Peter, Zachariah, Abel and Layton all appear in the next few years.

So at this point, I am thinking that this James of Montgomery Co must be the son of Susannah and Peter and that the 1771 tax list reference that I have for Loudoun Co is either an error on my part or that of the abstract that I got the information from.

I haven't yet figured out what became of James. (Throughout the 1780s the name flits in and out of the Loudoun Co, VA tax lists. I have wondered if he might not have been the James who appears later in Harrison Co. That James married Elizabeth Middleton and the Middleton name also occurs in the 1770's in Montgomery Co, VA.)

Samuel Romine

The evidence for Samuel is pretty much circumstantial. He is in Montgomery Co at the same time as the known sons of Peter Romine and he appears in TN in 1830 in the same county as Job (Jacob) Romine. Zachariah Romine is the bondsman and witness for his marriage to Jude Pate.

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Job (Jacob) Romine

For those of you who have corresponded with me over the years, this is probably pretty stunning because until this month, I had not found, (nor had any one supplied me) any evidence for a Job Romine. The only piece that I had was a reference to a Job Romine in a militia list for 1787 in Montgomery Co. It wasn't until this past month when I read the 1812 War service record for a Job Romine which gave his age that pieces began to fall into place.

I am still not 100% satisfied with Job. I am thinking that his name may have been actually Jacobus, which means that he might actually be the same person as James! But that is a little bit like trying to prove that Superman and Clark Kent are the same person because you never see them together in the same place at the same time. There is also the problem of the old Romine Bible which was reported to the list several years ago by Kimberly Loveday-Romines. This Bible had been badly damaged by fire and water and was pretty unreadable but it did have a name which LOOKED like Job but according to Kimberly looked like it might have been "Jo b." The fact that there is a space where some other letters are now missing, makes me think that the name was really "Jacobus".

Renee L. Dauven

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