

## Mack Moten Segler

### Some Observations by James Bass

Mack Moten, Thomas Malcolm, Albert Bert, and Nancy Barbara (Bobbie) would have been 15, 13, 11 and 9 years old, respectively, when their Mother, Rachael, died.

They would have been 19, 17, 15, and 13, years old when their father, Dr. Thomas F. Segler, died.

It is reasonable that Mack helped Doctor Segler raise his brothers and sister after their mother died. I don't know what role James J. Barnes, their half brother, would have played in raising the children. He was 25 when his mother Rachael died and 29 when Doctor Segler died and was listed as farmer of the plantation one year before his mother died and 5 years before Dr. Segler died. His half brothers and sisters were listed as workers on the farm.

Mack and Polly were 18 years old when Dr. Segler gave them the Old Home Place as a wedding present.

Mack would have just turned 19 when Doctor Segler died and I believe by that time he had all his brothers and sisters living at the Old Home Place when he married Polly, who was 18. At 19, he and Polly had their first child, their daughter, Cora, who was within 3 months of being born when Doctor Segler died. I have always been told that Polly was from Bullock County. When Mack brought her to the Old Home Place, he also brought Nath, (the son of a slave owned by Polly's daddy) with him to help Polly with the children. This was all I was told, but I assumed it would have been to help look after her 13 children. However, when Mack brought Polly and Nath to Dale County, she was only 18 and did not have any children. It was three months after Doctor Segler died that she had her first of thirteen children. It is reasonable, then, that the children Nath was brought to help her with were Mack's brothers and sisters. Before they left the Old Home Place, though, Mack and Polly's thirteen were arriving frequently and kept on arriving for the next 20 years. So Nath had lot of children to help Polly with.

It is also reasonable that Mack had the responsibility of running the farm, cotton gin, and grist mill while finishing raising his 17 and 15 year old brothers and 13 year old sister with a baby on the way. I don't know what happened to Thomas Malcolm, 17, but they normally did not leave the farm until in their 20's. Albert Burt, 15, wound up with a farm that adjoined the Old Home Place and married Ada Barnes, daughter of Edward Barnes, one of the founders of Barnes Crossroads as well as a Partner of the Mercantile Store at Barnes crossroads. Nancy Barbara (Bobbie), 13, wound up marrying James Frank Dixon who was 17 years older than she. His farm adjoined Albert Burt's farm. Bobbie's famous saying was, "I had rather be an old man's sweetheart than a young man's slave". There is lot of logic to her saying.

On top of all this there was the Mercantile Store of Doctor Segler's at Barnes Crossroads to be operated. I know very little about the Mercantile Store that Doctor Segler owned, but I know he owned one and it is reasonable, according to history, that he bought it from Edward Barnes and Allen D. Patterson. Mr. Patterson died in the civil war. Aunt Thelma told me she remembers her daddy, Mack, hauling supplies on mule and wagon from Troy to the Mercantile Store. I assumed

it was for his daddy, Doctor Segler, but the Doctor died 3 months before Cora, Mack's oldest child, was born and he had been dead 20 years before Aunt Thelma was born. It is reasonable then, that Mack was running the Old Home Place, Gin, Grist Mill, and that he and Albert Burt were running the Mercantile Store over 20 years after Doctor Segler died. Ada's daddy was one of the owners of the mercantile store at one time. From some of the things Cora told me about her daddy, I knew he was considered a business man when he went to town in Ozark. It is reasonable he was selling some of the cotton from his cotton gin to the cotton mills in Ozark like Kowecke cotton mills.

Regarding the Mercantile store, according to The Center Ridge Heritage Book, the Dale Guards, a company organized at Barnes Cross Roads in April 1861, was the first company to enter confederate military service from Dale County. Captain William T. McCall was the captain. He owned 120 acres adjacent to Barnes Cross Roads. Allen D. Patterson was a partner of Edward Barnes in the mercantile business at Barnes Cross roads. Allen D. Patterson was promoted to second lieutenant with the Dale Guards on November 16, 1861. Unfortunately, he died of a disease in Richmond, Virginia on January 27, 1862. Edward Barnes went to Richmond and brought his body back to Barnes Cross Roads for burial in Center Ridge Cemetery.

I did some rewiring in the Kowecke cotton mills in Ozark in the 60's and I saw power wiring run on the ceiling on knob and tube. That is the wiring method so old it is like the Edison Battery D.C. wiring done in the early homes of that era. The power wiring of the cotton mill was 500 MCM which carries 430 amps with not more than three in conduit and 812 amps on knob and tube in free air.

The free air knob and tube wiring in the Kowecke cotton mills could carry 812 amps compared to house knob and tube of the era 20 amps and be within the National Electrical Code. This is the kind of power amps it takes to run a cotton mill. Ralph Segler worked at these same cotton mills. Back then when I did the rewiring, I would often think about how Mack used to sell bales of cotton to this mill.

All this is reasonable to me, and hopefully true. I passed Rachael's plantation mansion many times with Grandmama Cora on our way to Ozark. We would stop to see Aunt Willie, and then stop at Uncle Arthur's home a little further up the road. None of them ever mentioned that we had kin who owned that Plantation and Mansion on the bee line highway at one point in time

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