

Aug 19, 1980

Dear Bob,

I'm returning enclosed herewith the tape you loaned me and a copy of five pages of my notes briefly outlining its contents and giving some comments intended to assist in associating the contents of the tape with other information relating to the various known branches of the family. I have left a space for you to add the date of the death of the Robert Ervin on the tape. I do not know his death date and will appreciate it if you can give it to me.

Thank you very much for the loan of this tape. Most of the information on it is new to me. I have tried to wrap it so as to prevent damage. Please let me know if it arrives in good condition.

Sincerely, Tom Ervin

Life of Robert Ervin:

*Summary of life of Robert Ervin (known as "Steam Mill Robert Ervin") -- born 12-4-1822 in Virginia, married 1-9-1841 to Rachel Thompson -- Died in Jackson county Ohio. Rephrased and abbreviated from a tape recording of comments in July 1980 by his grandson, John Franklin Ervin, aged 87, born 1-23-1893.*

Robert Ervin and 3 of his brothers built and launched a raft at Pittsburgh, PA and floated on it down the Ohio River to Gallipolis Ohio, when Robert and one other brother got off. The other two brothers went on down the river and Robert never heard from them again. Robert and his brother went from Gallipolis to Vinton and Wilkesville and thence down a road to a road which went up a hill to a church, the name of which Franklin could not remember. (Note: This was Mt Carmel Church in Milton Twp, Jackson, Ohio)

They then went down a hill from the church where they saw Robert's cousin, who lived there. Franklin could not remember this cousin's name but thought it could have been Nelson. (Note: this cousin was probably Alexander B. Ervin Sr--1811-1880--who was a relative and a contemporary of Robert Ervin and who had a son named John Nelson Ervin.)

Robert and his brother bought farms adjoining this cousin's farm. Robert built on the left side of the road and his brother built on the right side of the road. Franklin could not remember the name of this brother of Robert's. Robert built a one-room log house with a shed kitchen where he lived for a couple of years and then sold the place and bought about 200 acres on Big Salt Creek, near Vigo, Ohio, where he farmed for 3 or 4 years.

Robert sold the farm near Vigo and bought between 500-600 acres near Muncy, Indiana, agreeing to pay in full for it in 18 months. A hired hand stole the money he meant to use to pay off the mortgage. Robert sold the farm to pay the mortgage and moved to Leo in Jackson Co, Ohio and bought a steam sawmill there. Franklin's father, Robert's son, David Edgar Ervin was next to youngest of Robert's 13 children and was born on the farm near Muncy, Indiana Oct 13, 1866.

When John Franklin married, he lived in Jackson and delivered kerosene and gasoline to the Wellston area and to customers on the road east of Wellston, where his grandfather and Robert's brother, lived. On one trip, he went out of Wellston, past a plant that built coal tipples--across a railroad and through a covered bridge over what he remembered as Salt Creek (Note: this was Little Raccoon Creek) Then he went around a curve to where a man named Booth lived, which was where Robert's brother lived. (Robert's brother sold out and went up near Logan or Zanesville, where he bought a farm. A couple of his sons married there.)

The cousin who asked them to go out there, (Franklin thought his name was possibly Nelse Ervin), was about the age of Franklin's father, who was David Edgar Ervin 10-11-1866 to 9-23-1935. This cousin lived in a hollow below the road. (Note: This cousin could possibly have been Thomas J. Ervin, who lived 7-31-

1844 to 5-21-1912 and who was a son of Alexander B. Ervin Sr, who was born in Virginia 8-31-1811 and died in Milton Twp, Jackson Co, Ohio 9-29-1880. Thomas J. Ervin lived in a location fitting the description.) This cousin had a brother-in-law who lived across the road above his and had a coal mine and Franklin was delivering gasoline and kerosene to him. After delivering the fuel, Franklin went on over the hill and back, via Berlin to Jackson.

Later, John Franklin went to Mt. Carmel church while visiting his cousin and saw John McFeters there.

Comments concerning the above:

1. The above information is based on a tape recording in July 1980 of John Franklin Ervin's verbal story of the life of his grandfather, Robert Ervin. It is based on Franklin's memory at age 87 when he was practically blind. Much of it occurred before he was born and was learned by him from others. He gives no dates but in this tape he said that his father, David Edgar Ervin, who was next to youngest of Robert Ervin's 13 children, was born 10-13-18?? on the farm near Muncy, Indiana. This could indicate that Robert came to the Mt. Carmel area in Milton Twp in the 1850s or possibly the 1840s. Records of land deeds in Jackson County courthouse during this period should give the names of Robert Ervin's brother and cousin who owned Farm's adjoining his farm.
2. Thomas Neil Ervin (Box 266 East Elm Street, Shawnee, Ohio 43782) says that his ancestors came from South of McArthur, Ohio. So it is possible that this ancestor could have been Robert Ervin's brother who moved from Milton twp to the Logan-Zanesville area as mentioned on Franklin Ervin's tape.
3. The father-in-law of Orval Burns (aged 88 in 1979) of 102 East Mill St, McArthur, Ohio, was named Nelson Miletus Ervin and died in 1939 at age 88. He was a son of John Ervin. This Ervin and several generations of his family lived in Brown County, most of them in the Fincastle and Macon communities, 16 or 20 miles south of Hillsboro on Rt #62. Several older generation Ervins are buried in the Older section of a cemetery on Rt #62, just north of Fincastle. Many of them lived in Eagle twp in Brown county. Records of births, deaths, marriages, wills and deeds for these Ervins are in the Brown county courthouse at Georgetown. Some of these Ervins have lived in Highland county and the Hillsboro area. Note: It seems to be possible that these Ervins are descenents of Robert Ervin's two brothers who went on down the Ohio river on the raft after Robert and his other brother got off at Gallipolis. They could have left the Ohio river in the Portsmouth to Maysville area since Nelson Miletus Ervin was born in 1822 and could have been his brother. The names John and Nelson were commonly used in the Jackson county Ohio Ervin families since Alexander B. Ervin Sr and his brother Robert Ervin each had a son named John Nelson.
4. There were two Robert Ervins in Milton twp, Jackson, Ohio when Steam Mill Robert Ervin lived there in the 1850s. Alexander B. Ervin Sr then had a brother, Robert Ervin, who lived at Wainwright and had a son, John Nelson Ervin, who was Elmer Booth's father-in-law and William Nelson Booth's grandfather. This Robert Ervin died at Wainwright July 8, 1859 and is buried in the farm cemetery, Vinton County.
5. Per Louella Booth, widow of William N. Booth 8-7-1980, her husband's parents, Elmer and Mame (Ervin) (Steele) Booth, lived in only three locations during their lives--first on Tick Ridge Rd in Milton twp--then at Radcl? and then on the Ervin farm at Wainwright in Milton twp. She knew of no other Booths who lived on the "Wainwright-Mulga-Mt Carmel" road.
6. Walter Ervin of Rt #2, Box #334, Athens, Ohio phoned in Feb 1980 saying that he is checking his Ervin family ancestry and has gotten back beyond the year 1800.