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Bahamian Roots Clinging Vines and Ties that Bind

By Elizabeth Ann Gardner

Usually a family history is referred to as the family tree, but I do not see all of my family lines as coming from one root system. I visualize my family as an entanglement of many vines, each with its own roots. I have been able to trace the roots of my vines (line) back to various locations at points in time and have determined how the entanglement evolved from one vine to another.

On my father's side, among the oldest of my Bahamian roots are three Roberts lines, probably all descendants of a common ancestor who came from Ireland in the Eleutheran Adventure (1648). One of these lines can be traced back to one John Roberts with a wife Ann (?Lowe). Their seven children were:

1. John Roberts Jr., born July 10, 1799, baptized July 11, 1799, St. John's Harbour Island records. This child apparently died soon after birth.
2. Susannah Roberts, born October 5, 1801, baptized November 22, 1801, St. John's Harbour Island.
3. John "Johnny Cake" Roberts, born December 8, 1803, baptized



Adolphus and Alicia Curry, the great grand parents of the Author. Photo credit: the Author.

- July 8, 1804, St. John's Harbour Island. He married Sarah Ann Curry and they moved to Key West.
4. Moses Roberts, born January 5, 1809, baptized June 18, 1809, St. John's Harbour Island.
5. Richard Roberts, born June 30, 1816, baptized September 8, 1818, St. John's Harbour Island. He was not given a middle name,

so to distinguish himself from the many other Richard Robertses, he gave himself the middle initial T. Eventually the T became Tuggy and thereafter, he was known as Richard "Tuggy" Roberts, or just "Tuggy" Roberts. He was married three times. His first wife was Mary Lowe, sister of John Bartlum's wife, Sarah Lowe.

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