

Ruston Daily Leader December 1934

William Baxter Rabb and Jemima Adella "Della" Colvin, 55th Wedding Anniversary:

Vienna, La., Dec. 21, - Mr. And Mrs. W. B. Rabb (above) are celebrating their fifty fifth wedding anniversary this Christmas Eve. They are the oldest couple here both enjoy very good health, and they manage their chores of a farm home. Mr. Rabb is 78 and Mrs. Rabb is 77. He is employed as messenger by the local post office and is a familiar figure riding horseback twice daily to receive and deliver bags of mail, a distance of one half mile.

He was for many years a prominent merchant here. His wife was Miss Della Colvin, daughter of John P. Colvin one of the original brothers for whom yearly a great reunion is held in Lincoln Parish, at Old Unionville. Mrs. Rabb was born there, a distance of five miles from here, and Mr. Rabb moved here from Fairfield district, South Carolina, when he was 11 years old. He recalls when this Parish was formed being parts of three adjoining parishes.

Mr. and Mrs. Rabb have figured prominently in the community ever since their first child grew large enough to attend school and they moved here to educate their children. Vienna was a flourishing town in those days, it is called the "cradle" of Lincoln Parish, and was the Parish seat until Ruston was started 50 years ago. This was a great stopping place for the stage coaches between Shreveport and Monroe on what is called the "old wire road".

Mr. Rabb has been a deacon in the Baptist church for many years.

Mrs. T. T. Grafton, Dubach; Mrs. J.P. Williams, Jackson, Miss; Mrs. M.C. Cargill, Sour Lake, Texas; "Derby" and Miss Grace who are single and live with their parents are their children. Miss Grace Rabb has made the old home flourish with beautiful shrubs, flagstone walks, bird baths, lily pools, and rustic scenes, and the photograph was a snapshot of her parents as they appeared standing beside the "old oaken bucket" well. This old place is on the paved highway and many tourists pause to see the old fashioned flower garden, which is a bower of beauty in the spring time.

The celebration of this fifth-fifth anniversary will be observed quietly, with just a gathering of relatives returning for Christmas.



Left to right Jemima Colvin, Emma Lee Rabb Grafton, William Baxter Rabb

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William Baxter Rabb and Jemima Adella "Della" Colvin, 55th Wedding Anniversary: Vienna. - Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Rabb celebrated their fifth-eight wedding anniversary in their home here Dec. 24. It was also the thirty-second wedding anniversary of their daughter Mrs. Canon Cargiel of this place. The joint celebration brought together many relatives for the Christmas festivities, and the anniversary dinner.

The beloved couple have resided here more than 50 years. Mrs. Rabb was born at Unionville, five miles from here, and is 80 years of age. Mr. Rabb came here from South Carolina at 11 years of age and is now 77. He continues to hold the job he has held for 12 years, the job as messenger for local post office. He rides horseback twice daily to receive and deliver mail to the train, a distance of one-half mile.

Formerly he operated a large store and ran the post office here and was a planter. He recalls the formation of Lincoln Parish. Mrs. Rabb recalls the Civil War days and her father being an officer in the Confederate army. Her father was J. P. Colvin, a brother of the original family from whom Lincoln Parish holds a yearly reunion.

The following children were present: Mrs. T.T. Grafton, Dubach; Mrs. Canon Cargill, Vienna; Mrs. J.P. Williams, Jackson, Miss.; R. V. Rabb, Delhi, La., and Miss Grace Rabb, who resides with her parents here.

Others present were Rev. Canon Cargill and [grand]sons, Rabb and Milton, Mrs. Frank Tatum Williams and little son, Mendenhall, Miss.; Mrs. B. Armitage, Parchman, Miss.; Thomas Grafton, Delhi, La.; J.F. Williams and daughter Patricia Joy, Jackson, Miss; Mrs. R. V. Rabb, Vienna; Dr. A.H. Colvin, Strong, Ark.; Miss Emma Joe Colvin, El Dorado, Ark.; Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Colvin, Ruston, and here mother, Mrs. Martin of Kentucky; Mrs. Ida Neil Watts and Mrs. John Shankles and Roy Shankles and family of Jonesboro, and S. F. Colvin, Ruston, La.

Mr. and Mrs. Rabb have fairly good health and manage the chores of their farm home.

He has served as deacon in the Baptist church more than 40 years, and they both are regular attendants for church services.