

Robert Thompson, 50, Sees Sister for First Time

Robert W. Thompson, 50, of the Peniel section of Polk County, returned Sunday from a visit with his half sister, Mrs. Mary Burk, of Cincinnati, Ohio, whom he had never seen. His sister is 28 years old. Mr. Thompson is 50. His parents separated when he was about 18 months old. His mother brought him from Hawkins County, Tenn., to the Green Creek section of Polk County.

Mr. Thompson's father married again and he never saw him again until about five years ago, when he had to get a birth certificate. His mother had died and he had heard that his father had passed away. He went back to Tennessee and began a search for records for a birth certificate. Bert Vinson, a reporter on The Knoxville News-Sentinel published a story about the search. His father's sister, Mrs. Bell Foster of 2919 Sutherland Ave., Knoxville read it and told his father, James T. Thompson, about it. In a few days the father arrived in Polk County to visit his son for the first time in 41 years. He was able to sign the necessary papers to get his son's birth certificate. Robert

Thompson had already spent \$150 trying to get the certificate. The reunion of father and son made quite a story for the newspapers five years ago. At that time the elder Thompson told his son about a half sister living in Cincinnati. Last week-end was the first opportunity the younger Thompson had to visit his sister. While in Cincinnati he also saw an aunt for the first time, his father's sister, Mrs. Bell Martin, of 105 Green Street.

Mr. Thompson says he thinks the State Legislature should pass some law to grant birth certificates to older citizens who were born during that period before certificates were required, as it is almost impossible for some of them to get them.

John Taylor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Taylor, has returned home from Duke Hospital, Durham, where he has been a patient.

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