

# **The Jenkins Family History**

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Written in the 1970s

(edited for form by Orville Boyd Jenkins, 16 April 2008)

(Last edited 27 April 2016)

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. FAMILY ORIGIN

Family tradition indicates the ancestors of Joseph Sanford Jenkins moved to the United States from Wales, United Kingdom. Jenkins families in that area were numerous.

According to H. Harrison in *Surnames of the United Kingdom*,<sup>1</sup> the prevalence of Jenkin(s) in Mid and South Wales is mainly due to the great Flemish immigration into Pembrokeshire.

Black, in *Surnames of Scotland*,<sup>2</sup> also indicated "the Jenkin surname may be Flemish as we know many people of that race entered Scotland. John Junkin or Junkyn, senior and junior, were tenants in Birnie, Moray, 1565 (Rem. page 441). John Jenkin, maltman, was Burgess of Glasgow, 1584 (Burgesses)."

### B. EARLY JENKINS FAMILIES OF THE UNITED STATES

Stearns, in the *New Hampshire Genealogists*, has said that Jenkins is one of many forms of names indicating Johnson. It is derived from two ancient names meaning Little John. The name is identified with pioneer settlements of Maine and New Hampshire.

Reginald Jenkins settled in Dorchester ca 1630. His son Reginald lived in Kittery, Maine ca 1652 and subsequently removed to Dover. Son of Reginald II, William, lived and died in Dover. A son of William, John, was born in Lee, New Hampshire, ca 1752.

(While no family connections with Jenkins of this area have yet been established, an old dictionary belonging to William S. Jenkins, son of Joseph Sanford Jenkins, has been identified with a book store in Hinsdale, New Hampshire.)

In Maryland, a Thomas Jenkins has been identified as having come from Anglesey, Wales, ca 1651.

Aaron Jenkins of Welsh descent lived in Frederick County, Pennsylvania, ca 1750. His son Aaron II moved his family to Rutherford County, Tennessee, in 1799.

David Jenkins also has been identified as having emigrated from Wales ca 1700. He settled in Great Valley of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

## II. JOSEPH SANFORD JENKINS (Oct. 14, 1826 – May 26, 1893)

### A. BACKGROUND

Neither family tradition nor records have yet revealed the names of Joseph's parents. According to the 1880 Cass County, Texas, Census, both were born in South Carolina (probably prior to 1809, 19 years prior to Joseph's birth).

A lawyer from Georgia named Jenkins once told Harvey Christian and his Grandfather Joseph Asa Jenkins that they may be related to a large family of Jenkins, including seven boys, who moved out of either Virginia or North Carolina when one of the boys became involved in a shooting scrape.

Joseph Sanford's granddaughter Sallie (Jenkins) Christian once said she heard that the Jenkins were from Wales, and that they originally were named McJenkins or MacJenkins. A number of MacJenkins families were living in South Carolina during the early 1800s; no MacJenkins, however, have as yet been located in the various census records check to date.

A T. C. McJenkins and wife, ages 35 and 33 respectively, along with one male child, with a Duncan Post Office, is listed in the 1890 Census Roll of the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory (Oklahoma), (page 22, Pickens County). (This record is in the possession of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.) Also listed as having a Duncan Post Office address was a (?). S(?). Jinkins, age 45 and alone.

The above T. C. McJenkins could have been a nephew of Joseph Sanford.

Sallie Christian said she remembered a Tom Jenkins, a doctor, who visited her father's home in Marlow, then Indian Territory (Oklahoma), ca 1897. Joseph Asa told her this Jenkins was his cousin. While there Dr. Jenkins removed a bone felon from the finger of her mother, Hester Ann (Smith) Jenkins. As a result of the operation, Hester Ann subsequently was unable to close that finger. This Dr. Jenkins could be related to one of the Cass County, Texas, doctors identified in the late 1800 land record entries of that county (Dr. H. L. D. Jenkins, and F. H. Jenkins, M.D.).

### B. TIME AND PLACE OF BIRTH

The 1880 Cass County, Texas, census has established Joseph's place of birth as South Carolina and his year of birth as ca 1826. A piece of paper found in the Bible of Trudy Epperson listed Joseph Sanford Jenkins birth date as October 14, 1826. This and other birth dates on the paper are believed to have been written by Joseph Asa Jenkins, son of Joseph Sanford.

### C. JOSEPH'S YOUTH

No information has been discovered to date relative to where Joseph was born and raised in South Carolina and what he did as a young boy.

### D. JOSEPH'S FAMILIES

Family tradition and records indicate that Joseph was married three times. The name of his first wife is unknown. Lucinda Taylor of Mississippi is believed to have been his second wife. His third and last wife was Louisa (maiden name unknown) Christian, widow of Joseph Benjamin Christian of Cass County, Texas.

#### Joseph's first family

Little is known of this marriage. Apparently Joseph was living in Mississippi at the time Nell, believed to be a daughter of this first marriage, was born. [But Nell's age in the census of 1860 in Cass County, Texas, indicates she was born in 1846 – one year *after* the marriage of Joseph Sanford to Lucinda Amanda. – OBJ]

Joseph Asa once told his daughter Sallie Christian that he had half brothers and sisters living in Mississippi whom he had never seen.

The oldest child enumerated with Joseph's family in the 1960 Cass County, Texas, census had the initial N. and was a 14 year old female (this child is believed to be Nell.)

Annie (Christian) Tabor identified Nell as a daughter of Joseph Sanford.

Essie (Christian) Walkup is reported as believing that Nell Jenkins married a Jim Winters (probably of Cass County, Texas), one of several brothers including Troy Winters.

#### Joseph Sanford and Lucinda (Taylor) Jenkins family

Joseph's second wife is believed to be Lucinda Taylor, sister of Nancy Ann (Taylor) Day and of Daniel Taylor, all believed to have been born in Mississippi ca 1824, ca 1825 and ca 1830, respectively. The families of Joseph Sanford Jenkins and of Joseph Day were in the Cass County, Texas, area as early as 1860. (Joseph Sanford was enumerated as the head of the family in the 1860 census enumeration of both families. The whereabouts of Joseph Day at this time is unknown.)

Daniel Taylor is believed to have arrived in Cass County soon after the end of the Civil War. He was married to Mary J. Winter of Cass County ca 1867.

### Lucinda Taylor

Little is known of Lucinda. As mentioned above the 1860 Cass County Census shows her age as 36 (Birthdate ca 1824) and her birth place as Mississippi.

According to tradition of the Day family, one of Nancy Ann's (and Lucinda's) grandmothers journeyed by small boat from Ireland to the United States, taking six months to make the trip (possibly including intermediate stopovers).

The names of Lucinda's parents have yet to be established.

The 1880 Cass County, Texas, census enumeration of Nancy Ann (Taylor) Day indicates that both parents were born in Mississippi. This could have been as early as ca 1804, 20 years prior to Lucinda's date of birth.

The Day family history indicates that the Taylor family lived among the Indians when the children were small. Mr. Taylor was a large man, well proportioned and seven feet tall; and he was well respected by the Indians.

Lucinda is believed to have married Joseph Sanford while still in Mississippi and shortly before 1850, the place and year in which John C. Jenkins was born. He is believed to be their first child.

All available information indicates that Lucinda passed away ca 1868-1870. She is believed to have been buried in a cemetery near Dalton, Cass County, Texas, where Joseph's family was living at that time.

### John C. Jenkins

John was born December 4, 1850 in Mississippi. Efforts to locate an 1850 Mississippi census enumeration of Joseph's family, however, thus far have been to no avail.

The family could have been out of the state when the enumeration was made, possibly returning so Lucinda could be with relatives just before and after John's birth.

Joseph and Nancy Ann (Taylor) Day are believed to have been living in Arkansas when their daughter, believed to be Mary L. E. (Day) Reachall (of Cass County, Texas, ca 1860 - ca 1870) was born (ca 1850).

Little is known of John's childhood. He was subsequently married to Julia E. Ward of Cass County, Texas, on September 2, 1875.

### "Curly" Jenkins

Another son of Joseph's, known only as Curly, has been identified in family tradition. His date of birth and birth-place are unknown, however.

Joseph Asa, youngest son of Joseph Sanford and Lucinda, once told his daughter Sallie that he had two other brothers besides John, neither of whom had ever married. The one known as Curly was believed to have died of stomach trouble, probably while the family lived near Dalton.

Since Curly was not enumerated with Joseph's family in the 1860 Cass County census, he must have died soon after the family arrived in Texas.

Joseph Asa again mentioned having three brothers in 1952 during a television interview on the Danny Williams Show on WKY-TV, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

William S. Jenkins

Subsequent to John's birth in Mississippi, Joseph and Lucinda's family apparently moved to Georgia where William was born ca 1853.

The only hint so far as to where the family may have lived while in Georgia involves a reference to a newspaper printed in Atlanta, Georgia, which the family received while living in Cass County, Texas. Joseph Asa said that the children took turns reading the paper to the family. (Since Joseph Asa was born in 1866, the Atlanta paper probably was reaching the family during the 1870s.)

It is just possible that Joseph's family lived in the Atlanta, Georgia, area when William, Lide and Amanda were born. Or perhaps they had relatives living in that area during the period they were receiving the paper.

Later known as "Bud," William accompanied the family from Georgia to Cass County, Texas, ca 1860. Most of the information concerning Bud's youth has been gleaned from notes found in a very old dictionary passed on from Bud to his sister Amanda (Jenkins) Christian, and from her to her daughter Annie (Christian) Tabor of Mountain View, Oklahoma, who now has the book.

Inside the front cover of the dictionary is written "Mr. Bud Jenkins Book," believed to be in his own handwriting. Also in the front cover is a small stamp identifying the bookstore from which the dictionary is believed to have been originally purchased possibly in the 1700s. Printed on this stamp is the following:

From Hunter and Company Publishers and Booksellers  
Main Street  
Hinsdale, New Hampshire

Conceivably this book was passed on to Bud from his mother, Lucinda (Taylor) Jenkins. Research of Mississippi and Texas records has revealed the names of the following Taylors from Hinsdale, New Hampshire.

Tombstones in Old Sartartia Cemetery, Sartartia, Yazoo County, Mississippi

Mr. Edwin H. Taylor Removed from Hinsdale, New Hampshire Who Died at Sartartia Dec 21, 1833 Aged 25 Years	Mrs. Mary A. Taylor From Hinsdale, New Hampshire Who Died at Sartartia Dec 28, 1933 Aged 25 Years
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Tombstones in Old City Cemetery, Belton, Bell County, Texas

Robert H. Taylor Born Hinsdale, New Hampshire, Nov 6, 1828 Died June 24, 1992 [1892?]	Mary E. Taylor Born Berryville, Virginia, July 23, 1828 Died Nov 10, 1910
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Bud apparently was both an educated and a sensitive young man. He composed and wrote in his dictionary a few short poems which shed some light on his youth.

May 10, 1876  
When this you see  
Think of me  
Though many miles apart  
We may be  
I am now single  
But married  
Will soon be  
If my Sweetheart  
And I can agree

(While family tradition indicates that Bud never married, apparently he was quite serious about some young lady at this point in his life.)

William S. Jenkins  
Dalton

(The Jenkins lived on a farm a short distance N.E. of Dalton.)

Springtown, Texas  
Be true in all thy saying  
Remember man thou art  
But dust and to the same  
Return thou must

(Springtown was a small village located in Parker County, Texas [Weatherford area], The Carletons mentioned below lived here ca 1870.)

May 27th, 1876  
I spend this day  
At John Carletons  
And the fun I seen  
There is no telling  
I will not write my name

Forget Idleness  
And return to industry  
Bud

(Annie Tabor once said she remembered her mother Amanda (Jenkins) Christian speaking of the Carletons. The family of John Carleton was enumerated in the 1880 Parker County, Texas, census. Perhaps one of Carleton's two daughters could have been the object of Bud's affection.)

(The names and birth dates of the children of Amanda, Bud's younger sister, also were found written in Bud's dictionary. The names of M. N. through Peter below are believed to be in Bud's handwriting. In different handwriting and ink, are the names and birthdates of Eler through Annie Christian. Due to the change in handwriting, one might guess that Bud died after Peter's birth (1887) and before Eler's (1888).)

M. N. Christian Born Nov 2, 1893  
William V. Christian Born Oct 1, 1884  
Joe Christian Born Mar 5, 1886  
Peter Christian Born Nov 17, 1887

Eler Christian Born Nov 17, 1888  
Charles Christian Born Nov 17, 1893  
Henry Christian Born Dec 23, 1896  
Robert E. Christian Born Mar 2, 1898  
Annie Christian Born May 17, 1900

(Sallie Christian said she once heard that Bud died while on a cattle drive from Texas to Kansas. This may have occurred in the summer of 1888. Sallie said she believed Bud was buried near Bowie, Texas.)

#### Mary Lydia Jenkins

Affectionately known as Lide, Mary was born in Georgia January 21, 1857. Little is known of her childhood. Following the death of her mother Lucinda ca 1869, the responsibilities of caring for Joseph's younger children fell upon the shoulders of Lide and her younger sister Amanda. Lide remained with Joseph's family until November 1, 1882, when she was married to Thomas Jefferson Chapel, also of Cass County, Texas.

#### Amanda Lucinda Jenkins

Amanda was born May 31, 1859, in Georgia just before Joseph moved his family to Cass County, Texas. Joseph's family was enumerated in the 1860 Cass County census dated October 17, 1860.

Harvey Christian recalled having been told by Joseph Asa, Joseph's youngest son, that Joseph Sanford moved his family into Texas on a flatboat – landing at Jefferson's Landing, Jefferson, Marion County, Texas. Joseph freighted supplies for a time from Jefferson's Landing to Atlanta in Northeast Cass County, possibly before moving to the Dalton area.

Amanda once told her daughter Annie that Joseph owned slaves when she was young. Up until she reached the age of six, there was a negro mammy who always cared for her and combed her hair.

Enumerated in the 1880 Cass County census as Lucinda, Amanda assisted Lide in caring for their younger sister Catherine and brother Joseph Asa until November 1, 1882, when she was married to William James Christian, son of Peter Christian of Cass County, Texas. William and Amanda along with Tom Chapel and Lide were married on the same day in Naples, Texas.

#### Margaret Catherine Jenkins

Known as Kate, Margaret was born January 6, 1862, probably on the family farm near Dalton, Texas. Apparently Joseph's family remained in the Dalton area during the Civil War, because both Kate and Joseph Asa were born there.

Family tradition indicates that Joseph served as a spy for the Confederate Forces during the Civil War. No information has been discovered to date indicating when, where and with what units he might have served.

Margaret was married to Nelson H. Winters of Cass County, Texas, on January 6, 1881.

### Joseph Asa Jenkins

Joseph Asa was born near Dalton, Cass County, Texas, on June 28, 1866. According to his daughter Sallie, he once said that he was blind for the first six months of his life.

Tragedy struck the family early in his young life when he lost his mother Lucinda. During the 1952 TV interview referenced above, Joseph Asa said he remembered seeing his mother lowered into her grave. Assuming he was about three years old at the time, that would have placed her death about 1869. A descendent of Nancy Ann (Taylor) Day, Lucinda's sister, said he believed Lucinda was buried in one of the cemeteries near Dalton, Texas.

Annie Tabor said her mother Amanda told her of so many things "Uncle Joe" would do when he was a kid, and about how Aunt Lide would always protect him.

According to Sallie Christian both Aunt Lide and Aunt Mandy said they cared for Joseph Asa after their mother's death. Invariably he would either slip out the door or crawl through a window and they would have to run him down to make him comb his hair or take a bath.

Apparently he also was quite active as a teenager. He once related to his granddaughter Clea (Christian) Weaver and her husband Wiley about having been involved in an altercation one night at a dance. He was seriously slashed across the abdomen during the fight. He said he managed to get on his horse and just barely made it home before he fell out of the saddle. Aunt Lide managed to get him into the house, cared for his wound and nursed him back to health.

During the 1952 television interview referenced above, Joseph Asa told of having first seen his first wife, Hester Ann Smith, at church. He said that he was so intent looking at her that he never heard a word that the preacher said. She was the prettiest girl he had ever seen. (It was a custom at that time for the men to sit on one side of the church and the women on the other.)

Four years passed before Joseph saw Hester Ann again. She accompanied her half brother Thomas Jefferson Chapel and his wife Mary Lydia, Joseph's oldest sister, on a visit to the home of his dad, Joseph Sanford. Joseph said he "got to looking at Hester Ann again and it wasn't long until they were married." At that time Hester Ann was 16 and he was a couple of months short of being 21, Joseph Asa and Hester Ann were married in Cass County, Texas, on March 27, 1887.

### Lucinda's Death

Lucinda is believed to have passed away between 1868 and 1870.

Aunt Mandy, born May 31, 1859, once told her daughter Annie that her mother passed away when she was 9 years old (ca 1868).

Based on Joseph Asa's memory of his mother being lowered into her grave, her death could have occurred in 1869 or 1870 when he would have been 3 or 4 years old.

She is believed to have passed away while the family was living on the farm between Bryans Mill and Dalton, Texas. A member of the Day family said he believed she was buried in a cemetery near Dalton.

Following Lucinda's death Joseph Sanford apparently left Cass County for a short time. His family was not enumerated in the 1870 Cass County, Texas, census. There is no indication that he terminated his residence there, however, he was listed on July 22, 1866, Cass County voter registration list. He purchased land in 1869. He was remarried to Mrs. Louisa Christian of Cass County February 28, 1872. He sold land to James Brown in 1874. Conceivably he was away from home when the 1870 census was taken.

#### Joseph Sanford and Mrs. Louisa Christian Jenkins

Joseph and Mrs. Louisa Christian were married by the Reverend D. Bright of Cass County, Texas, February 28, 1872. Family tradition indicates that Joseph's and Louisa's families lived on nearby farms at the time of their marriage. Apparently they continued to maintain their separate homes for their children. In the 1890 Cass County, Texas, census Louisa was enumerated with Joseph's family while Louisa's children, Joseph Benjamin and Emily Christian were enumerated as a separate family.

#### Mrs. Louisa Christian

Very little is known at this time of Louisa. From the 1880 Cass County census, however, it seems that Louisa was born in Mississippi ca 1838, that her father also was born in Mississippi, and that her mother was born in Ireland.

The identity of Louisa's parents has yet to be established. There has been some speculation that she may have been a sister of Lucinda (Taylor) Jenkins, Nancy Ann (Taylor) Day and Daniel Taylor of Mississippi and subsequently of Cass County, Texas.

The Hinds County, Mississippi, 1850 Slave Census enumerates a Joseph B. Christian who could be Louisa's first husband. For some reason his family was not enumerated in the regular 1850 census for that county, however. Hinds County was near Yazoo and Attala counties, where a number of Taylors, Jenkins and Days lived in the 1840-1950 time period.

Day family tradition has indicated that one of the grandmothers of the Taylor girls was born in Ireland. Conceivably there could be some connection between Louisa's mother, Ireland, and the grandmother.

Based on the 1880 Cass County Census information, Joseph and Louisa Christian were in Texas (county unknown) prior to 1860. Their son Joseph B. and daughter Emily were born in Texas ca 1857 and ca 1863 respectively. The 1860 Cass County Census reports Nancy Ann (Taylor) Day's family living with Joseph Sanford Jenkins family but did not include Joseph B. Christian's family.

Louisa is believed to have remained in Cass County when Joseph Sanford Jenkins moved to Marlow, Indian Territory (Oklahoma), ca 1890. Her date and place of burial is unknown at this time.

## Henry Jenkins

Information believed to have come from Frances Elizabeth Christian Posey's Bible identified a Henry Jenkins as a son of Joseph Sanford and Louisa. No other information discovered to date has confirmed this, however.

A small grave with an old handmade sandstone marker bearing the inscription  
“(?) H. Jenkins / Born – 4, 1876 / Died –”

is located in a small grove of trees and crepe myrtle about 350 yards northwest of the farm home occupied by Mrs. J. C. Mitchell (between Bryans Mill and Dalton). One of the Jenkins families was reported to have lived on this farm in the late 1800s.

### E. DEATH OF JOSEPH SANFORD JENKINS

Joseph is believed to have moved to Marlow, Indian Territory (now Stephens County), Oklahoma ca 1890. He passed away while living there on May 26, 1893, and was buried in the Marlow cemetery.

## III. JOSEPH ASA JENKINS (1866-1962)

### A. BACKGROUND

Joseph Asa was the youngest of the children born to Joseph Sanford Jenkins of South Carolina, and Lucinda Taylor of Mississippi.

### B. TIME AND PLACE OF BIRTH

Joseph Asa is believed to have been born on the family farm northeast of Dalton, Cass County, Texas, on 28 June 1866.

### C. JOSEPH ASA'S YOUTH

Little information has survived the passage of time concerning Joseph's life as a youth in the Dalton area.

In a 1952 television interview by Danny Williams on WKY-TV, Oklahoma City, Joseph recalled having lived out in the country and riding with his father in a wagon to Naples, Texas,

west of Dalton, where the family bought their supplies. Joseph said his father was a farmer at this time.

Tragedy struck early in Joseph's life when he lost his mother about 1869. Believed to have been approximately four years old at the time, Joseph related during the above interview of remembering his mother being lowered into her grave, and also recalled that a neighbor man picked him up and tried to comfort him.

Joseph Sanford must have taken his young family from Cass County to visit relatives soon after the death of Lucinda. The family was not enumerated in the 1870 Cass County, Texas, census. [As of September 2013, they have not been located in any census record for 1870. – OBJ]

Lucinda may have been related to the R. H. Taylor family of Hinsdale, New Hampshire, who are believed to have been living in the vicinity of Belton, Texas, at this time. Or he may have been visiting two daughters by a previous marriage who were living in Mississippi.

In addition to the above, there may have been relatives in the vicinity of Atlanta, Georgia. Joseph Asa once mentioned that his father's family regularly received a paper from Atlanta when he was quite young.

Joseph Sanford is believed to have returned to Cass County soon after the 1870 U. S. census was taken. Joseph Asa recounted to both his daughter Sallie and granddaughter Cleva Christian about his memories of making a long trip in a covered wagon when he was quite young. Times were hard and the family ran out of both food and money during the trip.

As a result Joseph Sanford had to interrupt the trip while he worked long enough for a store owner along the way to earn enough for food to complete the journey. While there the store owner apparently felt sorry for Joseph Asa who had no shoes. He offered to adopt him and to see that he got an education if his father would leave him. Joseph Sanford could not part with his son, however, so the family returned with him to Cass County where he was born.

Joseph Sanford was remarried to Mrs. Louisa Christian, widow of Joseph Benjamin Christian of Cass County, on 28 February 1872, probably soon after his return. The Jenkins and the Christian families lived on neighboring farms and included older children at this time. It is believed that Joseph Sanford and Louisa continued to maintain the separate homes for their children following their marriage.

Joseph Asa's older sisters Lide and Amanda apparently cared for him following the death of their mother. They once related to his daughter Sallie how her father, when a small boy, would invariably slip out the door or climb through a window to escape the indignities of having to take a bath or having to have his hair combed. They would then have to run him down and make him accomplish these two disagreeable tasks.

Joseph Asa apparently enjoyed the robust life of the typical frontier youth of that time and place. Wild game still abounded in the woods along Mill Creek and the Sulphur river bottom.

Steve Brock, a neighbor of the Jenkins when they lived on the farm near Dalton, once remarked about the integrity of Joseph's father. He related that Joseph once killed what he

believed to be a wild pig in the cane brakes. When he took it home, his father discovered that the pig bore the Brocks' ear mark. Honesty and integrity outweighed the need for meat, however, and Joseph Sanford made his son dress out the pig and carry its carcass over to the Brocks along with an explanation of what had happened.

As a teenager Joseph Asa apparently enjoyed the social events of the area. He once related to his granddaughter Cleva (Christian) Weaver and her husband Wiley about once becoming embroiled in an altercation one night at a dance. He was seriously slashed across the abdomen during the fight. He said he managed to get on his horse and just barely made it home before falling out of the saddle. Aunt Lide managed to get him inside the house and into bed. She cared for his wound and nursed him back to health.

#### D. THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH ASA AND HESTER ANN (SMITH) JENKINS

Joseph Asa was first married to Hester Ann Smith, daughter of Benjamin Frank Smith and his wife Mary Isabella (Henson) Chapel, widow of Archy Chapel of Cass County, Texas.

During the 1952 interview referenced above, Joseph said he first noticed Hester Ann at church. He said he was so taken by her beauty that he didn't hear a word that the preacher said.

Four years later Joseph saw Hester for the second time.

She had accompanied her half-brother Thomas Jefferson Chapel and his wife Mary Lide (or Lydia), Joseph's older sister, on a visit to the Jenkins home. Joseph said he again "got to looking at Hester Ann and it wasn't long until they were married."

At that time Hester was 16 and Joseph was "a couple of months short of being 21." Joseph Asa and Hester Ann were married in Cass County, Texas, on 27 March 1887.

At the time of their marriage, Hester Ann's parents (Frank and Mary Smith) are believed to have been living with her maternal grandmother, Eliza Barcroft, in Bryans Mill, Cass County, Texas. Joseph's father's family is believed to have been living on a farm on the west side of Mill Creek, across from the Brocks and just northeast of Dalton, Texas.

#### JAMES EVERETT JENKINS

Everett, the eldest child of this marriage was born on 18 January 1888 (probably on the family farm near Dalton). Little is known of his youth while the family resided in the Dalton area. While still quite small he accompanied his parents when they moved from Dalton to The Indian Territory, ca 1891.

## JOSEPH BENJAMIN JENKINS

Ben was the second child born to Joseph and Hester Ann. He was born on 21 October 1889 in Linden, the county seat of Cass County, Texas. He also accompanied the family when it moved to the Indian Territory.

There is some uncertainty as to the year when Joseph moved his family. During the 1952 TV interview, Joseph first stated he had lived in Oklahoma since 1890. Subsequently, however, he identified the time of his move as "when he was 25 years old, four years after he and Hester were married." This would have been about 1891.

Joseph said he loaded all of his possessions into two covered wagons for the move. It took him sixteen days to make the trip from Dalton, Texas, to Healdton, Indian Territory. Two of Joseph's brother-in-laws are believed to have been living in Healdton at that time. One is believed to have been Joseph Benjamin Christian and his wife Catherine Smith, sister of Hester Ann. The other is believed to have been Nelson Winter and his wife Margaret Catherine Jenkins, Joseph's sister.

Joseph's family apparently remained in Healdton only for a short time. He said that he was not satisfied to make his home there, so he soon moved his family on to Marlow, where he leased land and settled.

According to Joseph, Marlow was first named Marlow Grove. It was here where the Marlow brothers, desperados from Texas, settled and built a large corral. The Chisholm cattle trail just happened to pass this way. When a cattle herd passed on the way to Kansas City, the Marlow brothers would try to have the drovers pen their cattle for a charge. If the cattlemen didn't, the Marlow brothers would stampede the herd at night. Then later on they would gather the strays and take them to Fort Sill where they were sold for the Indians.

The Marlow brothers are said to have built beds in two of the largest blackjack trees in Marlow Grove. The beds were used to hide and to sleep in. Joseph said he cut down one of the two biggest trees for lumber after his arrival. The other, located on the railroad right of way, was cut down when the railroad was built (ca 1892). Supposedly Boone Marlow was killed about six months before Joseph arrived in Marlow and the other brothers had already left the area.

Joseph is believed to have lived on a ranch he leased east of Marlow just after his arrival. During the TV interview, he related two stories of the worst weather he had ever witnessed.

He told of seeing and hearing many tornados in the Marlow area He told of hearing the terrible roar of the worst one he ever experienced. He said that while some people might not believe it, while in Marlow he heard the noise of one that cut a wide swath of destruction near Guthrie.

It cut a swath a half-mile wide, shaved off grass just like a mower and even twisted heads off of cattle. Many people were killed. One man climbed down into a well to escape the storm. He was immediately followed by a dog, the small wheels of a walking cultivator, and by a lot of

trash which was fortunately blocked by the wheels. Later he was rescued by some people who heard his cries for help.

Joseph also told of the winter of 1892 which was the worst he had ever seen. The ground was frozen 2.5 feet deep. He told of going 2 miles from the farm into Marlow only to find the streets deserted. Hitching his horse, he started into one store only to find no one there, so he went to another where he found some fellows playing checkers. They told him that he was the biggest fool that ever was for going out in the blizzard. He apparently was the only one who had come into town that day.

### ORLAND FREDRIC JENKINS

Orland was the third child born to Joseph and Hester. He was born on 7 February 1892 at Marlow possibly on the farm (or ranch) where the family was living at that time. Joseph and Hester lost Orland while he was still a baby. He died on 27 April 1893 and was buried in the Marlow cemetery.

Family tradition indicates Joseph Asa's father, Joseph Sanford, lived with his family – possibly accompanying the family when they moved to Marlow. Apparently Louisa, Joseph Sanford's last wife either remained in Texas or perhaps was living with her children – possibly Joseph Benjamin Christian in Healdton.

Joseph Asa once related to his granddaughter Cleva about how much his father thought of Hester. Once when Joseph had been unusually harsh with Hester, his father walked in and took up for her – threatening to beat up his son if he ever caught him being mean to Hester again.

The family suffered the loss of Great Grandfather Joseph Sanford on 26 May 1893, only a month after the loss of their baby Orland. Joseph Sanford also was buried in the Marlow cemetery. By this point in time Joseph's brother-in-law Tom Chapel and Joseph's sister Lide were running a hotel in Marlow.

The *Marlow Magnet*, Marlow's first newspaper, contains advertisements of Chapel's Hotel in many of its 1893 issues. (Copies of issues of this paper are on file in the library of the Oklahoma Historical Society near the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.)

Family tradition indicates Joseph helped build the railroad through Marlow. It is believed that he was engaged in cutting trees and splitting them for railroad ties during the period 1893-1894, living with his family in the vicinity of Wapanucka [Chickasaw Nation], Indian Territory.

### SALLIE HESTER JENKINS

Sallie was the first daughter born to Joseph Asa and Hester Ann. She was born at Wapanucka on 4 December 1893. Apparently Joseph returned with his family to Marlow shortly thereafter where he maintained his home for the next few years. After returning to

Marlow, Joseph Asa ran a dray business, renting a horse and buggy and hauling coal, ice and other supplies for the local merchants.

Both Everett and Ben attended school in Marlow. In later years, Ben related how both he and his brother took part in the usual boyhood shenanigans involving Marlow youth. He told of how they and their friends frequently were involved in a variation of the watermelon patch raid, except in this case the pilfered objects were eggs which were taken from the local henhouses to the nearby creek where they were roasted and eaten.

Joseph was a stern disciplinarian with his boys. Ben enjoyed telling of how he was usually credited with mischief that his older brother Everett often was responsible for. Ben related that in attempting to get at the truth, his father would sternly confront the two boys.

With the proverbial rod held threateningly high, Joseph assured the two that the rod would surely fall upon the head of the guilty party. Fortunately for Everett but unfortunately for Ben, Everett always stood firm while Ben invariably flinched, thereby receiving credit for the deed – even though sometimes innocent.

Upon reaching school age both Everett and Ben were enrolled in school at Marlow. Apparently, however, Ben soon tired of school. He quit and then worked for his father delivering buggies as well as coal, ice and other supplies.

Based on family tradition, the ranch land Joseph was farming is believed to have been located next to the railroad south of Marlow. Apparently Ben and his friends sometimes would climb aboard freights stopped or slowly passing by the ranch. They would then get off the freight when it stopped in Marlow.

Apparently it was on one of these occasions that Ben and a friend, tired of school and family chores, decided to strike out on their own. About 1899 they hopped a freight passing through Marlow and rode it north to Chickasha where Ben got off. Through friends, Joseph soon learned where Ben had gone. He was soon reunited with his family in Marlow.

### OCY BELLE JENKINS

Ocy was the second daughter born to Joseph and Hester. She was born at Marlow on 28 May 1896. She died while still an infant on 13 October 1896 and was buried in the Marlow cemetery.

### MARY NETTIE JENKINS

Mary was the third daughter and last child born to Joseph and Hester. She was born on 27 October 1897 while the family was living on the ranch two miles east of Marlow.

Joseph's young family suffered the tragic loss of their mother Hester Ann less than three years after Mary's birth. One day while working in the family garden, Hester was bitten on the hip by a small snake. The seriousness of the bite was not realized until later when a severe and painful swelling appeared on her face. Hester Ann died on 6 September 1900 of what is believed to have been blood poisoning resulting from the snake bite.

## E. THE FAMILY OF JOSEPH ASA AND JULIA VIRGINIA (TERRY) JENKINS

Following Hester Ann's death, Joseph was married to his second wife Julia Virginia Terry of Marlow on 29 March 1901. The ceremony was conducted in Marlow by the Reverend Allison. Virginia was the daughter of Thomas Duncan Terry and his wife Martha Wiley Wall.

### MABEL CLARE JENKINS

Mabel was the first child born to Joseph and Virginia. Mabel was born in Marlow on 27 December 1901. Following Mabel's birth, Joseph moved his family to a farm near Bradley. The younger members of the family lived in a large log cabin on the farm. Everett and Ben slept in a small two room farm house located just across the road from the cabin.

### THOMAS ASA JENKINS

Asa, the second child of this marriage was born on 3 November 1903 while the family was living on the farm near Bradley. Following Asa's birth, Joseph moved his family into Bradley. He purchased a mercantile store from a Mr. Cater. During this period he sold groceries and drygoods and also served as Bradley Postmaster.

Once while living in Bradley, Joseph was called upon to go to Chickasha where he served for a few days on a trial jury. His daughter Sallie recalled her father returning from Chickasha in the wee hours of the morning. Caught without transportation when the trial ended, rather than wait until someone could come for him, he walked the several miles to Bradley because he was anxious to rejoin his family.

### NANNIE MAY JENKINS

Nannie May was born on 29 October 1905, probably following Joseph's move from the farm into town at Bradley. Apparently Joseph returned with his family to Marlow from Bradley about 1906. Joseph and Virginia lost their baby daughter Nannie May who died on 23 September 1906. Nannie was buried in the Marlow cemetery.

A year or so after the return of Joseph's family to Marlow, his son Ben met and fell in love with his first wife Bessie Amanda Ann Winans, daughter of Frank Grant Winans and Florence Ann Curry who were residents of Marlow at that time. Unfortunately this marriage didn't work out for Ben and Bessie. They parted soon after the birth of their only child, a daughter named Florence Joean Jenkins. Ben moved soon thereafter to Mountain View where he bought and operated a drycleaning shop.

It is believed that about this same point in time, Everett met and was married to Ocy McClanahan whose parents are believed to have lived on a farm west of Marlow. Everett

subsequently moved to Mountain View where he later worked with his brother Ben in his drycleaning shop. Subsequently he owned and operated a confectionary shop.

After his return to Marlow, family tradition indicates that Joseph bought a home in town where he served for a period of time as the town Marshall.

As told in later years by his daughter Sallie, Joseph had a big horse which he kept saddled and handy for his use in his work as town Marshall. Cattle drovers familiar with Joseph and his horse would frequently harass him by jumping on their horses, shooting their guns wildly into the air, and then galloping madly off toward Oklahoma Territory with Joseph in hot pursuit. Needless to say he never managed to catch them before they were safely across the border and out of Indian Territory.

### RHONDA FAY JENKINS

Rhonda was born on 24 August 1907 at Marlow. This was the year that Oklahoma was granted statehood. Family tradition indicates that Joseph accompanied Representative Anthony from Marlow to the State Constitutional Convention.

### ARTHUR CARTHEL JENKINS

Arthur, later known as Bud, was born on 28 December 1909 at Marlow.

By this point in time, family tradition indicates Joseph owned a new home in Marlow and was serving as the Town Marshall. Apparently he was not fully satisfied with this life, however. By about 1910 he had decided to move his family from Marlow to Mountain View, Oklahoma where he was to settle for a few years supporting his family by farming.

Joseph's daughter Sallie later recalled the family moving by wagon from Marlow to Mountain View. The family camped the first night near Elgin, arriving the next day at the farm of Joseph's brother-in-law and sister, William and Amanda Christian. Joseph is believed to have farmed one of Bill Christian's farms near Oakdale. Sallie recalled picking cotton with her younger half-brother Asa when they lived on this farm.

By this point in time Joseph's oldest son Everett and his wife Ocy owned and operated a Confectionery shop in Mountain View. As a teenager, Sallie often helped her brother in this store. It was here that Sallie first met her husband to be Cleve Christian.

As subsequently related by Sallie, on this particular day, Cleve was sitting in the window at the front of the store, wearing a black bandana and sombrero. Each time she passed when waiting on customers, he would try to rope her feet. Although embarrassed at the time by Cleve's attentions, this led to subsequent dates and eventual marriage.

Sallie and Cleve were married on 26 November 1911 in the home of Reverend McClanahan at Duncan, Oklahoma.

Joseph is believed to have moved his family from Bill Christian's farm at Oakdale to an Indian lease he subsequently obtained southeast of Mountain View.

### ORVILLE LEE JENKINS

Orville was born on 10 April 1912 possibly a short time after Joseph moved his family to the Indian lease.

### GLADYS LAHOMA JENKINS

Lahoma was born at Mountain View on 25 November 1914 also probably on the lease southeast of town.

It was about this point in time that Joseph accompanied his son Ben to Vancouver, British Columbia where he spent approximately a year as a sheet metal worker in a machine shop. This was at the beginning of World War I.

Family tradition indicates that Joseph's family soon joined him in Vancouver where they remained for approximately three years. He returned to the Mountain View area possibly about 1918 where he again engaged in farming on an Indian lease southeast of town.

Prior to the return of his family, however, Joseph's daughter Mary returned from Canada to stay with her sister Sallie Christian's family. It was soon after her return that Mary met and married Neil Yates, son of William Henry Vail Yates and Annie Laura Horn of Mountain View.

### MARTHA NETHELIN JENKINS

Netheline was born at Mountain View on 25 December 1918. Joseph is believed to have moved his family from Mountain View first to a farm south of Fort Cobb and sometime thereafter into Fort Cobb.

It is believed that he managed the county orphan's home for about the first year. Apparently not satisfied with that, he again entered the profession of law enforcement first serving as a deputy to the Town Marshall and subsequently as Town Marshall.

### VIRGINIA JOE JENKINS

Virginia was born on 28 August 1925 in Fort Cobb. The last child born to Joseph and Jennie, Virginia was lost to the family on 29 June 1930. She was buried at Fort Cobb.

In the December 10, 1931 issue of the *Fort Cobb Express* (can be found on microfilm in the Oklahoma Historical Society Library in Oklahoma City) an article relating the story of the capture of two thieves by Night Watch Jenkins.

In the January 7, 1932 issue of the same paper, another article tells of another confrontation Joseph had with robbers. On this occasion he was captured by three men who pulled a gun on

him while he was putting gasoline in their car late one night. They then broke into the bank with the intention of cracking the safe and robbing it.

Joseph took advantage of a light coming on in a nearby house and managed to convince the men that their plot had been discovered. They then fled the scene taking Joseph with them as a hostage. Instead of shooting him and dumping his body, the men stopped along a country road between Chickasha and Verden.

Here they securely trussed Joseph leaving him beside the road in the bitter cold weather. Fortunately he was able to slip his bonds before he froze. He made his way to a nearby farmhouse where he was able to alert the authorities who very soon thereafter intercepted and caught the would-be robbers.

It is believed that within the next year or so, Joseph gave up the dangerous job as Town Marshall and moved his family to Chickasha, Oklahoma.

For a number of years before his retirement, he supported his family by selling Raleigh products in the Chickasha area. During this period he made a large number of friends in Chickasha and the surrounding rural communities.

Joseph Asa was almost 96 years of age when he passed away. He was lost to his loved ones on 1 April 1962 and was buried near other members of his family in the cemetery approximately 1 1/2 miles northwest of Chickasha, Oklahoma.

Joseph's wife Julia Virginia died 24 January 1966 and was buried in the same cemetery.

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1 *Surnames of the United Kingdom: A Concise Etymological Dictionary*, by Henry Harrison, <http://www.amazon.com/Surnames-United-Kingdom-Etymological-Dictionary/dp/0806301716>

2 *Surnames of Scotland : Their Origin, Meaning and History*, by George F. Black, <http://www.amazon.com/Surnames-Scotland-Origin-Meaning-History/dp/0871041723>

THE END

Last Edited 27 April 2016