



No photo of Smith Jackson's part-Cherokee second wife, Sarah Musgrove (1853-1877), has survived. This photo shows her sister, Mary Elizabeth Musgrove (1844-1927).

Simpson Musgrove had been born in Frederick County, Maryland, just across the state line from Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1804. In 1805 his parents, Gilbert Musgrove (1769-1850) and Dorcas Lee Whittington (1768-1840), moved their family west, settling first in Mason County, Kentucky, then by 1820 had moved to Nicholas County, Kentucky, and around 1832 moved to Lewis County, in northeastern Missouri. Around 1825 to 1830 Simpson had married an unknown woman who bore him a boy (in 1825-1830) and a girl (in 1830-1835). In 1839 Simpson was given a government land grant of 40 acres in Ralls County, Missouri, where perhaps he farmed for a short while. This was in the same area of northeastern Missouri where his father and brothers had settled.

What became of his wife is unknown – perhaps she died. On 11 Feb 1840 Simpson married Mary Ann Cunningham in Perry County, Missouri, and they are listed together with the two children on the 1840 census for Perry County. Perry County is situated on the Mississippi riverboat route downstream from his father's and brothers' farms in the northeastern counties, and accessible by riverboat from Mary's home town of Louisville, Kentucky on the Ohio River. (Most Missouri settlers in 1830-1850 lived in the counties closest to the Mississippi River and, to a lesser extent, the Missouri River.) By 1850 the family had moved to Richwoods Twp. in Washington County, and on the 1860 and 1870 censuses they are found in Johnson Twp., Washington County, living very close to Smith Jackson's farm. Simpson's wife Mary died in the 1870's and by 1880 he had moved in with his daughter Mary Elizabeth and her husband, William Harrison Baker [Smith Jackson's cousin on his mother's side] in Prairie Twp., Franklin County, and presumably died there some time after 1880. There is documentary evidence in the County Courthouse records that Simpson Musgrove served as a justice of the peace ("J. P." is written after his name) as well as a farmer.

Sarah Musgrove appears to have born Smith Jackson one son, George Chester Jackson, in 1874. The marriage didn't last, however. Their divorce was recorded in 1876 [Washington County Circuit Court Record J:563]. Smith's granddaughter, Gertrude Dace, who reported the young wife leaving him, said "I don't blame her, with all the poor little kids he had." Sarah Musgrove died in 1877, at the age of 24.

On December 31, 1877, Smith Jackson married for the third and last time,²⁴ to Sarah Jane Mercer (born in Washington County October 10, 1849; died February 14, 1923), eldest daughter of Isaac H. Mercer (born in Ohio in 1808) and Susan Olive Hill (born in Ohio on 3 April 1832). Isaac and his brother Joseph were brickmasons who came to Johnson Township in the middle 1840's. They had married sisters Susan and Catherine Hill, daughters of Jesse Brittle Hill (born in South Carolina) and Frances Anthony (born in Pennsylvania). They lived in Johnson Township for the rest of their lives, for many years as next-door neighbors; Isaac died in the mid-1870's and Susan died on 10 Feb 1910. Isaac and Susan had nine children all together: Sarah Jane [1849], Catherine [1850], Jonas M. [1852], Mary G. [1856], Elizabeth [1859], Susan Zillah [1862], Laura P. [1865], Isaac William [1867] and Margaret L. [1872] (all listed in the census records).



The only known photo of Smith Jackson (1834-1906), son of Philip Jackson. Shown ca. 1900, six years before his death, with his third wife, Sarah Jane Mercer, and their daughter Elizabeth.

Smith and Sarah had at least eight more children. Judging by the photo shown above, taken around 1900 when she was over 50 years old and still looking thin and elegant, she must have been rather good looking a quarter century earlier at the time she became Smith Jackson's third wife.

Smith Jackson received a minimal but adequate education in his youth, as was typical of life on the frontier. One needed only to be able to read the Bible and take care of routine business documents in order to be considered satisfactorily literate. The only surviving letter written by

him is dated 7 April 1900, when he was 67 years old, addressed to his grandson William Wilson in Crescent City, Illinois. [This William was John Ulmer Wilson and Melissa Jackson Wilson's son, William Ulmer Wilson, born in 1878 in Franklin County, Missouri.] The penmanship is clear and well-formed, though good spelling, grammar and punctuation are lacking. The return address printed on the stationery reads: "Smith Jackson, Real Estate Agent, Sullivan, MO." From this it would appear that Smith Jackson had a small real estate business in his later years. The text of his letter to "Willie Willson" reads as follows:

Sullivan Mo April 7, 1900

Der gSon

Your pictureus come all OK and was glad to get them and think tha good ones and have Sent the ple [3 the ones] you wanted to have them it is tou cold her fore eny thing to grow much an very dry nead rane badly tho the peple is done Sewin oats Walter is staying with us makin ties We will commence brakjn fore corn mo[n]day next i am Surfin very much with rheumatism Cant Sleep of night and cante Set Still Some days So i will quit fore this time mi best respect to you and wife

Yours, Smith Jackson

Smith Jackson may not have been well-known as a real estate agent, but *is* known to have turned a few good land deals, perhaps simply on an occasional basis as opportunities presented themselves. For example, in 1867 he purchased 82 acres from Margaret Hecock for \$40 and sold it to Thomas J. Hammond an unknown sum; then in 1871 bought it back from Hammond for \$50. A year later, in 1872, he sold that same property to his aunt Susan Jackson Northcutt (widow of George Northcutt) for \$175...a nice profit. In 1875 he and his son-in-law Andrew Jackson McIntosh purchased at public auction a Sheriff's deed to the 120-acre property of Aaron W. Tullis that had been seized in a legal action—they got it for \$23.50. And in 1874, presumably as part of a larger deal, Smith Jackson purchased from G. I. Van Alen a 240-acre tract of land for the grand sum of three dollars!

Here is another letter Smith Jackson write, this one to his brother Thomas Jefferson "Jeff" Jackson (provided through the courtesy of Debra Jackson Miller). Smith was obviously struggling with his health—this letter was written just three years before he died. It seems that he had to travel all the way to St. Louis to find a good doctor. And he was apparently living in Sullivan at the time, rather than on his property near Indian Creek.

Sullivan, Mo Sept 6 1903.

Jef Jackson

De[a]r Brother,

As i am some beter I thaut i wood rite you a few lines. i wente to St. louis to dr. G. S. Teitzporter and he give me a large quantity medison. It did not help me fore about 15 day, then i commenct to git beter, and are still mending but very week. Tho if i will take cher of my self i think that i will [be] able to git throo the winter. I he[a]r from indian creek now and then. Tha are all well as fer as i [k]now. I cant rite good and will quit. Tell all the frends hellow fore me.

Yours. Smith Jackson

The *Sullivan Sentinel* often reported on the comings and goings of people in the area, and members of the Jackson clan are commonly mentioned visiting or traveling or coming down sick or getting well. On September 4, 1903, the newspaper reported on "A Big Fish Fry" as follows:

A big fish fry was had down at the Hub Factory ford [presumably on Indian Creek] last Sunday, consisting of the [Smith] Jackson Family, friends from a distance and near-by neighbors. Miss Jessie Jackson [Smith Jackson's daughter, age 18], Rush Jackson [his son, age 23], Mr. and Mrs. Fitzsimmons [his daughter Bertha, age 20, and her husband James, married just two years earlier] and Walter Simmons [perhaps a relative of Smith Jackson's first wife, Eada Simmons, or a misprint for Smith's son Walter Jackson, or a misprint for a Fitzsimmons relative] came out on the excursion and others were present from other parts. In all there were about sixty people in the crowd and it is reported that they had more fish than they all could eat. The excursionists all returned in the evening except Mrs. Fitzsimmons, who remains out [presumably visiting at her father's house] for a week.

When Smith Jackson became seriously ill in 1906, the editor of the *Sullivan Sentinel* wrote about the visits made to Jackson's bedside by his many friends, displaying their affection and concern about his illness. His death notice (*Sullivan Sentinel*, February 16, 1906) read as follows:

Smith Jackson, familiarly known as "Uncle Smith," died at his home six miles east of Sullivan, Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock, February 14, 1906. He was born in Washington County, January 1, 1834, being 72 years, 1 month and 13 days old at the time of his death. He was born not far from the place of his death and had lived in that locality all his life. He probably had more to do with the development of the county, and was better known for many miles around, than any other man. His relationship [descendancy] is very extended, having been married three times and the father of eighteen children, sixteen of whom are now living.

He joined the Masonic Lodge at Steelville about 30 years ago [1876], transferring to the Sullivan Lodge after it was organized, and has always been a faithful and loyal member.

He had been in poor health for some time, and the end was no surprise to those who were at all familiar with his condition. Arrangements have been made for the funeral to be preached Sunday at one o'clock at the Baptist Church in Sullivan, after which interment will be made at Buffalo Cemetery (in the Odd Fellow addition). The Masonic Lodge of Sullivan will have charge of the services, Rev. J. R. Hamlin preaching the funeral sermon.



Smith Jackson's Masonic gravestone

The 18 children mentioned did not include the unnamed daughter who died in childbirth along with Smith's first wife Eada in 1870. The two children who had died by the time of Smith's funeral were his son Philip (who had died in 1863 at the age of 1½ years) and his daughter Sarah Jackson McIntosh (who had died in 1890 at the young age of 29, after having given birth to seven children). Smith Jackson's funeral was said to be one of the largest that the town of Sullivan had ever seen. The Rev. J. R. Hamblin, a well-known pioneer preacher in the area, conducted the memorial service. The Masonic Lodge's published tribute read: "A good and useful man has gone from us forever. He was devoted to his family, true to his friends, and he left a void not easily filled."

Smith Jackson's personal estate amounted to \$832 in cash, and he died possessed of about 120 acres of land worth about \$1,000, which by law went to his widow Sarah Jane. Sarah was also paid "her dower" of \$400, plus \$140 for one year of supplies. The remaining cash was divided among his children as follows: \$35 to his daughter **Elizabeth**, \$25 to his daughter **Mary ("Mollie") Wilson**, \$35 to his daughter **Olive Francis ("Fanny")**, \$35 to his daughter **Bertha**, \$25 to his son **William**, \$25 to his daughter **Rachel**, \$35 to his son **Albert**, \$25 to his son **John**, \$25 to his daughter **Jessie**, and \$25 to his daughter **Mary Ellen**. He left nothing to his daughters

Catherine, Melissa, Laura Lee Jackson [a daughter-in-law?] and **Elizabeth**, or to his sons **Walter** and **Rush**—who all presumably were in less financial need—or to his son **George Chester**, who appears to have left the family. As an attorney²⁶ later observed, "He seemed to have [had] more children than anything else." The Application for Letters of Administration filed in the County Courthouse lists all of Smith Jackson's surviving children with the single exception of George Chester Jackson, his one son from his brief marriage to Sarah Musgrove; apparently George had moved to St. Louis at an early age and had long ago lost contact with his family; he is, however, known to have survived until at least 1956, though actual documentation has yet to be found.

SUMMARY OF SMITH JACKSON'S CHILDREN:

First wife, Eada Simmons (1839-1970):

1. Susan "Susie" Jackson (1856->1906), married Samuel P. Northcutt
2. Mary Isobel "Mollie" Jackson (1857-1941), married Albert Wilson
3. Rachel Jackson (1858-1926), married George W. Northcutt
4. Sarah Catherine Jackson (1860-1890), married Andrew Jackson McIntosh
5. Philip Jackson (1861-1863)
6. Melissa Pervina Jackson (1863-1921), married John Ulmer Wilson
7. William Smith Jackson, Jr. (1864-1942), married Isabelle Elizabeth "Belle" McIntosh
8. Mary Ellen "Ellen" Jackson (1865->1906), married Daniel Ernest Hayes, A.B. Blanton
9. Andrew Clark Austin Jackson (1868->1906), married Sarah E. Judd
10. John Jackson (1869-1937), married Fannie R. Thurmond
11. Unnamed daughter (1870-1870)

Second wife, Sarah A. Musgrove (1852/3-1877):

12. George Chester Jackson (1874->1956?)

Third wife, Sarah Jane Mercer (1849-1923):

13. Olive Francis "Fanny" Jackson (1879-1969), married John Henry Lee
14. Rush Anthony Jackson (1880-1922), unmarried
15. Walter Jonas Jackson (1891-1954), married Jesse J. Sprinkle
16. Bertha Ada Jackson (1883-1960), married James F. Fitzsimmons, _____ Dace.
17. Jesse Bell Jackson (1885-1958), married Henry Buschmann, Jr.
18. Albert Francis Jackson (1886->1923), married Annie Elizabeth Essmyer
19. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Mae Jackson (1889->1945), married Willard N. Dace



Mary Isobel "Mollie" Jackson (1857-1941), daughter of Smith Jackson and Eada Simmons. She married Albert Wilson, brother of John Ulmer Wilson (who married her sister, Melissa Jackson).



Mary Ellen Jackson (1865->1906) (left), John Jackson (1869-1937) and Rachel Jackson (1858-1926), children of Smith Jackson and Eada Simmons.



John Jackson (1869-1937) and his young wife Fannie R. Thurmond (1877-1969)