



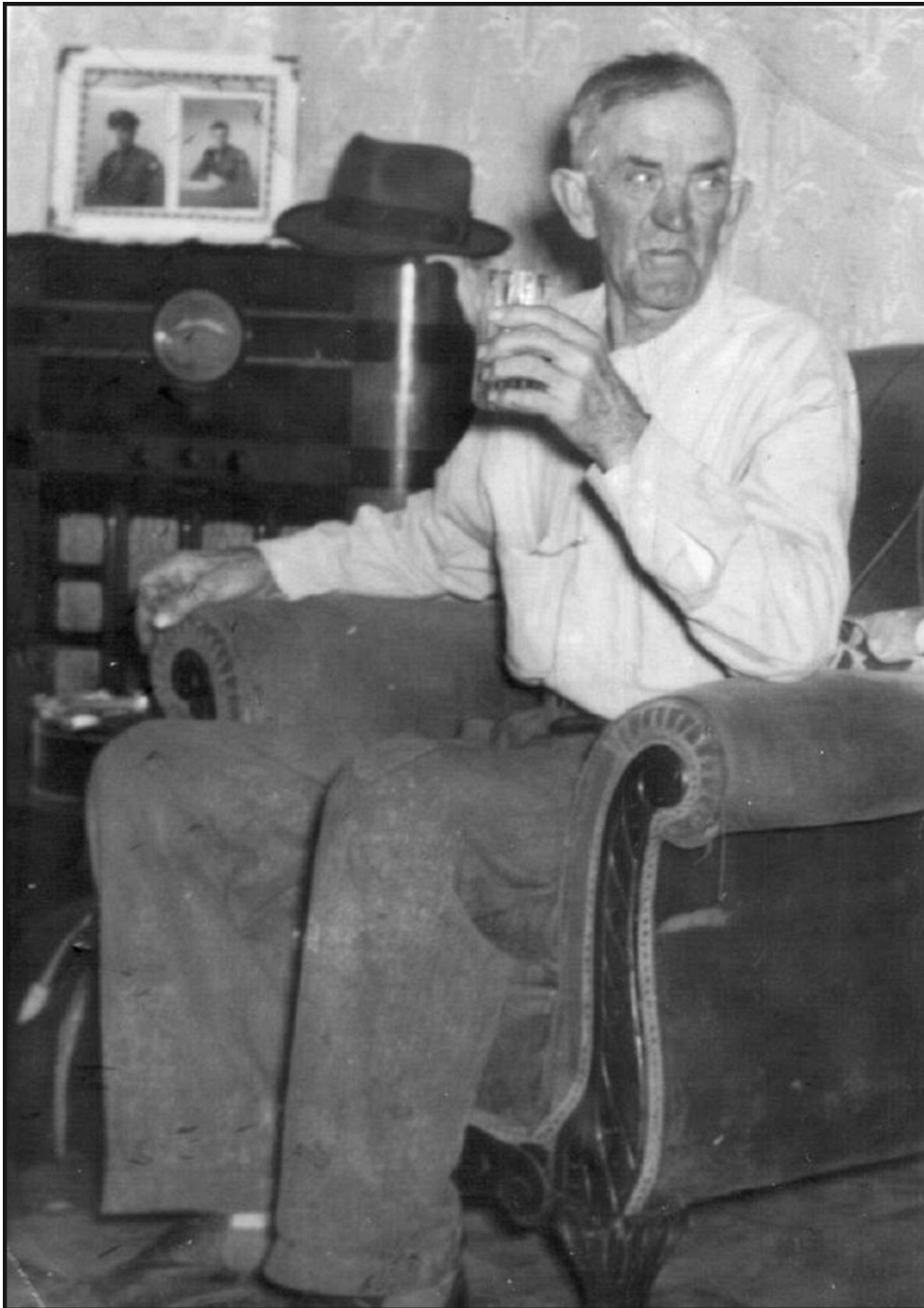
**Melissa Pervina Jackson (1863-1921), daughter of Smith Jackson and Eada Simmons; wife of John Ulmer Wilson.**



**William Smith Jackson, Jr. (1864-1942), son of Smith Jackson and Eada Simmons.**



**Olive Francis "Fanny" Jackson (1879-1923), daughter of  
Smith Jackson and Sarah Jane Mercer.**



**Walter Jonas Jackson (1881-1954),  
son of Smith Jackson and Sarah Jane Mercer**



**Albert F. Jackson (1866->1923),  
Son of Smith Jackson and Sarah Jane Mercer**



**Elizabeth “Lizzie” Jackson (1889-1923), youngest child of Smith Jackson and Sarah Jane Mercer, with her husband Willard Dace.**

The detailed appraisal of Smith Jackson's personal property is still on file in the County Courthouse. Apparently the family was musical, because he owned an organ, which must have been a fairly nice one because it was valued at \$20, quite a bit in those days. He also owned a silver watch and a shotgun [both of which went to his widow Sarah], but he no longer possessed the Remington .44 pistol that had shot Richard Marshall...presumably it had been passed on to one of his sons at an earlier date, and it ultimately ended up with his youngest daughter Elizabeth. Elizabeth's husband, Willard Dace, later sold it to a gun dealer in Sullivan, George Tutterow, who in turn sold it to a friend in St. Louis in the 1960's. Unfortunately it was confiscated by the police when his daughters were arrested for drug possession, and has probably been destroyed. Smith Jackson also had the usual chairs, tables, carpets, bedsteads, a bookcase, two heaters of some kind, a dresser, kitchen items and food stores [including 100 pounds of bacon]. He owned a two-horse buggy and a one-horse buggy, three horses, two mules, various plows and farm implements, a grindstone, and two horse-drawn wagons. His livestock, in addition to the horses and mules, included nine pigs, six cows, two calves, one bull, five steers, 30 sheep and 15 lambs. His widow Sarah received most of the livestock as well. Other items were sold off at public auction. Not listed is a clock which had already been given to his son Clifton, and is still in the possession of Clifton's family; inside it is a handwritten note describing its history, including its original purchase, presumably written by Smith Jackson himself.

The late genealogist Ruth Kline Lee believed his full name was *William* Smith Jackson, based on family tradition among several of his children [she was personally acquainted with a number of them], but until recently no actual documentation has been known to verify this. His father Philip's will lists him simply as "Smith Jackson," as does his marriage record, the family bible, various land and legal documents, and his own tombstone. The recent compilation by Gene Jackson gives his name as "H. Smith Jackson"-- however, the "H" is probably a misreading of a script "W," which, in the handwriting of the times, could look nearly identical. Furthermore, he named his eldest son Philip [after his father], and his second eldest son he named "William Smith." A charcoal memorial portrait recently found in the possession of descendants of his son Clifton Jackson, however, calls him "Smith W. Jackson."

The name raises intriguing questions as to its source. Inasmuch as Smith is clearly a last name, we must assume that the three Smith Jacksons all trace their name to a man or woman whose last name was Smith. If William was indeed Smith Jackson's real first name, as it definitely was for his uncle and son, then it is highly probable that he was named for a William Smith. This theory is strengthened by the fact that Smith Jackson's uncle, a son of William P. Jackson, was named "William T. Smith Jackson" ---very likely after someone named William T. Smith, considering the unusual insertion of the initial "T."

This, then, begs the question of exactly who William T. Smith might have been to have been so honored *three times* in the naming of sons in three generations: by William P. Jackson, by his son Philip (Smith Jackson's father), and by Smith Jackson himself. The answer must go back at least as far as the family's years in Kentucky because William T. Smith Jackson, the earliest namesake, was born there in 1814. The name of William P. Jackson's first wife (the mother of Abner Jackson) is unknown; perhaps William T. Smith was her father. It seems rather

unlikely, however, that he would be so honored by the naming of a child two wives later. William T. Smith Jackson was Jane Sally's second son; the name of Jane's mother (wife of John Sallee) is still unknown. The most likely possibility, then, is that Jane's mother was the daughter of William T. Smith, and that William T. Smith was therefore William P. Jackson's grandfather-in-law and Philip Jackson's maternal great-grandfather. Jane Sally died right around the time of William Smith Jackson's birth in 1834, and it would not be unreasonable to suppose that Philip might have named his son after his great-grandfather at that time.

The professional genealogist Bruce Harmon of Lineages Inc. in Salt Lake City (a researcher employed extensively by the late Gene Jackson to study Jackson genealogy) has found no evidence of a William T. Smith, at least in Missouri, although a William Smith was one of the earliest settlers of nearby Meramec Township in Washington County, Missouri before 1837. Because so many records in Marion/Washington County, Kentucky were destroyed by fire during the Civil War, we may never have actual documentation of John Sally's marriage, so we will provisionally accept this theory on "best evidence," such as it is.

### **Melissa Pervina Jackson (1863-1921)**

Melissa Jackson was born in rural Missouri on February 5, 1863, to Smith Jackson and Eada Simmons Jackson.<sup>27</sup> She grew up in Washington County, cared for by her mother during Smith Jackson's absence during the Civil War, and was four years old at the time her father killed Richard Marshall. She was only seven in 1870 when her mother died, leaving a family of nine surviving children, ages two to fourteen.

During the next six years she and her four elder sisters helped care for her younger siblings; but Susan married Samuel Northcutt in 1873,<sup>28</sup> Rachel married George Northcutt in 1874,<sup>28</sup> and Sarah married Jackson McIntosh. In 1876, when Melissa was only 13 years old, she was introduced to John Ulmer Wilson (1853-1847), and married him in Smith Jackson's house on Christmas Eve of that year.<sup>29</sup> Just a few days later, on New Years Eve, her father married Sarah Jane Mercer, both weddings officiated by Joseph H. Brown, Justice of the Peace.<sup>30</sup>

The couple settled a short distance away in rural Franklin County (probably near Sullivan). Their first child, William Ulmer, was born there in 1878 when Melissa was only 15, and their second son, James Albert, was born there on Christmas Eve of 1880.<sup>31</sup> In 1881 or 1882 they moved to rural Iroquois County,<sup>31</sup> Illinois, south of Chicago. John's own family had settled in LaSalle County, Illinois around 1849, having moved there from Belfast, Maine, and were then for many years in the Gilman area. His father and mother, William Faulkner Wilson (1811-1893) and Sarah Abigail Mahoney (1822-1888), both lived out their lives in Gilman, and are buried there.