

## Elisha Jordan Family

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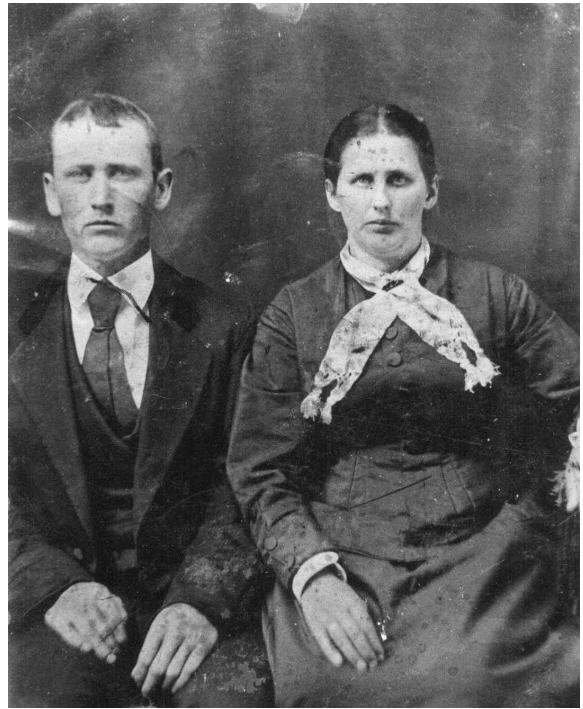
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I knew my mother's mother, Lena Leota Jordan, well. I was an adult by the time she died. But I never knew her parents, Walter and Hanna Jordan. Some years ago I set out to find out more about them. What I learned about Hanna's family (she was Hanna Reddick) is in my summary "William and Richard Reddick Documents and Chronology." This work discusses Walter Jordan and his ancestry.

At the right is a tintype picture that was handed down in mother's family of Walter and Hanna, probably from the late 1870s. It may be their wedding picture.<sup>1</sup>



At the left is a picture of Walter and Hannah when they were older, taken perhaps in the 1910s.<sup>2</sup> The boy is their son Willie.

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<sup>1</sup>I have mirror-imaged the tintype to rectify the picture.

<sup>2</sup>Picture courtesy of Mark Jordan.

Walter and his wife Hanna grew up in Brown County, Ohio, but they raised their family in Clinton and St. Clair County, Missouri, about an hour southeast of St. Louis. They had three other children in addition to my grandmother. They are buried in a cemetery just north of Nevada, Missouri. This was all I knew about Walter when I began my research on the Jordan family.

It was not difficult to discover that Walter's father was named "Elisha Jordan." This first became clear to me in 1989 when I was working through the Brown County censuses. From the censuses I learned that Elisha and his parents were born in North Carolina. Elisha was born in March of 1835.<sup>3</sup> His parents were Thomas and Elizabeth Jordan.<sup>4</sup> My second cousin, Mark Jordan, has done some outstanding sleuthing on the topic of Elisha's ancestry. His ongoing work, web published,<sup>5</sup> shows Elisha's descent from a Richard Jordan who immigrated from England to Virginia in the late 1600s. Y-chromosome DNA tests have confirmed that this is Elisha's line, though the specific father-to-son descent is not proven for every generational step from Richard to Elisha.<sup>6</sup>

Elisha married in the 1850s. In the 1860 census he and his wife are residents of Clinton County, Ohio, in Marion Township. He is age 23, his wife is age 24, his son Walter is 4 and his daughter Mary is 2. In 1861 he was mustered in to the Union Army at Buford, Ohio, just a few miles east of the border of Brown and Highland Counties, in November of 1861. Sometime after 1860 Elisha moved a few miles south, to Perry Township of Brown County.<sup>7</sup> Elisha's name appears in a number of Brown County records. Here are the citations:

- (1) In 1870 Elisha is in the Brown County census, in Perry Township, near the "Five Mile" postoffice. With him is his wife Mary, age 34, born in Ohio, and his children (all born in Ohio)

Walter (my great-grandfather) age 14  
Mary E., age 12  
Winfield (age 8)  
Leonora (age 6)  
John (age 2).

- (2) Elisha is mentioned in an 1870 Brown County birth record for Dorinda, born on 15 November 1870. Elisha's name is given as "Elias" and his wife as "Mary M. Jordan"

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<sup>3</sup>Based on tombstone date.

<sup>4</sup>The fifteen-year old Elisha is on the Clermont Co, Wayne Twp 1850 Federal Census, household #365. The census does not mention Elisha's father Thomas, only his mother Elizabeth. The 1840 census for the same township lists Thomas as head of household.

<sup>5</sup>See [http://s158336089.onlinehome.us/Genealogy/MarkJordan\\_march\\_2006.pdf](http://s158336089.onlinehome.us/Genealogy/MarkJordan_march_2006.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>See <http://jordannctoal.homestead.com/DNAindex.html>

<sup>7</sup>Perry Twp is the northernmost township of Brown County. Marion County is the southwest corner of Clinton County. So Elisha probably moved ten miles or less between 1860 and 1870.

- (3) In 1876 Elisha's name appears on a Brown County map. He is in the south part of Perry Township, about a mile southeast of Chasetown, living on the "Res of D. W. Sharp." Another mile down the road, still to the southwest of Chasetown, is an "F. Jordan" and "Res of F. Jordan." I don't know who this F. Jordan is. About a half mile away from Elisha, to the northwest, is the residence of an "S. J. Bivans." Bivans is the father-in-law of Elisha's daughter Mary E. Jordan. The map:



- (4) Elisha and Mary show up in the 1880 census living at the same place they were in 1870. At the time of the 1880 census the son Walter was no longer living at home. He and his wife Hanna are on the census, though, living, I estimate, less than a half-mile southwest of Elisha and Mary. Still with Elisha and Mary on the 1880 censuses are the children:

Mary (age 22)  
Winfield (age 18)  
Commodore (age 9)

Howard (age 5)  
George (age 1).

Note that between 1870 and 1880 the children Dorinda, Leonora and John disappear. Two of them, we know, died, because their graves are in Bloom Rose Cemetery: John died in November, 1870, and Leonora died in April of 1875.<sup>8</sup> They were the first Jordans to be buried in Bloom Rose. The issue of Dorinda is discussed below.

- (5) Elisha's son Winfield became insane, supposedly because of epilepsy. On the 25th of February, 1886, Elisha sent a desperate note via his physician in Marathon, S. B. Judkins, to the Clermont County judge, asking for help to take Winfield to the asylum in Georgetown. Winfield had attempted to harm his mother, and was threatening the rest of the family. Elisha was holding him in straps. A day later Elisha decided that he could manage to get Winfield to the asylum by himself. The physician describes Elisha as a "first class man" and as "having a fine farm."
- (6) On the 5th of April, 1892, Elisha Jordan died. He was only 57, and he died without a will, suggesting a sudden death. His wife became the executrix of the estate. The children, since they inherited half of the estate as decreed by the intestate law, were carefully delineated. There are five children who share in the estate. They are Walter, now living in Missouri, Mary, now married to Joseph A. Bivans (they had been living in Kansas, but had returned to Ohio) and living in Chasetown, and the three younger boys, Commodore, Howard and George. At the estate sale several household items were bought by the daughter Mary E. and her husband Joseph A. Bivans. "Ira" (George Ira) was still a minor under age 14 when the estate was probated, Howard Jordan a minor over 14.

Some notes on the children of Elisha and Mary Jordan:

- (1) The line of my great-grandfather, *Walter Jordan* line is fairly well known. His children are listed in the genealogy given later in this document.
- (2) The line of the child *Mary E.*, who married Joseph A. Bivans, is also available from Joseph and Mary's descendants.<sup>9</sup> Her children are also listed in the genealogy at the end of this document.
- (3) *Winfield*, the son who was put in the asylum, died the year that his father died. In the estate papers his mother lists under her "vouchers" for executrix expenses "Funeral expenses of W. S. Jordan, deceased." His stone in the Bloom Rose Cemetery says that he died on 1 January 1892.

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<sup>8</sup>In "Cemetery Inscriptions of Brown County, Ohio, Book 1," compiled by Linda H. Wilson, 1976-77, p. 150.

<sup>9</sup> Information on Mary E. Bivans' family has been supplied by Kimber B. Goddard, 2824 Airons Court, West Sacramento, California 95691.

- (4) Not long after Elisha died, the son *Commodore* married. I found in a marriage index (I haven't obtained the actual record yet) that a "C. B. Jordan" married Ida W. McConner about 1892-93.
- (5) In 1896-98 the son *Howard* married Flora Harbough. There is a probate record from 1920 which shows Flora settling Howard's estate. Howard died on 11 August 1920 as a result of an accident involving a traction company, and the company paid Howard's family \$1600 in damages. Howard, the papers show, had three adult and two minor (i.e., born after 1906) children. Howard and Flora are both buried in Bloom Rose Cemetery. Flora lived until 1968.
- (6) I suspect that the "Ira Jordan" marrying in 1898-99 to Matilda Swartz is the youngest son, *George Ira*.
- (7) *Dorinda* Jordan presents a problem. She was born in November of the census year 1870, so she does not appear on the census, and the Brown county birth record mentioned above shows that Elisha and Mary Jordan are her parents. But she does not appear on the 1880 census with the family. She was still alive—there is no stone for her in Bloom Rose Cemetery, and her name appears on the estate papers in 1892. Why then was she not listed as an heir? Was she illegitimate? A puzzle.

Up to this point in the chronology, Elisha's wife has been referred to only as "Mary Jordan." A family tradition, coming down in Mary Bivans line, tells us that the name of Elisha's wife was Mary Elizabeth Holcomb. But in 1896, when her son George applied for a belated birth certificate, he gave his mother's maiden name as Mary M. Morland. What was Mary's last name—Morland or Holcomb? For several years this remained a mystery to me. Then, in an obituary of Mary's mother sent to me in 1999,<sup>10</sup> an explanation for the difference appeared. Mary's mother, Elizabeth T. Mitchell, was the child of John Mitchell and Mary Lord. She was born in Rochdale, England, on 14 November 1814. Her parents came to the U.S. in 1819, and Elizabeth, who was left in the care of relatives, immigrated in 1821, at the age of seven. She married Jesse Morland in 1833, and he died in 1844. At the time of Jesse Morland's death Mary and Jesse had two children, John and Mary. Elizabeth remarried in 1847 to Edward T. Holcomb and had four more children (C. M., T.G. who married a Tremblay, Victoria who married a Robinson, and Walter). Our Mary, then, born in 1836,<sup>11</sup> would have been born Mary E. Morland, but would have gained a Holcomb stepfather at age eleven. The name Holcomb appears in the estate papers of Elisha Jordan. The papers show that in 1888 E. T. Holcomb (could be Elizabeth or her second husband Edward) loaned Elisha \$600 dollars for one year. He paid off \$450, but failed to pay the rest and the interest (total about \$300) before his death.

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<sup>10</sup>A copy of the obituary was made by Cyndy Gephart. The text of it was sent to me via email by her stepmother, Judy Lynn <[lynn@powwwwer.net](mailto:lynn@powwwwer.net)>. Her husband, Clifford E. Lynn, is a great-great-grandson of Jesse Morland. Judy writes that "Elizabeth Mitchell (Morlan) Holcomb, as well as her parents John and Mary Mitchell, are buried in the family burial plot of E. T. Holcomb, in the old Holcomb cemetery near Vinton, Ohio."

<sup>11</sup>Even though the cemetery book says that Mary was born in 1838, my personal reading of the tombstone is that she was born in 1836.

The balance was “assigned by Elizabeth Holcomb to Mary M. Jordan for collection” (i. e., assigned by the mother to the daughter who married Elisha), with the balance due in 1896.

Here, then, in summary and in standard genealogical format, is what I know about Elisha and Mary Jordan and their children.:

### FIRST GENERATION

1. Elisha<sup>1</sup> **Jordan**, born, 21 Mar 1835, in North Carolina, USA. Died, 5 Apr 1892, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA.

He married, first, Mary Elizabeth **Holcomb**, daughter of Elizabeth T. **Mitchell** and Jesse **Morland** and stepdaughter of Edward T. **Holcomb**. Children:

- 2 i. Walter M.<sup>2</sup>.
- 3 ii. Mary E.
- iii. Winfield. Born, 19 Dec 1861, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 1 Jan 1892.
- iv. Leonora. Born, 8 Dec 1863, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 15 Apr 1875, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA.
- v. John S. Born, Jul 1868, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 3 Nov 1870, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA.
- vi. Commodore. Born, circa 1871, in Ohio. He married Ida W. **McConner**, circa 1892, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA.
- vii. Dorinda. Born, 15 November 1870, in Ohio. Illegitimate?
- viii. Howard. Born, 1875, in Ohio. Died, 11 Aug 1920, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA. He married Flora A. **Harbough**.
- ix. George Ira. Born, 12 Aug 1878, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA. He married Matilda **Swartz**, circa 1898, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA.

### SECOND GENERATION

2. Walter M.<sup>2</sup> **Jordan** (Elisha<sup>1</sup>). Born, Aug 1855, in Ohio, USA. Died, after 1910, in Nevada, Missouri, USA.

He married Hanna **Reddick**, daughter of Martin **Reddick** and Matilda **Creager**, 3 Jan 1876, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Born, Aug 1854, in Ohio, USA. Died, after 1910, in Nevada, Missouri, USA. Children:

- i. Edna P.<sup>3</sup>. Born, Oct 1877, in Ohio, USA. She married Tom **Largent**.
- ii. Leslie S. Born, 24 Mar 1879,<sup>12</sup> in Ohio, USA. He married Ellen **Tracy**.
- iii. Lena Leota. Born, 20 Jul 1884, in Georgetown, Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 1968, in Gooding, Idaho, USA. She married William Henry **Rodabaugh**, son of Abraham **Rodabaugh** and Sarah Lucinda **Coleman**, 27 Dec 1905, in Osceola, Missouri, USA.
- iv. William L. Born, Aug 1897, in Missouri, USA. He married Mary Ethel **Wiley**.

3. Mary E.<sup>2</sup> **Jordan** (Elisha<sup>1</sup>). Born, 6 Apr 1857, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 30 Aug 1923, in Fayetteville, Brown Co, Ohio, USA.

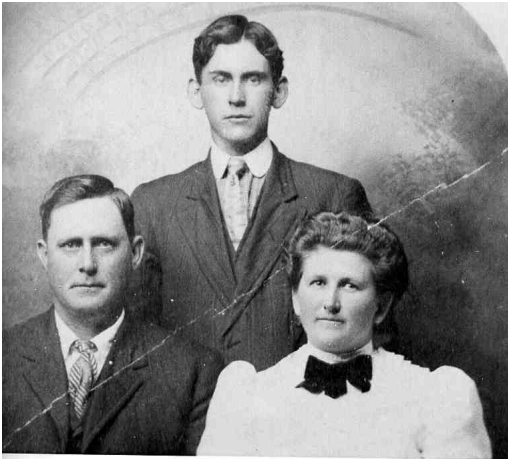
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<sup>12</sup>Leslie's birth date from the Brown Co. Birth Records, Book 2, p. 210. He was born in Perry Twp.

She married Joseph Asher **Bivans**, son of Silas J. **Bivans** and Mary Ann **Day**. Born, 21 Apr 1860, in Fayetteville, Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 22 Aug 1923, in Fayetteville, Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Children:

- i. Mary Florence<sup>3</sup>. Born, 8 Dec 1882, in Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 1943. She married Kelsey **Leeds**.
- ii. Nellie May. Born, 1 Apr 1885, in Kansas, USA. Died, 22 Feb 1952. She married Alonzo **Conner**.
- iii. Cora Bulah. Born, 18 Mar 1888, in Kansas, USA. Died, 16 Mar 1958. She married William Perry **Whitenack**.
- iv. Sarah Ettie. Born, 5 Jul 1890, in Kansas, USA. Died, 29 Dec 1953. She married Milton **Dumford**.
- v. Anna Dora. Born, 16 Oct 1892, in Fayetteville, Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 27 Apr 1949. She married John **Lair**.
- vi. Harley Elisha. Born, 9 Mar 1895, in Fayetteville, Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 8 Feb 1962. He married Ellen **Fitler**.
- vii. Edna Bertha. Born, 28 Oct 1897, in Fayetteville, Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 20 Sep 1919. She married, first, Frank Harvey **Kain**. She married, second, Howard B. **Weimer**.
- viii. Josephine Ida. Born, 18 Sep 1900, in Fayetteville, Brown Co, Ohio, USA. Died, 28 Dec 1963. She married William **Snider**.

Finally, a few pictures relating to this family:



Edna P. Jordan, oldest daughter of Walter and Hanna, with her husband Tom Largent and son Oral.

Lena Leota Jordan, second daughter of Walter and Hanna, with her husband William Rodabaugh.



Leslie S. Jordan and his wife Ellen Tracy, oldest son of Walter and Hanna



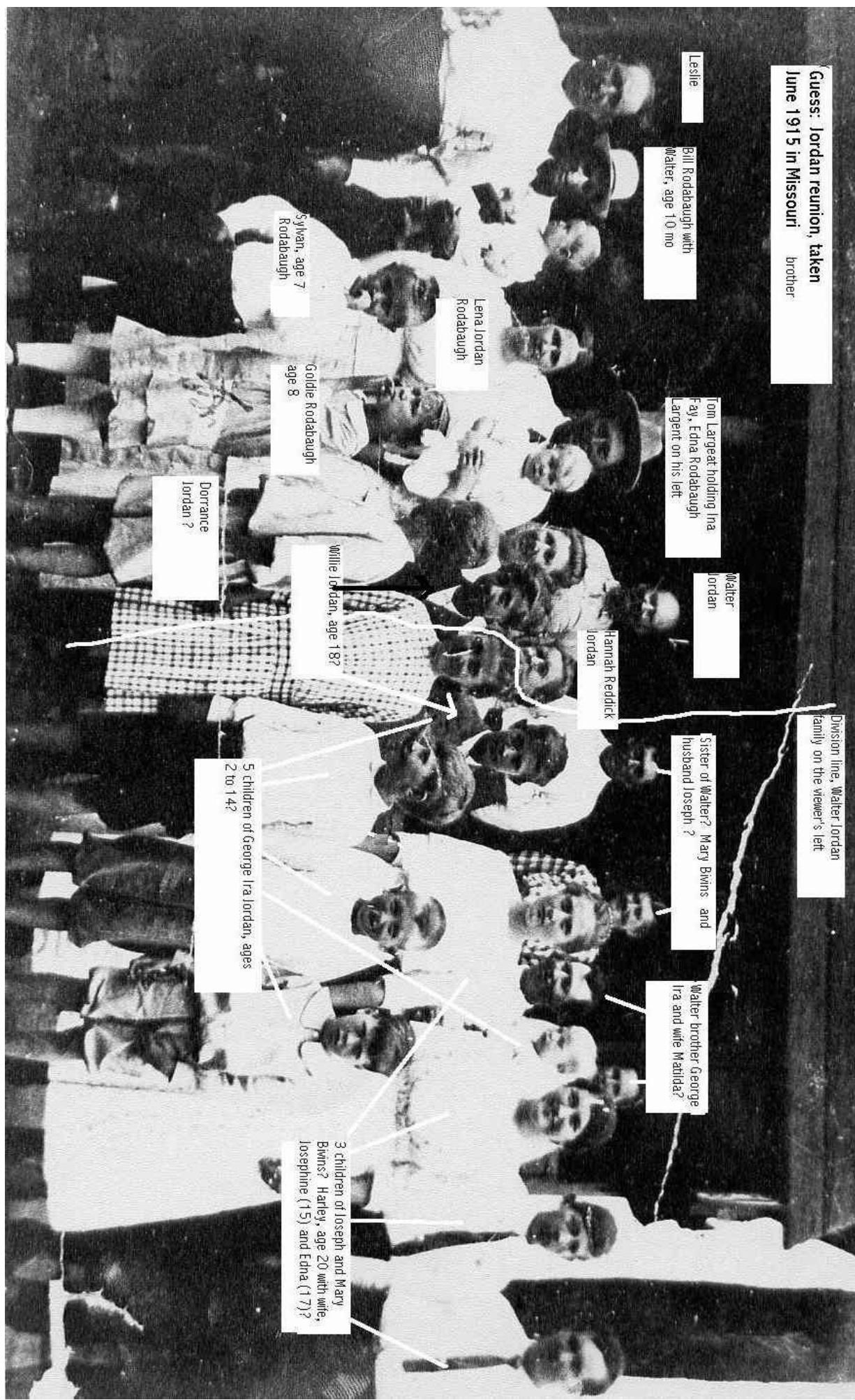
William L. Jordan, second son of Walter and Hanna.



Mary Ethel Wiley, wife of William L. Jordan, at her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Hanna Reddick, wife of Walter Jordan. Picture probably taken in the 1890s. The picture on the right is her sister Mariah Reddick, wife of Alexander Work.



A Jordan reunion picture from about 1915. I believe that this is a picture of two of Elisha Jordan and Mary E. Jordan's children and their families: Walter Jordan and Mary E Bivans. The line shows the division between the two family groups. I have tried to give a tentative identification to each of the people in the picture.

## Index

The names of married women are generally indexed under their maiden names (if known) for all historical persons. Modern researchers are indexed by the name they use on correspondence.

Bivans		Harbough	
Anna Dora	7	Flora	5
Cora Bulah	7	Flora A.	5, 6
Edna Bertha	7	Highland Co, Ohio	2
Harley Elisha	7	Holcomb	
Joseph A.	4, 5, 7	C. M.	6
Josephine Ida	7	Edward T.	6
Mary Florence	7	Elizabeth T.	6
Nellie May	7	Mary Elizabeth	2-6
Sarah Ettie	7	T.G.	6
Silas J.	3, 7	Victoria	6
Brown Co, Ohio	2, 3, 5-7	Walter	6
Buford, Ohio	2	Idaho	
Cemetery Inscriptions of Brown County, Ohio	4	Gooding	7
Chasetown, Ohio	4	Jordan	
Clermont Co, Ohio	4	Commodore	4-6
Clinton Co, Missouri	2	Dorinda	4-6
Coleman		Edna P.	7, 8
Sarah Lucinda	7	Elisha	2-6, 10
Conner		Elizabeth	2
Alonzo	7	F.	3
Creager		George Ira	4-6
Matilda	7	Howard	4-6
Day		John S.	2, 4, 6
Mary Ann	7	Lena Leota	1, 7, 8
Dumford		Leonora	2, 4, 6
Milton	7	Leslie S.	7, 8
England		Mark	2
Roachdale	6	Mary E.	2, 4-7, 10
Fayetteville, Ohio	7	Richard	2
Fitler		Thomas	2
Ellen	7	Walter	1-4, 6-10
Georgetown, Ohio	7	William L.	7-9
Gephart		Winfield	2, 4-6
Cyndy	5	Judkins	
Goddard		S. B.	4
Kimber B.	5	Kain	
Gooding, Idaho	7	Frank Harvey	7

Lair		Martin	7
John	7	Roachdale, England	6
Largent		Robinson	6
Oral	8	Rodabaugh	
Tom	7, 8	Abraham	7
Leeds		William	7, 8
Kelsey	7	Sharp	
Lord		D. W.	3
Mary	6	Snider	
Luther		William	7
Kem	1	St. Clair Co, Missouri	2
Lynn		St. Louis, Missouri	2
Judy	5	Swartz	
Marathon, Ohio	4	Matilda	5, 6
McConner		Tracy	
Ida W.	5, 6	Ellen	7
Missouri		Tremblay	6
Clinton Co	2	Vinton, Ohio	6
Nevada	2, 7	Weimer	
St. Clair Co	2	Howard B.	7
St. Louis	2	Whitenack	
Mitchell		William Perry	7
Elizabeth T.	6	Wiley	
John	6	Mary Ethel	7, 9
Morland		William and Richard Reddick Documents and	
Jesse	6	Chronology	1
John	6	Wilson	
Mary E.	5, 6, 10	Linda H.	4
Nevada, Missouri	2, 7		
Ohio			
Brown Co	2, 3, 5-7		
Buford	2		
Chasetown	3, 4		
Clermont Co	4		
Fayetteville	7		
Georgetown	7		
Highland Co	2		
Marathon	4		
Marion Township, Clinton Co	2		
Perry Twp, Brown Co	2, 3		
Vinton	6		
Perry Twp, Brown Co, Ohio	2, 3		
Reddick			
Hanna	1, 2, 4, 7-10		