

## **JACOB S (JASPER) PHILLIPS**

Jacob S (Jasper) Phillips was born about 1809 in New York. As part of research to join the Mayflower Society through his wife Surlina's family Ancestry Pro Genealogists was hired to help prove some of the difficult relationships. I also have a book by Robert H Phillips published in 1991 titled "A History of Rev George Philips and his American Descendants" that provided information on this couple. Robert notes in his book that he saw the family bible of Asenath May Phillips Bayne (but doesn't mention who had it in their possession) and that Jacob Simeon Phillips was born on April 22, 1807 in Orange County, NY. However, the Ancestry team was unable to uncover any documents stating anything more definite than saying he was born about 1809 based on census records, and other items located. There are also no other documents yet located stating that Simeon is Jacob's middle name. The work done by Robert Phillips has Daniel Phillips and Clarissa Fuller as Jacob's parents. To date, no documentation has been found to prove or disprove this. I do know that Jacob had a brother, Daniel Melvin who also migrated out to Iowa. Daniel Melvin's son Adelbert M Phillips has a biography done in the book "History of Jackson County, Iowa by James W. Ellis" in which Adelbert identifies both his father and his uncle Jasper. Some additional research will be needed to determine the parentage of Jacob and Daniel Melvin for certain. Robert Phillips states that he received the information on Jacob's parents from a family Bible once owned by Jacob and Surlina that was in the possession of Ms Iris Garceau in Sedgewick, Maine.

Robert Phillips has noted that Jacob married Surlina Hurd on July 4, 1837 either in New York or Ohio but provides no sources. This date is interesting as we know from the Find A Grave record of their oldest daughter that she was born on August 12, 1837 in Keen, Coshocton, Ohio. Either the date of the marriage is incorrect, or this story may have been quite a family scandal.

The first official record I have for Jacob and Surlina is the 1840 census in Keen, Coshocton, Ohio where we see marks indicating Jacob, Surlina and one daughter.

We know that the Phillips family was also in Springfield, IL for a period as their son Alexander Phillips was born in Springfield on March 10, 1842 as recorded on his Find A Grave record. I went to Springfield to search through some of the archives and the Lincoln Library collections had no records of the Phillips family other than notices in the Sangamo Journal that Jasper Phillips had mail at the post office. There is one notice in April 1844 and one in January 1845. This brings up an interesting point. At some point in his life Jacob started going by Jasper and while it is a bit confusing, Alexander's death certificate lists JASPER as his father while he is Jacob in most official records. We are certain that these are the same person.

Robert Phillips has in his notes that in 1847 Jacob was hired by Col Elbridge Gerry Potter to operate a mill he owned on Big Mill Creek in Bellevue, IA. The mill was renamed the "Jasper Mill" and the flour produced was Jasper XXX.

The 1850 Federal Census shows the family in Richland, Jackson, Iowa. Jacob is listed as a miller and in addition to their two children, we also see Surlina's siblings listed with them. It appears that her family began the migration west with Jacob and Surlina and based on the will of Surlina's grandmother Olive, we believe that both of them died before 1845 when Olive's will was registered. Surlina's siblings then migrated with her to Illinois and Iowa.

Iowa has a state census that was conducted in 1856 and in this census Jacob lists his occupation as Miller, and that they have been residents of Iowa for 9 years (about 1847). The family is living in Bellevue, Jackson, Iowa.

The 1860 Census shows Jacob and family in Richland, Jackson, Iowa. Jacob now lists his occupation as farmer with \$20,000 listed for real estate value, and \$5637 for personal estate. At this point they have one of Surlina's siblings with them. They also list Rebecca Stebbins a servant from Hamburg, and James Anderson a laborer from Illinois.

The 1870 census shows Jacob and family in Bellevue, Jackson, Iowa. He lists his occupation as Miller. At this point they have their three daughters living with them.

The 1880 census has Jacob (listed as Jasper) and his family in 308, Bellevue, Jackson, Iowa. He is still listed as a Miller and daughter Mae as the only child at home.

Iowa has a state census for 1885 and in this one Jasper and Surlina are listed in Sioux City, Woodbury, Iowa. Jasper lists Agent as his occupation.

1887 finds Jasper S Phillips in the Sioux City, Iowa City Directory. He is a boarder at 721 W Second St.

Jacob died on April 26, 1888 in Sioux City, Iowa. There is no death certificate, and no burial location that has been located. We do have a notice in the Sioux City Journal on May 1, 1888 stating that "The funeral of J.S. Phillips occurred at Climbing Hill, this county, on Sunday. He will be remembered by the people of Sioux City as the father of Mrs WH Barton, and for many years he made his home with his daughter. The traveling public will miss the old apple man who for the last seven years could be found about the union depot with choice and tempting fruit in his basket."

Jacob and Surlina had 5 children.

- **Eliza Jane Phillips (1837 - 1912)**
- **Alexander J Phillips (1842 - 1917)**
- **Emma Geneva Phillips (1851 - 1919)**
- **Ada Phillips (1859 - 1935)**
- **Aseneth Mae Phillips (1864 - 1935)**



*Phillips Children Back: Emma, Ada Front: Aseneth, Alex, Eliza*



*Jacob Phillips*



*Surlina Hurd Phillips*



*Phillips Children Back: Aseneth, Ada Front: Emma , Alex, "Belle" or Eliza  
From Marjorie Bayne Munter Photos (Aseneth was Marjorie's mother)*

## **SURLINA HURD**

Surlina was born on July 6, 1819 in Warsaw, Genesee, New York as determined from her death certificate, her stated age at death, and known information on her parents location. Surlina is a child of Elijah Hurd and Asneith Truesdale. We know for certain that Elijah is her father based on the work done for Mayflower Society application. However, Asneith has not been proven yet and is a work in progress. There are books that list Asneith as the wife of Elijah, but no official documentation yet. We believe Surlina is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of 12 children in this family.

As noted above with Jacob's information, Surlina and Jacob took in her younger siblings when they migrated to Iowa after her parent's passing.

Robert Phillips relates an interesting story regarding Surlina on page 82 of his book. From his research he found that in 1857 Surlina filed a lawsuit against a Col Elbridge Potter. From Robert's understanding of the situation, Elbridge Potter came to Bellevue in 1843. At that time there was a law which limited the amount of land a person could purchase in the Territory of Iowa. Mr Potter purchased the maximum amount of land possible with the ambition of forming a self-sufficient feudal estate. He purchased land adjacent to his holdings for the poorer people in Bellevue offering them long term pay-offs, but when the law limiting land purchases was rescinded her foreclosed on many of the residents. In 1857 Surlina filed suit against Mr Potter for about \$1600 that she and Jacob owed for 160 acres of farm land and a 25 acre plot where their house sat. Surlina tried to get the time on the note extended, and instead signed a document turning the title for the land over to Mr Potter, who then foreclosed. The trial continued for nearly 7 years. Robert Phillips writes that the bad blood between the two families continued for a long time, but that Surlina's sister Isadora married Lucius Potter, one of Col Elbridge Potter's sons.

Surlina outlived Jacob and is in the 1896 Sioux City directory as Surlina Phillips, widow of Jacob S, is listed as a boarder at 1104 W 4<sup>th</sup>.

We know from Surlina's death certificate that she died on October 12, 1904 in Sioux City, Iowa. Her obituary states that the family came to Maquoketa, IA in 1865 and Sioux City in 1875. The paper states that she will be interred at Climbing Hill, but I have yet to find a cemetery plot for her or Jacob. Surlina's death certificate is the only one I have looked at to date that simply states her cause of death as old age.