

Descendants of Josiah Blair

submitted by Evonne **Blair Young**

Generation No. 1

1. JOSIAH⁶ BLAIR (*GEORGE⁵, JOSIAH⁴, ROBERT³, JAMES², ALEXANDER¹*) was born February 27, 1863 in Blair Township, Clay Co. IL, and died January 13, 1923 in Clay County, Success, AR. He married (1) NANCY LOUVINA ROBERTS February 05, 1888 in Clay Co, IL, daughter of JAMES ROBERTS and LAVINA BRIDGEWATER. He married (2) ELIZA EMELINE BUSH July 20, 1901 in Randolph Co., AR, daughter of ROBERT BUSH.

Notes for JOSIAH BLAIR:

by Evonne Blair Young

Josiah, my grandfather, was born in Blair Township, Clay County, IL. When he was 24 years old, he married Nancy Louvina Roberts, 17 yrs old, Clay Co, IL, February 5, 1888. Clay Co records show the first child was a male born on May 29, 1889, delivered by Dr. James Anderson. Nancy and Josiah were divorced March, 1894. At the time of the divorce Nancy had one son living, Earl, 4 years old and one child unnamed born May 17, 1892 - died June 5, 1892. Nancy married Gilbert W. Hoard in Effingham on December 29, 1894. On the 1900 Census she had 4 children born and 2 children living. In the census she had two daughters born to Gilbert living. In the 1910 Census she had 6 cb, 4 cl. Four daughters born to Gilbert living.

Most of the Clay County, IL Blair's are buried in the Old Union Christain Chapel and Cemetery at Hord, IL. SE/4 SW/4 of Sec. 14, T5N, R6E; 1 mi S and 1 mi E of Hord on the Bible Grove Road.

Josiah told my dad stories of his growing up in Clay Co, IL. He shopped as a child in Effingham. He spoke of his brother, John, and half siblings. He said his mother married a man named Sutton after his father died.

In 1899 Josiah moved to AR. He owned or managed a store in Maynard, AR before he got married. Josiah came to AR with a team of horses and a wagon that was enclosed, spring built, passenger type wagon. He traded the horses and wagon to Rev. John Belew (my grandfather Zachariah Moore's cousin) for 60 acres of land. The farm had a log house on it. It was in Brockett, Columbia Twp, Randolph County, AR. Brockett was a community with a post office, church and school. He married Emma Bush on July 20, 1901, Randolph County, AR, he was 38 years old and she was 29 years old. Gid Petit, JP performed the ceremony. Gid was Aunt Ellen Bush's father. Josiah and Emma had all their children, Horace, Annie, Bessie, Theodore, Harvey and Juanita in the log house at Brockett. Josiah worked in the timber and had an orchard on this farm.

The family moved to MO after Emma's family returned to MO. Josiah returned to IL in 1918 or 1919 to visit his mother and family. Eliza Jane Sutton had a daughter living with her. Dad thought her name was Alice.

In the 1910 Census, Josiah and Emma lived in Brockett. Josiah had come to AR in 1899 from IL. He owned 60 acres of hill land with 12 acres in cultivation. At the time of the census their first child, Horace, had already died. They had Annie, Bessie and Theodore. He was of the Christain faith and he was 47 yrs old.

Dad said Josiah went to town on the weekends. One time he came home with a basket full of caps after having too much to drink. Part of the time he lived and worked on Current River in AR, digging up mussle shells to sell for making buttons. Occasionally there would be pearls in the shells. He frequently left his family to work away from home. Emma's brothers, Frank and Wylie Bush, took care of Emma and her children when Josiah was away. Uncle Frank said Josiah was well thought of in the community.

Josiah must have had a heart attack. He thought he had indigestion but he never recovered. He was at home with Emma and his children at his death. Josiah, Emma, Horace, Annie and Bessie are buried at Hitt Cemetery, Success, AR.

Randolph County, Pocahontas, AR

History of Brockett Community by Ruth Sago

After the Civil War was ended, several families migrated south and Jim Brockett and John Hord, with their wives, Anna and Miriam, settled what is known as the Brockett Community. Brockett and his wife, Ann, settled just west of the bridge (what is now across the Fourche River on Highway 115).