

last horse in the woods, and of putting on her bonnet and moving her chair under the drip of bacon, hastily hidden in the hot attic, so that the intruders would not see it drip on the floor.

Maternal Lineage

Martha Rice Scroggin, who was born in "The Carolinas" on December 25, 1826, and Daniel James, who was born July 8, 1819, were married December 28, 1842, and the family moved to Arkansas settling in Yell County. Ten children were born to this family, the youngest being Lavina Sarah Ann, always called "Sallie". The two eldest sons, William E. and John R., served in the Confederate forces in the Civil War. Unpaid they not only had to support themselves, but had to supply feed for their horses. They were captured and died in a Union prison camp somewhere in Illinois on the 27th and 28th days of December 1864, of smallpox. The father, Daniel, was taken by carpetbaggers and was saved from hanging by one of the carpetbaggers whom he had befriended. The family lost all stock and crops during the war but were able to keep the land.

Jesse Sullivant and Sallie James were married March 18, 1886, in Yell County, Arkansas, by the Rev. J. R. G. W. N. Adams, O.M., affectionately known as "Alphabet". His name was truly John Robert George Washington Nathaniel Adams.

Jesse was 30 years old at the time. At 21 he had acquired a great deal of skill with an axe and had saved enough money to enroll himself and one of his younger brothers, "Buck," in the Arkansas Industrial University at Fayetteville (now Arkansas University) but unfortunately an epidemic of smallpox closed the school and he didn't go back. He had bought and cleared land near the homestead of his grandfather, where his parents lived.

Sallie, at 19, the youngest and only unmarried child, was living with her widowed mother and didn't feel she should leave her alone, so Jesse left his own farm and operated the farm of the strong minded "Widow James". In addition, in April he bought Arkansas cattle and drove them to the free range in "The Territory", returning in October to round up the cattle and drive them to market. When the first two children (a boy and a girl) died in infancy, Jesse felt they should seek a more healthful climate. Perhaps too, he preferred his own operation to that of his mother-in-law. The pioneering spirit was strong in both, and the young couple chose "The Territory."

In the spring of 1889 Crado Runyan and Jesse Sullivant pooled their herds and started a joint cattle drive from Arkansas, intending to get their herds on pasture near what is now Ardmore in time to make the run. Near Poteau they had a stampede, caused by a snake biting a brindle steer, and were delayed about two weeks. On April 22nd they were camped near the present location of Wayne. Having made several trips previously, they knew the locations they desired, so while Jesse proceeded with the herd, Crado returned to what is now Cleveland County and purchased two claims from Sooners. They were adjoining 160 acre plots.

Runyan's claim was located on Dave Blue Creek, most of it "bottom" land, but with one high hill, which for years required the only winding road in the area - now a part of the Sentinel Park Area of Little River State Park.

The Sullivant claim, for which the Sooner was paid \$300., was immediately south, located on Jim Blue Creek. These creeks were named for two cattle-rustling brothers, who had headquartered in the area and had supposedly

buried their gold along the creeks. For many years treasure hunters, some with doodlebugs, searched up and down the creek for this buried loot.

Jesse filed his claim in Guthrie, built a one-room cabin and dug a well. This well, with a circumference of about four feet, was 28 feet deep, walled with native rock, and served as a water supply until 1964. He then returned to Arkansas and prepared for the move to the new Oklahoma Territory.

Sallie canned and dried all kinds of fruit and berries. She could card, spin, and weave, and many patterned quilts and homespun "counterpanes" were made and packed. Goose feathers went into featherbeds, down in the pillows. Young fruit trees were planted and packed in cotton seed hulls. The wagons were packed and oxen were yoked to one of them (they were needed for clearing, pulling stumps, etc.). A young thoroughbred mare, who became "Old Fan" and the mother of many good horses, was hitched to the buggy, and Sallie drove this buggy from Yell County Arkansas to Cleveland County, Oklahoma - fording all streams as there were no bridges. This was April of 1890. High water on the Arkansas River at Poteau caused some delay, but otherwise the trip was made successfully. In what is now Pottawatomie County, chickens were purchased from frightened Indians. Pigs were either purchased along the way or were brought along with a number of cattle. One milk cow furnished milk along the way. Ben and Minnie Russell also made the trip, and extra drivers came along - two of them being Jesse's younger brothers.

The first order of the day was to clear and plant, everything else had to wait. After laborious clearing with axe and oxen, the corn was planted with a stick planter, which planted one grain each time it was stuck in the ground. The fruit trees were planted on a north slope, and

became the nucleus of a wonderful orchard, which produced every kind of fruit, berries and grapes that could be grown in the area. When the crops were "laid by," the first part of the home was built - three rooms in a row, a combination kitchen-dining room, and two rooms for sleeping.

Those people who had come out in 1889 were desperately hungry for any kind of fruit. Their own supplies were exhausted, and nothing was shipped in, so Sallie shared her bounty. Unfortunately the first crop was a complete failure and the cash was exhausted. Jesse took his axe, a team of mules and the "running gear" of a wagon to the "Pot Country" (Pottawatomie County) and cut poles, hauled them to town and sold them for \$1.50 per load, until he had acquired enough money to buy seed corn for the second year's planting. He finally was able to purchase seed near Purcell and the second year's planting was finished. Further ground had been cleared during the winter months.

In the spring of 1891 all supplies from Arkansas had been exhausted, and much ingenuity had to be exercised in providing proper food. Pies were made from wild green grapes, green tomatoes, sheep sorrel, sweet potatoes and finally vinegar. Vinegar pies became a symbol for "hard times" and the Sullivants ate them often. The main meat supply was pork since it could be preserved. Hams and bacon were smoked with hickory wood, side meat salted in a salt box, and sausage packed in little cotton bags which were coated with a flour paste to preserve them. When a beef was slaughtered, all the neighbors shared. All slaughtering was done in the coldest weather in order to aid in the preservation of the meats.

Wood was the only fuel, corn cobs and chips were the kindling. The wood was split for the cook stove and left whole for the heater. Many cold

days were spent in providing this fuel. Coal oil (kerosene) lamps furnished the light, and any draft from an opened door caused smoking and deposits of lamp black, so that the lamp chimneys had to be cleaned daily. The only cooking fat was lard, laboriously rendered from pork at hog killing time. A large black iron pot in the yard usually took this unpleasant job out of doors, but in extremely bad weather it had to be done on the cook stove, and the stench lasted for days.

Most of the year washing was done on the outside - water pulled from the well filled the big black pot, under which a fire had to be kept burning. The clothes were rubbed on a brass rub board, soaped with homemade lye soap (which had previously been made in the same pot), boiled in the wash pot, rinsed in cold water and hung on bushes until the clothes line was installed. On really bad days the washing was boiled on the cook stove. The water left in the pot after the washing was finished was used to scrub the kitchen floor, the pine boards of which were bleached by the strong lye suds, and the clean smell of the wet boards permeated the entire house.

In the fall just before frost, when all vegetables and fruits had been canned, apples were ground, and run through the press to make cider. At least one barrel of this was used for vinegar. One of the rain barrels, which had caught soft rain water for the better laundry, was cleaned and the vinegar "mother" placed in a barrel of cider to become vinegar. All the cabbages which would soon freeze were chopped and put in brine to make sauer kraut. Hominy was made from field corn, boiled in ashes in the trusty iron pot. Apples, turnips and sweet potatoes were "hilled" with straw in the ground, sufficiently deep that they would not freeze. Flour, sugar and coffee, and sometimes meat, were purchased at the store on Saturday, which

was "going to town" day. In summer a large block of ice, tenderly wrapped in newspapers and put in the chest, was a rare treat. Iced tea was a real luxury looked forward to on Sunday, Monday and sometimes Tuesday if the ice lasted that long. Ice cream was made on the Fourth of July and birthdays.

The first child, Ralph, was born in 1891, then Leroy, Ruby and Otis. A quarter section of land was purchased for each child and rooms were gradually added to the homestead. In 1905 the family moved to Norman so the children could receive high school and college training. Jesse continued to operate the farms with tenants and hired labor. He still bought and sold cattle and raised many hogs, sometimes driving a car load of hogs to Norman for shipment on the Santa Fe. "Old Bill," his favorite horse learned to stop and slump comfortably whenever Jesse spoke to a passerby.

Jesse met with financial reverses in the panic of the early twenties and in trying to recoupe he overdid physically and had a paralytic stroke, from which he never recovered. He died Sept. 13, 1933. Sallie died on January 27, 1950, after almost ten years of invalidism. They never knew that the land they had worked so hard to acquire was condemned for Lake Thunderbird, and the best of that land is now inundated, and only a small part was left to the family.

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THE JESSE SULLIVANT FAMILY

Ruby Sullivant

When Jesse and Sallie Sullivant decided to move to "The Territory", it was quite a natural thing, for they were both descended from a long line of pioneers.

Paternal Lineage

Kate McCauley and two of her sisters married three "Sullivant" brothers and the family migrated from Tennessee to Mississippi, where Kate died. Her husband, James Sullivant, and their four children - James, John, Harve and Kate - then moved to Arkansas via steamboat, landing at Spadra in Johnson County, and moving shortly to Yell County.

On the same boat were family friends, the May family. Philip May, of Dutch descent, "A man of property" before the Civil War, had three wives, the first being a "Kirkland" of Irish descent. Three children were born of this marriage - Marcel, Moses and Mary. Philip had four children by his second and third wives and in addition to his own seven children he raised 13 orphans.

James Sullivant and Marcel May were married about the time the families arrived in Arkansas. They had 14 children - 12 lived to maturity. Marcel was noted throughout the countryside for her ability to diagnose and treat sick children. She had had plenty of experience with the 20 children her father raised and 14 of her own, and was consulted by physicians in severe illnesses. The fourth child of this family was Jesse, who was born March 2, 1856. The family met with very hard times during the Civil War, especially when the father, James Sullivant, was serving in the Confederate Army, but particularly from carpetbaggers. Great Aunt Mary used to tell of scraping the dirt from the feed lot in order to reclaim salt, that scarcest commodity; of hiding the