

## THE GENEALOGY OF JOHN BELL HUDGENS

To those who are interested in the genealogy of the HUDGENS family, and to those who may become interested in this genealogy, we take pleasure in recommending a book, researched and compiled by our Cousin Edgar H. Hudgens of Hungerford, TX. This book published by Larksdale of Houston, TX is entitled HUDGINS: Virginia to Texas. It is well researched and contains much valuable historical and genealogical information about the Hudgens ancestry.

The history of the Hudgens family begins in Wales. They were skilled shipwrights, sea captains and friends of the King who utilized their talents in establishing colonies and trade. The literal translation of the word HUDGINS is "Lords of the far seas".

Our family records go back to a John Hudgens, birth and death dates unknown to us. He lived in Amelia County, VA and later moved to Cumberland County, VA where he married Martha Holloway, daughter of John Holloway of Southan Parrish, Cumberland, VA. They had three children; William, James, and Mary.

JAMES HUDGENS 1st may have been born in Cumberland County, VA about 1750. His wife was Susanna (last name unknown). In 1811 they moved with their family of eight children; Dr. Edward, Gabriel, Holloway, William, James II, Sarah, Rebecca, and Elizabeth from Cumberland County, VA to what is now known as Cheatham County, Tennessee. At the date of this move some of the children were already married. James 1st died December 20, 1814 and is buried in Cheatham County, Tennessee.

JAMES HUDGENS II was born in Cumberland County, VA in 1773. He married Elizabeth Gibson and they had five children;

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| William     | 1797 - 1865 |
| John Thomas | 1804 - 1878 |
| James III   | 1805 - --   |
| Mary        | 1805 - --   |
| Danie       | 1807 - --   |

James II is buried on the Old Hudgens farm located six miles North of Ashland City, Tennessee in Cheatham County.

John Thomas was born in Cumberland County, VA on June 8, 1804. He married Nancy Durham who was born in North Carolina in 1809. John and Nancy had six children; Zachariah, John, Alexander, India, Nancy, and Sarah (Sal). Nancy Durham Hudgens died in 1842 in Robertson County, Tennessee. John Thomas married Delila Farmer and they had three children; James, William, and Henry. John Thomas died December 29, 1878 and is buried in the Fountain Church cemetery located six miles South of Marion, Williamson County, IL.

Zachariah Hudgens was born in Robertson County, Tennessee April 3, 1833. He came to Illinois from Tennessee with his father, John Thomas Hudgens, at the age of 19 in 1852. On January 2, 1854 Zachariah purchased 160 acres of land from the United States General Land Office in Shawneetown, IL, on which he established the Hudgens homestead in Southern Township, Williamson County, Illinois, and where his 14 children were born. Zachariah married Mary Jane Cooksey, daughter of Ephraim Cooksey. She was born in Smith County, Tennessee in 1842 and came to Williamson County, Illinois in 1848. Mary Jane's Mother



was Elizabeth Phillips, daughter of Thomas Phillips of Virginia, whose family moved to Tennessee following his death. Later, in 1848, the family moved from Tennessee to Illinois. Mary Jane Cooksey Hudgens died in 1888. After her death Zachariah married Sarah E. Todd Allen, daughter of Peter Allen.

Zachariah Hudgens was a farmer, a merchant, and a stock raiser. He was associated with the firm of Campbell, Goodall, and Company, which operated several merchandise stores, commission houses, and warehouses. These stores were located at Creal Springs, Goreville, Pulley's Mill, and Marion. Zachariah later acquired and operated these businesses for himself. Zachariah was an active Democrat and a Lieutenant in the Civil War with the Union Army. In 1872 he was elected sheriff of Williamson County and served two years. Zachariah died September 20, 1902. He died from injuries received while trying to halt a horse which threatened to hurl its female driver and buggy into the path of an oncoming Illinois Central Train on East Main Street, Marion, Illinois railroad crossing. Zachariah is buried in the Fountain Church cemetery which is near the old Hudgens homestead. The old Hudgens homestead is known as Hudgens, Illinois. This platted survey is near the C. & E.I. Railroad and formerly had a general store, mill, blacksmith shop and post office.

John Bell Hudgens was the second child and oldest son of Zachariah Hudgens. He was born April 25, 1861 in Southern Township, Hudgens, Illinois. He received a public school education and continued to be a serious reader and student. As a youth he worked in a store at Pulley's Mill. Later he owned and operated a grain mill and store in Goreville, Illinois. He was a successful business man and was highly respected by his fellow citizens as a friend and counselor. He was loyal to his brothers and sisters and a good family man. He was elected by the directors of the First National Bank of Goreville as Cashier. He married Anna L. McInturff (6/23/1862 - 8/07/1893). They had three children; Earl, Guy, and Mary Ruby. In 1894 he married Bertie Fly (3/14/1876 - 9/20/1960) and they had six children; Arbie F., Val J., Wilhelma, Emma Maxine, John J., and Kay Burton. John Bell died January 3, 1944 and is buried in the Fountain cemetery, six miles South of Marion, Illinois. His marker bears the inscription HERE LIES A MAN, which is very meaningful to all who knew him.

John Bell Hudgens, in all probability, was named after John Bell of Tennessee, who was the presidential candidate of the Constitutional Union Party which opposed slavery and secession in the election of 1860.