# SOME DESCENDANTS OF JAMES and CHRISTEAN IRWIN

Compiled by

Marjorie Molloy Jansen

**GOLDEN, COLORADO 1996** 

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## THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO MY AUNT,

## **BLANCHE IRWIN**

WHOSE EFFORTS AT KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH FAMILY MADE THIS WORK POSSIBLE.

#### INTRODUCTION

There is still much to discover about the origins of our family, but I have chosen to put into print what has been gathered up to now, and to let younger relatives try to fill in the missing generation[s] which first came to this country.

Data on current family members was provided by someone in that branch of the family. Wherever pictures or documents were sent to me, I have tried to include them. [Those not used did not copy well.]

Much information from a century ago, especially of a personal and often trivial nature, was obtained from reading newspapers published in or near Lawrence County, Illinois, which are available on microfilm from the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield. Principal sources were "The Sumner Press" in Sumner and the "Rural Republican" in Lawrenceville [both in Lawrence County].

Issues before 1885 were rarely available, and even after that, many individual issues and in some cases, whole years were missing. [Sumner Press had nothing for 1893 or 1899] In general, the newspapers covered the time from 1885 until 1912.

United States Census records were searched, and all those found were recorded here. [The 1890 Census is missing because it was accidentally destroyed by fire many years ago.] Where possible, a copy of the Census was made. However, some pages were in very bad condition, making copies unreadable.

The spelling of some names varied from source to source [i.e. Wagy or Waggy, Corbin or Corban]. My rule has been that I usually use the same spelling that my source material used, which can mean different spellings on the same page.

Some pages in this book have a border around them. This indicates that the enclosed data is about the family of an IRWIN in-law. Where possible, these have been placed on the left-hand side, so they can be read separately or concurrently with the IRWIN story.

I have tried to avoid errors, and ask pardon for those that escaped the editing process.

Marjorie Molloy Jansen [Harvey]

#### FLORA and NATHANIEL HOUSE

Flora Maude IRWIN, daughter of Corbin and Charlotte, was born on the 2nd of June, 1880 in Four Mile Township, Wayne County, Illinois. The family moved back to Lawrence County [to the Pasturefield area of Petty township], when she was ten years old.

Her name began appearing in the local newspaper when she was 13. [All of the newspaper items quoted here are from The Sumner Press.]

15 Mar 1894: Miss Flora IRWIN spent Sunday and Monday with Miss Pearl STINE.

13 Jun 1895: Miss Cora AUSTIN of Wayne County is visiting Flora IRWIN.

After High School, she moved to Lawrenceville for a while.

23 Jun 1898: Flora IRWIN, who is working in Lawrenceville, spent a few days with her parents in Pasturefield.

In 1900, after her mother's death, she was again living with her father, as this next item shows.

14 Jun 1900: Among those from a distance who attended services here [Chauncey] Sunday, we note...Misses Flora and Cora IRWIN of Pasturefield.

When Flora was 21, she and her younger sister, Cora, went to Champaign, Illinois, [about 100 miles north] to find work. Cora became a saleslady in a shop, while Flora found a position as seamstress and cook for the Charles PARSONS family near Tolono, a small town a few miles south of Champaign.

A frequent visitor to the Parsons was a relative, Albert HOUSE, along with his sons, Nathaniel and Richard. The family had a farm in Savoy Hills, Illinois. Flora and Nathaniel fell in love. In late 1902, Flora visited her father to tell him about the young man that she wished to marry.

27 Nov 1902: Miss Flora IRWIN came down from Champaign Saturday for a short visit with her father, Corbin IRWIN of Pasturefield.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> THE SUMNER PRESS, Sumner, Illinois, was a weekly newspaper.

#### HOUSE - MILLER

A family tradition is that the HOUSE family is descended from one of three brothers [George, William and Andrew] who came from Germany in the 18th Century.

Jacob HOUSE, who may have been William's son, lived in Hampshire County, Virginia in 1782 as head of a family of "5 white souls". In 1790, he was on the list of "tithables" in Pendleton County. His will was recorded in Hardy County, Virginia [now West Virginia] in 1795. It mentions his wife, Barbara, his children, John, Abraham, Isaac and Mary and son-in-law, Leonard Parrett.

Abraham HOUSE, son of Jacob and Barbara, was born in the 1770s in Hampshire County, Virginia [now Hardy Co, WV]. He married Judith FITZWATER on December 1st, 1801. They had ten children: Absalom, James, John, Jessie, Jacob, Isaac, Catharine, Elizabeth, Abraham and William. Abraham's will was filed in 1852 in Barbour County, Virginia [WV], indicating that he probably died that year.

Absalom HOUSE, son of Abraham and Judith, was born on the 22nd of February, 1817 in Hardy County. His first wife was Rachel WOOD, who was born September 2nd, 1820 and died on Christmas Day in 1860. Absalom's second wife was Martha SMITH BALL, who was born in 1826 and died in 1874. Among the children of Absalom and Rachel was Albert Lee.

Albert Lee HOUSE was born in March, 1843 in Barbour County, Virginia. In 1850, he was listed in the Census in Barbour County.<sup>2</sup>

Absalom HOUSE	33	m	farmer	Va
Rachel "	29	f	•	11
Ervin "	10	m		11
Albert "	7	m		15
Draper "	5	m		n
Taylor B "	2	m		"
Hester "	2	f		11

The next household was that of Isaac HOUSE, 40 years old, who was probably Absalom's brother.

In 1860, the family was in Wirt County, Virginia. [Later both Barbour and Wirt Counties became part of West Virginia.] The Census record for that year is very difficult to read, so the information copied from it is minimal. <sup>3</sup> [See next page.]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The early family history is taken from "GENEALOGY OF THE HOUSE FAMILY", Florence HOUSE TREVOR, ca 1950; from a copy in the possession of Houston SWENSON.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 1850 CENSUS, Barbour County, Virginia, page 82
 <sup>3</sup> 1860 CENSUS, Wirt County, Virginia, page 196.

FLORA 11-3

It is most likely that during this visit, final plans were made for her upcoming wedding which took place on January 7th, 1903 in the family home in Pasturefield. She was 22, and he was 27 years old [although the marriage license indicates his age as only 24].

- 15 Jan 1903: Last Wednesday at the home of the bride's father, Corbin IRWIN, at Pasturefield occurred the marriage of his daughter, Miss Flora, to L. N. HOUSE, of Savoy, Ill., Rev. S. Rodrick, of Chauncey, officiating. There were twenty-three guests present and all enjoyed themselves very much. Miss Flora is one of our best young ladies, and from the appearance of Mr. HOUSE, she had made a splendid choice from among so many men. They will make their home in the north. <sup>1</sup>
- 22 Jan 1903: Mrs Flora HOUSE (nee IRWIN) removed to her new home near Tolono, Illinois, last Friday.

When the PARSON family relocated to Indiana, Flora and Nat moved to the farm at Tolono, where they remained for about eight years. That is where their children, Lottie Angeline and Virdle Lee, were born.

- 19 Jan 1905: Corbin IRWIN informs us that he is again a "grandpa" as his daughter, Mrs. Flora HOUSE, of Savoy, Ill., presented her husband with a 10 pound girl for a Christmas gift.
- 12 Mar 1908: We are informed that Mr. and Mrs. L. N. HOUSE are the proud parents of a 10 pound boy since the 10th of February. Mrs. HOUSE was formerly Miss IRWIN, daughter of C. W. IRWIN, of Petty township.

Flora continued to keep in touch with her mother's relatives, the STINEs.

- 4 Aug 1904: Mrs Flora HOUSE visited cousins, Pearl and Perna STINE.
- 3 Mar 1910: Nat HOUSE and family of Polony [Tolono] spent Saturday with the Frank STINE family.

When the HOUSE family visited the PARSONs in Indiana, they decided they liked it, so they bought and moved to a farm near Syracuse, Kosciusko County, in March 1912. They raised wheat and corn and had a herd of dairy cows. Flora had a garden and raised chickens. Besides running his farm, Nat also started a bank in Leesburg, Indiana.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All news items on this page are taken from THE SUMNER PRESS, Sumner, Illinois

Absalom HOUSE	43
Rachel	39
Irvin	19
Albert L	17
Draper	14
Taylor B	12
Hester	?
Louisa	4

Albert moved to Illinois, and was married to Angeline Louise MILLER, a native of that state, on March 16, 1870. Their son, Lee Nathaniel HOUSE, was born in Sadorus, Champaign County, on November 18, 1875. Angeline died on September 20th 1877, before her son's second birthday.

In the 1880 Census, Albert is listed as a widower, living in Tolono Township, Champaign County, Illinois, with his four-year-old son.

1880 Census - Village of Sadorus, Tolono township., Champaign Co, Illinois.1

HOUSE,	A. L.	37	wd	Farmer
	Lee N.	4		

Albert was married again on the 5th of April, 1882 to Annie E. PARSONS in Sadorus. Annie was born in England in February, 1854, but immigrated into the United States with her family when only a few months old. Albert and Annie had a son, Richard Albert HOUSE, who was born on November 28, 1884 in Sadorus.

The 1900 Census found them still in Tolono, married 18 years. Albert's six-year-old niece, Pearl, was also living with them.<sup>2</sup>

HOUSE,	Albert	Mar 1843 57 18	WV VA VA	Farmer
	Annie	Feb 1854 46 18	Eng Eng Eng	- *******
SINCLAIR,	Pearl	May 1894 6	MN Can IL	
HOUSE,	Lee N	Nov 1875 24	ILL WV IL	Farm laborer
	Richard A	Nov 1884 15	ILL WV Eng	u u

Annie PARSONS HOUSE died November 17th, 1901. After her death, Albert and his sons often visited her relatives, the Charles PARSONS family. It was there that his son, Lee Nathaniel, met their hired girl, Flora IRWIN. [See FLORA and NATHANIEL HOUSE]

<sup>1 1880</sup> CENSUS, Champaign County, Illinois, E.D. 21, page 417

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 1900 CENSUS, Champaign County, Illinois, Tolono twp, sheets 16-17

FLORA 11 - 5

The 1920 Census caught them on their Indiana farm.

HOUSE	L. Nathaniel	44	farmer
•	Flora	<b>37</b>	
	Lottie	15	
	Virdle	11	

Lee Nathaniel died of a stroke on January 22, 1950. He was 74. Years later, Flora suffered a heart attack after breaking a hip, and died on June 3rd, 1968, at the age of 88.

Flora is remembered as a loving grandmother who would bake sour-cream cookies for her grandchildren. She claimed that she had an "Irish temper", but her daughter didn't recall any sign of it. Flora would watch wrestling on television, and took it seriously, becoming very upset when anyone would appear to be hurt. Nat was rather quiet and a very gentle man. They did have their fun though - for example, the yearly tomato fight with all the farm hands when the threshing was completed.



FLORA and NATHANIEL HOUSE

#### FLORA and NATHANIEL HOUSE:

Lottie Angeline, b. 24 Dec 1904, Tolono twp, Champaign Co, IL;

m. [Charles] Russell SWENSON2, 12 Aug 1925;

d. 14 Oct 1994, Frankfort, IN.

Virdle Lee, b. 10 Feb 1908, Tolono twp, Champaign Co, IL;

d. 24 Nov 1957, Syracuse, IN.

<sup>1 1920</sup> CENSUS, Kosciusko Co, IN, Tippecanoe Twp, E.D. 95, Sheet 6B

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Charles Russell SWENSON was born March 2, 1903, in Syracuse, IN. He died 9 January 1987 in Frankfort, IN.



VIRDLE, FLORA, LOTTIE and NAT HOUSE

#### LOTTIE

Lottie Angeline HOUSE was born on Christmas Eve in 1904 in Illinois, and was named "Lottie" after her maternal grandmother, Charlotte LATHROP IRWIN, and Angeline after her paternal grandmother, Angeline MILLER HOUSE. She spent most of her school years in Indiana, finally attending Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana, where she obtained an elementary teaching certificate.

She married [Charles] Russell SWENSON on the 12th of August, 1925. He was born on the 2nd of March, 1903 in Syracuse, Indiana. He was a graduate of Purdue University in electrical engineering, and his lifetime of work was with the Bell Telephone Company. Lottie and Russell lived in Indiana during all the 61 years of their married life. Both were active in Methodist Church work, teaching Sunday School for many years. Russell was also a Scout leader. They had artistic hobbies. Lottie painted china, usually with delicate flower designs. She was also an excellent seamstress [like her mother], along with knitting, tatting and crocheting. Russell was a prizewinning photographer, excelling particularly in black-and-white.

Russell died suddenly on the 9th of January, 1987 at the age of 83 in Frankfort, IN. Lottie died on the 14th of October, 1994, three weeks after suffering a stroke. She was 89 years old.

#### **VIRDLE**

Virdle Lee was born on February 10th, 1908 in Champaign County, Illinois. His family moved to Indiana when he was four. As an adult, Virdle, who never married, remained on the farm to help his parents. He died in 1957 at the age of 49, as a result of blood clots following surgery.

#### LOTTIE and RUSSELL SWENSON:

Violette Lenore, b. 28 Dec 1926, Elkhart, IN;

m. Norman Lloyd CALDWELL<sup>1</sup>, 1 Feb 1948, Indianapolis, IN;

Houston LaMar, b. 12 Jun 1930, Indianapolis, IN;

m. Matilda Mae [Ginger] SNEPP2, 22 Jan 1956, Evansville, IN;

#### VIOLETTE and NORMAN CALDWELL:

Douglas Lloyd, b. 29 May 1950, Huntington, CT;

m1. Sarah Ann DICKMANN<sup>3</sup>, 23 Dec 1972, Greenfield, IN; (div) m2. Judy SMUCKER KEIGER<sup>4</sup>, 30 May 1992, Akron, OH;

Bruce Michael, b. 10 Oct 1952, Crawfordsville, IN;

m. Julie WILL ESPINAL5, 30 May 1987, New York, NY;

Daniel Patrick, b. 13 Jan 1965, Crawfordsville, IN;

m. Roechell PINNA STANLEY6, 19 Dec 1988, Indianapolis, IN; (div)

#### DOUGLAS and SARAH CALDWELL:

Dawn Michelle, b. 3 Aug 1975, West Lafayette, IN; Julie Kristine, b. 14 Apr 1981, Columbus, OH;

#### DANIEL and ROECHELL CALDWELL:

Matthew Ryan, b. 23 May 1988, Greenwood, IN; Tyler Patrick, b. 24 Dec 1990, Greenwood, IN.

#### HOUSTON and GINGER SWENSON:

Kenneth Neil, b. 21 Nov 1957, Milwaukee, WI;

m. Mary Jo RICHEY, 1987, Indianapolis, IN;

David Alan, b. 20 Sep 1959, Milwaukee, WI;

m. Jeanne Ellyn WARTH, 26 Jul 1986, Nashville, IN;

Kathryn Lee, b. 11 Dec 1963, Indianapolis, IN;

m. Mark Anthony RATEKIN<sup>7</sup> 30 Sep 1995, Indianapolis, IN.

#### KENNETH and MARY JO SWENSON:

Lauren Michelle, b. 21 Aug 1993, Indianapolis, IN;

#### DAVID and JEANNE SWENSON:

Daniel Kyle, b. 4 Jan 1993, Alameda, CA; Jessica Kathleen, b. 19 Jun 1995, Walnut Creek, CA.

<sup>1</sup> Norman Lloyd CALDWELL was born 29 December 1925 in North Carolina.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> M. M. 'Ginger' SNEPP was born 21 July 1934 in Evansville, Indiana.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sarah Ann DICKMANN was born 22 October 1950 in Greenfield, Indiana.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Judy SMUCKER was born 9 June 1949 in Medina, Ohio.

<sup>5</sup> Julie WILL was born 27 September 1958 in Astoria, NY.

Roechell PINNA was born 19 March 1965 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
 Mark RATEKIN was born 28 December 1965 in Rushville, Indiana.

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## REGISTER OF MARRIAGES (Lawrence County, Illinois)

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#106	L. N. House	L. N. House	25 years White	A. L. House
Jan 6, 1903		Savoy, Ills	Sadoras, Illa	Angeline Miller first

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Puli Name of Bride.     Maiden Name, if a Widow.     Trace of Residence.	1. he set fither. 2. Race of Color. 3. Place of Birth.	Father's Name.     Mother's Marie.     No. of Bride's Marriage.	1. Where and When Martind Take and the same than the s	
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,	8 Bridget 8	first	2 JAB Neal Gladys Neal, 2 Feb 19	-/

NAME OF BRIDE MAIDEN NAME RESIDENCE

Flora M Irwin

Pasturefield, Ills

AGE NEXT BIRTHDAY RACE OR COLOR PLACE OF BIRTH

23 years White Wayne Co Ills FATHER'S NAME MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME NO. BRIDE'S MARRIAGE

Corbin W Irwin

Lotta Lathrop First WHERE/WHEN MARRIED WITNESSES. BY WHOM CERTIFIED DATE OF RETURN WHEN REGISTERED

Lawrence Co Ills Jan 7th 1903 Jan 9 1903 Feb 12 1903

Earl Irwin, Mrs Lytte Samuel Rodrick, Chacy, Ills

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### 1850 CENSUS, BOURBON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, PAGE 82

NO.	NAM	ME	AGE	OCCUPATION	LAND VALUE	BIRTHPLACE
684	Rachel Ervin Albert	HOUSE	33 29 10 7	Farmer	-	VA "
685	Draper Taylor B Hester Isaac I Amanda John	HOUSE	5 2 2 40 15 5	Farmer	300	" " VA

#### Clippings are from THE SUMNER PRESS

Corbin Irwin informs us that he is again a "grandpa" as his daughter. Mrs. Flora House, of Savoy, 111., presented her husband with a 10 pound girl for a Christmas gift. 19 Jan 1305



RUSSELL and LOTTIE SWENSON

BRUCE, VI, DAN, DOUG and NORM CALDWELL [1967]

We are informed that Mr. and Mrs. L. N. House are the proud parents of a 10 pound boy since the 10th of February. Mrs. House was formerly Miss Irwin, daughter of C. W. Irwin, of Petty township.

12 Mar 1908



**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*** 

Last Wednesday at the home of the bride's father, Corbin Irwin, at Pasturefield occurred the marriage of his daughter, Miss Flora, to L. N. House, of Savoy, Ill., Rev. S. Rodrick, of Chauncey, officiating. There were twenty-three guests present and all enjoyed themselves very much.

Miss Flora is one of our best young ladies, and from the appearance of Mr. House, she has made a splendid choice from among so many men. They will make their home in the north.



ALBERT HOUSE



NAT HOUSE [ca 1900]

