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from information supplied by
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William Preston Christian - ~~1822-1880~~

William Preston Christian was the son of John Christian but the name of his Mother is not known. His Grandfather was John Christian B and his Grandmother was Judith Leake Christian and both were from Scotland. William Preston Christian was born in Virginia in 1822 and later moved to Missouri where he married Nancy Ann Kelly in 1848 in Moniteau County, Missouri. Nancy Ann Kelly was born in Cowan, Franklin County, Tennessee (near Chattanooga) on December 9, 1828. Her Mother and Father were born in Virginia.

William Preston Christian and Nancy Ann Kelly Christian had John James (My Grandfather), Margaret, Charles Erwin, Jude, Mary, Ida, Rose and William.

John James married Amanda Maud Conner *my Grandmother*
Margaret married John Jackson
Charles Erwin married Mary Ellen Gault
Jude married Will Jackson
Mary married Jim Jackson
Ida married Ed Evans
Rose married Tom Seals
William (details not known)

Jim Jackson who married Mary Christian and Will Jackson who married Jude Christian were brothers. Jim and Will Jackson were cousins to John Jackson who married Margaret Christian.

According to land records, William P. Christian purchased 40 acres of United States land from Fayette Land Office in 1841 described as NWSE section 35, Township 45, Range 16. The land is in Moniteau County Missouri south of Clarksburg. Moniteau County is north and east of Morgan County. He purchased 200 acres in the year 1853 - 1854 from Fayette Land Office in section 35, Township 42, Range 17. This land is in Morgan County south east of Versailles. He purchased 120 acres in Section 26 and 35, Township 42, Range 17. The year of purchase is not known but it was in Morgan County southeast of Versailles.

In 1863 William P. Christian bought 40 acres of land in Morgan County Missouri. He had been married 15 years when he bought this land and he owned it 16 years and then sold it to his son John James (my Grandfather) in 1879. My Grandfather had married Amanda Maud Conner the year before and he owned this land for 22 years and sold it prior to his departure for Oklahoma in 1901.

It is believed that William P. Christian moved to Savoy, Fannin County, Texas in the early 1870's. He lived at Savoy in Fannin county (near Sherman) and at Bonham in Fannin county and at Alvord in Wise county, near Decatur, Texas. In 1989 Loy searched the records in the Courthouse at Bonham, Texas and found that on the 12th day of January 1875 William P. Christian bought 44 acres of land on Caney Creek eleven miles west of Bonham from William Thomason which was part of a 3200 acre tract of land patented to the heirs of E. Daniels for \$470.90 or \$10.70 per acre. William P. also bought 4 acres of timbered land in the same area. On January 27, 1877 William P. bought 45 acres of land about eleven miles west of Bonham valued at \$112.50 plus \$350.00 for the improvements for a total of \$362.50 or about \$8.00 per acre.

On September 18, 1888 N.A. (Nancy Ann) Christian sold 44 acres of land to Stokley Seals, husband of Rose Christian, her daughter. The papers were also signed by William Jackson, husband of Judith A. Christian, another daughter. Apparently this land was sold after the death of William P. Christian and his wife sold it to her daughter and son in law. This would place William P.'s death prior to 1888. Seals paid \$400.00 cash down and gave a Lien for \$400.00 at 10% interest.

William P. apparently made his living from agricultural pursuits. He evidently leased land or ran cattle on the open range. In a letter to his son John James in 1878 in Missouri William P. said they could run cattle for 33 cents to 45 cents per head per year and that they would do good and that he could herd them himself. He wanted his son to come to Texas and put some cattle on grass with his cattle. William P. was crippled in some way. He said in a letter to B.R. Richardson in Missouri in 1875 that he could neither ride or walk to do any good.

As I was growing up I never heard it mentioned that my fathers grandfather lived in Texas.

It is believed that all eight children of William P. and Nancy Ann Kelly Christian were born in Morgan County, Missouri.

The reason for so many Christian's being in Missouri is not known nor is the reason for William P.'s move to Texas known.

The Lead Mines in the Eastern Ozarks of Missouri were as important as the fur trade in bringing early settlers to Missouri. One of the miners, Moses Austin (1761 - 1821) was among the many miners who later decided to move on and who helped give Missouri the name "Mother of The West".

Austin went to Texas taking 300 Missouri families with him. He died before he could carry out his plan, but his son, Stephan F. Austin carried it out and became known as the father of Texas. This migration to Texas could have had some influence on William Preston Christian moving to Texas. Some of his relatives could have been living in Texas when this history was in the making.

Margaret Christian Jackson (sister of John James) had a great grand daughter who told Loy Christian Flick that she had found William P.'s grave at Coontown Cemetary near Savoy, Texas which is near Sherman. It was an abandoned cemetary and had grown up in weeds and cattle were running through it. The headstone on his grave was broken in half and the part that had the date of death was missing so it is not known when William P. died but it is believed it was prior to 1890. In 1989 Loy visited the cemetary and found it had been sold and well fenced and the gate locked.

William P. died of a heart attack near Alvord, Wise County, Texas (near Decatur). He was found under a tree after dismounting his horse and laid down. He shod horses during the Civil War. Due to his handicap (crippled) he was not required to serve in the Civil War.

Nancy Ann Kelly Christian lived her last years with her daughter, Ida Evans and died of senility in 1925 at age 97 and is buried in Purcell, Oklahoma.

William Preston Christian had a brother, John J. Christian (called Uncle Jack) who was the father of John Buffalo Christian

Whose Mother died when he was two years old and his father died five years later. He lived with his relatives until he was eleven and then earned his own living. He had an extremely outstanding Military Career and retired from Service as a Colonel in 1922. He died of pneumonia at the station hospital at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas in 1938 and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. He was 67 years old.

John Buffalo Christian was born in California, Missouri in 1870. He attended district schools of Moniteau and Morgan counties and saved enough from his earnings to enable him to attend Hooper Institute at Clarksburg, Missouri where he graduated with high honors in 1892 and was awarded several medals for excellent scholarship. He became interested in the U.S. Military Academy at an early age and secured his appointment through his own efforts.

Early in his academic career he was recognized as one of the outstanding students of his class. His keen mind and thorough and methodical work gave him a high ranking in his class, graduating number 13 in a class of 73. He asked for the Calvary and was assigned to the 2nd Calvary, stationed at Ft. Riley, Kansas. In 1898 he served with his regiment in the Santiago Campaign. On returning to the United States he was stationed at Montauk Point, Long Island Huntsville, Alabama. On December 1, 1898 he was married to Mary Lucille Sibley, daughter of Brig. General Frederick Sibley. In february 1899 he returned to Cuba and was stationed at Matanzas and Santa Clara until august 1899.

He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant August 31, 1899 and assigned to the 9th Calvary, but was detailed as instructor, Department of Mathematics at the U.S. Military Academy, remaining on this duty until August 13, 1902. Two daughters, Frances Sibley and Alice Morris were born while he was stationed at West Point. He was promoted to Captain February 22, 1903. On his relief from duty at the Military Academy he joined the 9th Calvary at the Presido of San Francisco.

In August 1905 he was again detailed to duty at the Military Academy, this time as Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy. On being relieved from this duty in 1909, he again joined the 9th Calvary and was stationed at Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming and San Antonio, Texas until 1912 when he was transferred to 8th Calvary in the Philippine Islands. In December 1912 he was detailed in the Signal Corps and commanded a signal company at Fort McKinley P.I. until October 1915, when he returned to the United States. In a report of a tactical inspection at the annual maneuvers of troops of the Philippine Department, February 18-28, 1914, he was commended as follows:

"Because of the difficulties which each had to overcome and the success with which he overcame them the following are believed to be especially worthy of commendation: Captain John B. Christian, Signal Corps, commanding Signal Corps Detachment".

In 1912 and again in 1913 the Professor, Department of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology made application for the detail of Captain Christian as Assistant Professor in that department at the Military Academy, but the War Department disapproved the request because he was on foreign duty.

On his return to the United States he was placed in charge of the Signal School for Enlisted Men at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. In March 1916, he was sent to Fort Sam Houston, Texas where he organized the 1st Provisional Company, Signal Corps. On July 1, 1916 he was promoted to Major and in August of that year he was sent to Fort Bliss, Texas where he served with the 17th Cavalry.

On January 13, 1917 he was transferred to the Coast Artillery Corps and stationed at Fort Monroe, Virginia. He was again detailed in the Signal Corps in June 1917 and stationed at Fort Oglathorpe, Georgia where he organized the 7th Field Signal Battalion. On August 5th 1917 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Temporary and detailed as Department Signal Officer at Charleston, South Carolina. He was promoted to Colonel, Temporary, December 29, 1917 and assigned as senior Instructor Signal Officers Training Camp at Leon Springs, Texas. In September 1918 he was sent to Camp Meade, Maryland as Commandant of the Signal Officers Training School and continued on this duty until January 1919 when he was sent to command Ft. McKinley, Maine. In June 1919 he was sent to France where he served on General Court Martial duty at Brest and as Camp Utility Officer and Camp Quartermaster, Base Section No. 5.

Returning to the United States in February 1920, he commanded the Coast Defense of Fort Williams, Maine until September of the same year when he was detailed as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was promoted to Colonel July 1, 1920.

His work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology was so efficient that the President of the Institute wrote him the following letter on June 20, 1922.

"I am pleased to say that under your guidance the Military Department here has made a greater advance than ever before. The entire department is, at the present time, on the same basis as any of our professional departments and the members of your staff rank with the other professors on the Faculty.

Until the last few years while the Faculty have not been openly opposed to Military instruction, they have not looked with favor upon increasing the allotment of time given to the Military Department for Military studies. Today the attitude of the Faculty is entirely changed and this has been brought about largely because the Faculty realize that the Military Department is giving the students efficient and valuable instruction.

I want to congratulate you on the loyalty displayed by your staff both to you and to the Institute. I also want to congratulate you on the fine spirit shown by the students enrolled in the R.O.T.C."

At the graduation of 1922, Colonel Christian addressed the graduating class and the Professor of Political Economy and the Professor of Mechanical Engineering wrote him expressing their appreciation of his scholarly, eloquent and effective address and stating that it made a deep impression on all present. Major Gen. Clarence R. Edwards, commanding the First Corps Area wrote him the following commendation:

"It gives me great pleasure to be able to write you this commendatory letter for the work you have done and the results you have accomplished as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology during the past year. By your broad policies and scholarly attainments you have placed the Military Department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on the same footing as that of the other departments probably a status never occupied by the Military Department at this Institution before.

"The masterly address delivered by you at the graduation exercises this year and the innovation introduced by you in the method of bringing the R.O.T.C. graduates into the service of the United States Government as officers of the Reserve Corps are indeed to be commended. It not only made these young gentlemen feel the great responsibility of the step that they are taking and the great honor that was being conferred upon them, but it, together with your address, brought forcibly to the attention of the assembled students, professors, fathers, mothers and sweethearts the work of the military department.

"Accept my congratulations. This letter will be filed with your efficiency report".

Major General F.W. Coe, Chief of Coast Artillery, wrote Colonel Christian on August 29, 1922 as follows:

"I have been aware for many months that you were getting good results and that your earnest efforts were appreciated. I feel like extending to you my personal thanks as well as expressing the gratitude the Coast Artillery Corps must feel toward you for maintaining its record in such a highly creditable and honorable way".

Colonel Christian was retired at his own request December 31, 1922 after over thirty years service. After his retirement he went to France where he lived for two years. He then returned to the United States and lived in San Diego, California and Washington D.C. His wife died in 1928 and he then went to San Diego. In 1930 he married Mrs. Evelyn Ray. In 1932 they went to Europe and on their return lived in San Diego until shortly before his death.

Early in 1930 they went to San Antonio, Texas where he died of pneumonia April 21, 1938 following an operation at the Station Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In memory of his early struggles for an education he left behind a fund to the University of Missouri to be used in assisting worthy and needy young men in obtaining an education.

My Paternal Grand Parents were born and reared in Missouri in Morgan County, in the area of Versailles, Eldon and Barnett.

John James Christian
Born 3 - 6 - 1853
Died 3 - 3 - 1932

Amanda Maud Conner
3 - 8 - 1860
3 - 6 - 1932

They were married october 17, 1878 in Morgan County, Missouri.

To this Union were born,

my father --- William Harget
Irene Ann
Charles Hamilton
James Nathan
Louis Everett

August 7, 1879 died 1885 at age 6
August 19, 1881 died Oct. 16, 1965
March 9, 1885 died June 18, 1963
November 26, 1887 died Sept. 27, 1957
December 12, 1890 died Oct. 1, 1971

It is evident that Grandpa Christian (John James) was quite adventerous in his early days. He made long trips when the mode of travel was slow and tedious. He ventured deep into South Texas staking a claim in the Rio Grande Valley near Pharr, Texas. He starved out and returned to Missouri. The date of this venture is not known but was probably in the 1870's. It is not known how long he stayed in the Rio Grande Valley.

Later, John James accompanied by his brother, Charles Erwin, set out on a trip through western Oklahoma, west Texas and New Mexico. The date of this trip is not known but was probably early in the 1880's. The mode of travel is not known but the MKT Railroad was built south through Indian Territory to Texas in 1871 and in 1882 the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad was built east and west through Vinita, Oklahoma. Part of the trip could have been by rail. The A&P was later acquired by the Frisco. (SLSF)

It is believed that on their return from West Texas, western Oklahoma and New Mexico, John James and Charles Erwin split up. John James returned to Missouri and Charles Erwin settled in West Texas or western Oklahoma. He married Mary Ellen Gault in Roosevelt, Oklahoma in 1886. John James had married in 1878.

John James returned to Missouri and told his boys that he liked the New Mexico country but water was a problem there. He also told them he liked the Northeastern Oklahoma Country and later made that area his home.

John James moved his family in August - September of 1901 by covered wagon (the mode of travel in those days) to Pryor, Oklahoma and camped on Pryor Creek the day President McKinley was assassinated. He farmed land leased from W.A. Graham about ten miles northeast of Pryor and also near Adair for ten years.

Charles Erwin Christian
1864 - 1929

Charles Erwin Christian was a brother to John James Christian. He was eleven years younger than my Grandfather. They made a trip together from Missouri to Western Oklahoma, west Texas and New Mexico probably in the early 1880's . The mode of travel is not known. My Grandfather returned to Missouri but Charles Erwin remained in western Oklahoma and in 1886 he married Mary Ellen Gault at Roosevelt, Oklahoma in Kiowa County. My Grandfather had married in 1878 and was probably married when he and Charles Erwin made the trip. Charles Erwin was a farmer. He was the first Christian to settle in western Oklahoma and west Texas. He moved to Farwell, Texas in 1919 from western Oklahoma so he lived some 33 years in western Oklahoma and west Texas before moving to Farwell.

Charles Erwin and Mary Ellen Gault Christian had ten children,

Leona (ONIE)	born 100 years ago on Feb. 5, 1889. Married Clarence J. Henderson. Date of death not known.
Roy Procter	born July 29, 1891 at Holiday, Tx. Died 1893.
Rochelle	born March 8, 1894 at Holiday, Texas. Married Carrie Avis Hicks in 1922. Died Feb. 2, 1929 in Farwell and buried at Bovina, Texas.
John Virgil	born March 25, 1899 at Francis in Pontotoc county, Oklahoma near Ada. He married Mattie Bolton in 1935 and died from Cancer in 1937 at Farwell, Texas.
Sidney	born Oct. 11, 1900 at Harrisburg in Indian Territory. Died 1900.
Clarence C.	born Nov. 26, 1902 in Kiowa County, Oklahoma. Married Carrie Foster May 12, 1926 at Farwell, Tx.
Grace	born May 27, 1907 in Kiowa County, Oklahoma. Married Lee Andrew Jones. Lives Davis, Oklahoma.
Rose	born April 26, 1909 in Kiowa County, Oklahoma. Married Roy Nix.
Everette	born Jan. 28, 1911 in Kiowa County, Oklahoma. Married Fern Gaines.
Ann	born Feb. 20, 1916 in Kiowa County, Oklahoma. Married Elmer Smith.

Charles Erwin died in 1929 at age 65 and is buried in Bovina, Tx.

Joseph William Christian

Joseph William Christian was born June 5, 1870 or 71 near Holden Missouri in Johnson County. His father was Joseph Hiram Christian from Lynchburg, Virginia who was a brother to William Preston Christian (my Great Grandfather). Joseph Hiram was four years older than William P. Joseph William Christian's mother was Nancy Jane Ketchum from Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Joseph William grew up in Missouri and married Mary Alice Batman in Missouri in 1894 when he was 24 years old. They moved to Ringwood, Oklahoma in about 1898. Luther Christian told me the reason for the move to Ringwood was because his mothers family lived there. They moved from Ringwood to Arkansas prior to 1920 and truck farmed. They then moved from Arkansas to Estella, Oklahoma south of Centralia and lived across the road from the Estella School House, in about 1926, where they farmed. Later they moved into Vinita. Luther said they moved back to Ringwood in 1928 from Vinita. Fanchon Christian said that when Luther was 21 years old they moved Joseph William and family to Fontana, Kansas from Arkansas. This would be in 1936 so they had returned to Arkansas from Ringwood prior to 1936.

Joseph William and Mary Alice had twelve children,

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| Charles Clarence | Born July 26, 1895 at Wrrrensburg, Mo. He died Nov. 24, 1920 and is buried near Centralia. |
| Samuel Oran | born april 6, 1897 at Warrrensburg, Mo. and died june 5, 1960 & is buried in Vahalia cemetary, Puebelo, Colorado. |
| Mary Alice (Allie) | born april 27, 1899 at Ringwood, Oklahoma. she married Vern Knoop in Paola, Kansas and died in Whittier, California aug. 6, 1983 & is buried in Scotts Valley Cemetary, Hillsdale, Ks. |
| William Martin | born july 16, 1901 at Lahoma, Oklahoma (Garfield county) He married Clarice Fanchon Palmer at Larned, Kansas april 5 , 1924 and died Jan. 24, 1975 at Lane, Kansas. |
| Goldie Beulah | born July 23, 1903 at Ringwood, Oklahoma and died at Vinita, Oklahoma Feb. 13, 1924. She married William Delmer Gregory. |
| Lula Jane | born at Ringwood, Oklahoma July 19, 1905. Married Gerald Young. Died dec. 17, 1964 at Lane, Kansas. |
| Mary Elizabeth | born aug. 29, 1907 at Ringwood, Oklahoma. Married Carl Sherril and after he died married Arthur Shroeder. She lives in Puebelo, Colorado (1989) |

Jessie Milton born oct. 8, 1909 at Ringwood, Oklahoma. Married Ethel Schroeder aug. 17, 1933. Died Aug. 28, 1983 at Lakeside, California and was cremated and ashes scattered over Pacific Ocean.

Emma Ellen born Aug. 10, 1911 at Ringwood, Oklahoma. Married William (Bill) Brown in Washington State and lives in Pueblo, Colorado (1989).

Joseph LaFayette born august 4, 1913 at Ringwood, Oklahoma. Died May 30, 1915. Buried in Glendale Cemetary, Ringwood, Oklahoma.

Luther Marion born Dec. 6, 1915 at Ringwood, Oklahoma. Married Violet Harding July 4, 1948 in Raton, New Mexico. Lives Pueblo, Colorado (1989).

Johnnie Lewis born july 15, 1918 at Centralia, Oklahoma. Died Ringwood, Oklahoma may 8, 1933. Buried Glendale cemetary, Ringwood, Oklahoma (Barton County).

When I was a youngster I remember everyone called Joseph William "Uncle Bill".

Allie worked for my mother over a considerable period of time after I was born in 1917. Allie married Vern Knoop February 28, 1928 in Paola, Kansas and Vern Farmed and later went into the plumbing business. After Vern's death Allie moved to Whittier, California to be close to her son and daughter. ~ 1971

Allie and I kept in touch over the years until her death in 1983 at Whittier, California. She is buried in Scotts Valley cemetary at Hilsdale, Kansas.

Mary and her husband lived with Uncle Jim Christian for a time in 1930, near Centralia.

Emma worked for Aunt Myrtle Christian at Centralia one summer.

Luther worked for my father during the summer of 1934.

In 1989 Mary, Luther and Emma are the only surviving children of Joseph William and Mary Alice's twelve children. Mary is 82, Emma 77 and Luther 73. They all live in Pueblo, Colorado.