

JACKSON FAMILY HISTORY

by Charles Jackson

Summer 1939

([Emily J. Bates:] These notes were taken down after a visit with Uncle Charley Jackson at his home in Henderson, Maryland. — Summery 1939)

The first settlement of Jacksons was at Fairfield, Conn. Henry Jackson (from England) here had the idea of harnessing the tides for power for his mill; the mill and dam were still there when Uncle Charley and Grandpa visited Fairfield (1925). They also saw Henry Jackson's will in the courthouse.

The family moved then to Wallingford, Vermont. Ebenezer Jackson had his mill there. In front of an inn there today, an old millstone from that Jackson mill is used as a step.

These Jacksons wanted to found a town on top of a mountain, but they were unable to get fresh water, so the site was moved down the mountain and named Sharon.

William Jackson moved west to Arcade, New York.

Jacob, Charley and Chester's father, joined the army in the War of 1812, was wounded twice in the legs, and left on the field and made a prisoner by the British.

His brother, Charles, was never heard from after a battle of this war.* Uncle Charley was named after him.

Chester was born in 1845, Charles in 1848. Chet stayed on the farm in Wisconsin until he went on the Orinoco trip in '76. The winter before, he made the trip to Florida where he met Dr. Hornaday and planned the South America trip.†

One time Ben Bones‡ and Chester and Charles went hunting. After the hunting, while they were sitting around the fire, a mouse ran out in front of them and Chet caught it. Ben said, "I bet you wouldn't eat that, Chet." Chet rammed a stick through the mouse, roasted it over the fire and ate a piece, but no one else wanted any.

(Uncle Charley also told the pumpkin story — the lighted pumpkin head in front of the Dutchman's house; the boys lying flat in the grass and watching; the Dutchman coming out of his home, knocking off the pumpkin and charging up and down the road looking for the culprits.)

* - Recent research says he was killed in the Battle of Buffalo; family history says both were in the Battle of Black Rock — see <http://www.americanwars101.com/battles/131230.html>.

† - CEJ went down the Mississippi to New Orleans and then to Florida, in 1874, and then to NYC and returned to Racine in 1875.

‡ - A childhood friend who was instrumental in getting Chester Jackson his Consul position in Antigua.