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NEWSLETTER

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REFLECTIONS OF HISTORY

Marjorie Slavens

April is an important month in our history; several of our major wars began in April and some were also ended during this month. The American Revolution began April 19, 1775 and ended September 3, 1783. The Mexican-American War, April 25, 1846-February 2, 1848, the Civil War, April 12, 1861-April 9, 1865, and the Spanish-American War, April 21, 1898-December 10, 1898, are other major April events. Although World War I began in 1914, the United States did not enter the war until April 6, 1917.

I recently found a new podcast that has reminded me of some of April's major events that I had not known or had forgotten. The podcast is "Reflections of History" and was first presented this month. Jon Meacham is a Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Destiny and Power*, a biography of George H. W. Bush, *American Lion*, a biography of Andrew Jackson, and *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power*, as well as a more recent biography of John Lewis, *His Truth Is Marching On*. He is Carolyn T. and Robert M. Rogers Chair in American Presidency in the Department of Political Science at Vanderbilt University.

"C13Originals and Pulitzer Prize winner and best-selling author Jon Meacham, co-creators of the 2021 Webby Award-winning Best Podcast Series "It Was Said" and the acclaimed podcast "Hope, Through History", join together again for a brand-new series that will guide listeners through critical moments in our history. Every Monday through Friday, Meacham travels back to

impactful events that occurred on that date in history—the birth of a visionary filmmaker, the debut of an iconic athlete, the discovery of a lifesaving cure, a triumphant legal victory. You'll learn how that event shaped politics, art, culture, sports and science, and why it's still relevant today.

Reflections of History

Listen on Apple Podcasts

April 26th: Fenway's First Homerun

On April 26, 1912, in Boston, Massachusetts, the first home run at Fenway Park was hit. Visit podcastchoices.com/adchoices 5 min

April 25th: The United Negro College Fund Is Incorporated

On April 25th, 1944, The United Negro College Fund was incorporated. 7 min

April 22nd: Richard Nixon Dies

April 22st, 1994. The day Richard Nixon, the 37th President of the United States, dies 6 min

April 21st: Queen Elizabeth Is Born

April 21st, 1926. The day the future Queen Elizabeth II is born. 5 min

April 20th: Macbeth Premiers

April 20th, 1611. The day William Shakespeare's Macbeth is staged at the Globe. 5 min

April 19th: The Oklahoma City Bombing

April 19th, 1995. The day domestic terrorists attacked America in Oklahoma City. 6 min

April 18th: Paul Revere's Ride

On April 18th, 1775. The day Paul Revere galloped into history to warn American revolutionaries that the British were coming. 6 min

April 15th: Jackie Robinson Joins The Majors

On April 15th, 1946, in Brooklyn, New York, Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball. 7 min

April 14th: The Titanic Sinks

On April 14th, 1912, in the North Atlantic Ocean, the mighty ship Titanic sank. 6 min

April 13th: Thomas Jefferson Is Born

On April 13th, 1743, in Albermale County, Virginia, Thomas Jefferson was born. 7 min

April 12th: The Polio Vaccine Is Approved

On April 12th, 1955, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Dr. Jonas Salk's vaccine for polio was approved. 6 min

April 11th: LBJ Signs The Civil Rights Bill

On April 11th, 1968, at the White House, Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968. 7 min

April 8th: The 13th Amendment Is Passed

On April 8th, 1864, in Washington, DC, the United States Senate passed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. 7 min

April 7th: Francis Ford Coppola Is Born

On April 7th, 1939, in Detroit, Michigan, the film director Francis Ford Coppola was born. 5 min

April 6th: The Battle of Shiloh Begins

On April 6th, 1862, in Hardin County, Tennessee, The Battle of Shiloh began. 4 min

April 5th: Churchill Resigns

On April 5th, 1955, in London, England, Winston Churchill resigned as Prime Minister of Great Britain. 6 min

April 4th: NATO Is Formed

On April 4th, 1949, In Washington, DC, the United States signed a treaty that led to the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. 6 min

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(Note: This morning, the beginning of the construction replacing the World Trade Center was started; review of 911 attack.)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

I like to read in the newspaper each day where they show who was having a birthday on that date.

So, I am writing my article about family members who are also sharing birthdays of other people on their particular birthdate.

I thought of this during this month of April because three members of my family have birthdays in April. My wife, Dorothy Jean (Newcomb) Morse, was born on April 21. She celebrated her birthday with Queen Elizabeth. Queen Elizabeth was 16 years older than my wife would have been. April 21 is also the birth date of my grandmother, Laura Jessie (Mooney) Janssens. Dorothy's father, Herbert Edgar Newcomb, was born on April 16. He was probably hoping she would be born on that date. He shared birthdays with Charlie Chaplin and Wilbur Wright. On April 22 my youngest grandson, Owen, celebrates with actor Jack Nicholson and singer Glen Campbell. But, April 22 is also Earth Day. It was earlier celebrated on the first day of spring in March, but was later changed to April 22, the birth date of John Muir. He was born in 1838 in Scotland, but came to America. He became a well known adventurer, Mountain Man, and environmentalist. He was a big advocate of Yellowstone Park and Yosemite National Park.

My birthday is January 3. I celebrate with Coach Hank Stram. He was coach of the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl I and won Super Bowl IV. Musician and comedian Victor Borge also had a birthday on January 3. Dorothy and I saw him perform in Independence. That was one of the highlights of my life.

My father, Albert Frank Morse, was born on July 11, 1909. His grandmother, Nancy (Ward) Morse, died on July 11, 1911. President John Quincy Adams was born on July 11, 1767. My mother, Mildred Catherine (Janssens) Morse, was born October 21, 1910. Born on October 21, 1911 was actor Peter Graves. Also TV Judge Judy Sheindlin shares an October 21 birthday.

My oldest son, Brian, shares an October 4 birthday with Buster Keaton, Charlton Heston,

and President Rutherford B. Hayes. My youngest son, Steve, shares September 29 with musician-rocker Jerry Lee Lewis and cowboy singer Gene Autry. My oldest grandson, Wyatt, shares his birthday with actor Roger Moore, General and President Dwight Eisenhower, and William Penn, the noted Quaker and founder of Pennsylvania.

I find it enjoyable to look at interesting facts about my family. I could have dealt with more of my relatives, but will close by saying “Happy Birthday”

CIVIL WAR SERVICE Part 2

Marjorie Slavens

Last month in Part 1, we discussed my ancestors who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Descendants of my Welty, Coughnower, Miller, Brumbach, Kerr, and Crawford families had moved to Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas before the Civil War. This month, we will discuss members of families who had descendants who served in either the Union or Confederate Armies.

Epprights

“Jacob Eppright was born in Maryland in 1783. He married Catherina Anamaria (Catherine) Wolf, who was born in 1786. They lived in Washington County, Maryland, and they later moved to Jefferson County, Tennessee. In 1840, they were in Johnson County, Missouri. Jacob Eppright was a farmer and miller, and he and his family were members of the Lutheran Church. Jacob Eppright died in 1852, and was buried in a grape arbor on the farm. Catherine died September 20, 1866 in Johnson County, Missouri. She is buried in Pisgah Cemetery in Chilhowee Township, Johnson County, Missouri. Many of the Epprights in Johnson County, Missouri are buried in Pisgah Cemetery in Chilhowee Township, which is located one and a half miles north of the village of Chilhowee in Section 36 Township 45, Range 27. Jacob Eppright died intestate. His executor was his son, George Eppright, who was appointed January 24, 1852. Security bond--N. M. Smith and William Burk. The heirs were his wife Catharine, and his children, George, Benjamin and Joseph Eppright of Johnson County, Missouri; Susan McSpadden and Anny (Sic) Combs of Johnson County, Missouri; Napoleon and Jonathan Eppright of Jasper County, Missouri; Isaac and David Eppright of Travis County, Texas; Jacob Eppright, Jr now in state of California, Polly Harris, now residing in Cass County, Missouri. (Mildred Welty Slavens, *Jacob Eppright Family*, Second Edition, Raymore, Missouri, January, 2002)

Jonathan Eppright, born in Maryland in 1812 and died in Jasper County, Missouri in 1883, my great great grandfather, was the father of Catharine Mary Eppright Welty, my great grandmother. Marion J. Eppright, son of Jonathan and Edy Meadows Eppright, enlisted in Company H., Regiment 6 of the Kansas Cavalry January 17, 1862 during the Civil War. He died at the hospital at Fort Scott, Kansas February 8, 1862 of typhoid fever. His daughter, Clarinda Allis, born March 31, 1861, received a pension until she was 16 years old. The Jonathan Eppright family lived on a farm in Jasper County, Missouri during the Civil War; we do not know if they were able to continue to live on their farm throughout the war,

or if they had to go to Fort Scott or some other area where there was more security.

Susanna Eppright McSpadden, David Eppright, and Isaac Eppright moved to Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas before the Civil War. Isaac served in the Confederate army. Thomas Brewer, son of Anamaria Eppright and Jesse Brewer, also served in the army in Travis County, Texas, where he lived with his aunt and uncle, Susanna Eppright and Thomas Addison McSpadden, after his father's death in Missouri.

Heapes and Tefertillers

Thomas Heape, son of John Chalk Heape and Martha Allen, was born in York County, Pennsylvania in 1811. He married Elizabeth Baggs, who was born in New York in 1815. They moved from Ohio to Perry County, Illinois with his mother and brothers and sisters around 1840. Thomas enlisted in the army during the Civil War as a private in Company A, Regiment 31, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. in Perry County on August 27, 1861. He was discharged April 2, 1862 following a gun shot wound in the right arm at Belmont, Missouri. He was too old to have served in the army at that time, but he wanted to serve. He moved to Cherokee County, Kansas about 1869. He drew a Civil War pension because of his injury.

James Heape, son of Thomas Heape and Elizabeth Baggs, was born in Richland County, Ohio November 7, 1836. He married Derinda Tefertiller, the daughter of George and Emily Tefertiller, also of Perry County, Illinois on March 1, 1857 in Perry County. Her father gave permission for the marriage because she was not of age. In 1860, James and Derinda lived in Wise County, Texas, Decatur Township near her parents, George W. and Emily Walker Tefertiller and Derrinda's brothers, Marion W. and Henry Franklin Tefertiller. Both James and Marion W. Tefertiller served in the Confederate army. In 1870, James and Derinda lived in Cherokee County, Kansas, Sheridan Township, not far from his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth Baggs Heape. In 1880, they lived in Newton County, Missouri,

Buffalo Township.

Michael Tefertiller was born About 1755 in Alsace, Germany. He was the step-son of Fridrich Cramer. He married Barbara Wotring March 4, 1775 in Frederick County, Maryland. She was the daughter of John Wodring and Anna Redmann. Their older children were born in Frederick County and baptized at Apple's Church. Some of the church records show the name as Diefendeller. It is also spelled Diefedeller.

George W. Tefertiller, son of Jacob Heinrich Tefertiller and Charlotte Plum and grandson of Michael Tefertiller, was born in North Carolina in 1807. He married Emily T. Walker, who was born in Georgia. The 1850 Perry County, Illinois census George Tefertiller, 43, was listed as a farmer and was born in North Carolina. His wife, Emily, was 40 and was born in Georgia.

George and Emily Tefertiller left Perry County, Illinois with their family about 1858 and were living in Wise County, Texas in the 1860 census. Their sons, Marion W. And Henry Franklin, and their son-in-law, James Heape, served in the Confederate Army. Marion was born in Tennessee on October 20, 1829. He married Emeline Norton February 6, 1853 He died in 1863.

By 1870, George and Emily and their son, Henry Franklin, and his family had moved to Dade County, Missouri. Their grandson, George Buchanan Tefertiller lived with them after the death of his father, Marion W. Tefertiller.

Slavens, Hesler, McFarland

John Slavens, my 3 great grandfather, grandson of the immigrants, John Slaven of Ireland and Elizabeth Stewart of Scotland, and son of Reuben Slavens, moved from Ohio to what is now Henry County, Missouri about 1837. Reuben Slavens, oldest son of John Slavens and Mary Ruckman, was born September 27, 1825 in Pike County, Ohio. He went to Missouri with his father in 1837. Reuben Slavens bought a 280 acre farm there in 1857. He married Nancy Stephenson September 28, 1849 in Jackson County, Ohio. He returned to Ohio and enlisted in Federal Service in

1863 during the Civil War and served to the end of the war. He died September 20, 1891 in Henry County, Missouri and is buried in Bethlehem Cemetery.

My great great grandfather, George Washington Slavens (1829-1907), second son of John Slavens and his second wife, Rebecca Meade Brace Crull, is my great great grandfather. My great grandfather, John Reuben Slavens (1859- 1887), was the son of George Washington and Nancy Jane Parks Slavens. He married Laura Martin Hesler October 12, 1881 in Henry County, Missouri. In 1887, he, his wife, their two small sons, William Howard, my grandfather, and Frank Hardiman, and the families of two of his sisters went to California to live. Shortly after their arrival, John Reuben died of tetanus on May 23, 1887. He was buried at Huron, Fresno County, California.

Laura Martin Hesler Slavens Hesler (1863-1946) was the granddaughter of Jacob Hesler (1767-1851, who fought in the War of 1812 and the daughter of Martin Hesler (1841-1862) And Susan Hill McFarland. Martin Hesler served in the Iowa Cavalry during the Civil War and died in December, 1862. Both of his brothers also served in the Union Army, although my great grandmother insisted all of her life that her grandfather and one uncle served in the Confederate Army. Her grandfather, Jacob Hesler, had died in 1851. She received a Union Civil War pension until she was 16 years old because of her father's service. Her mother, Susan Hill McFarland Hesler Parks, married John Sherman Parks, a Confederate veteran, in 1865 after the war.

Several members of the McFarland family served in the Confederate Army. James McFarland, grandfather of Laura Hesler, went to Springfield with his daughter, Susan, to bring her husband, Martin's, body back to Henry County for burial in Good Hope Cemetery.. James McFarland died a few weeks after this trip.

George Washington Slavens told his daughter-in-law, Laura, that he would care for her and her two

young sons after they returned from California if they remained in Henry County. However, she rejected his offer and went to Kentucky to meet her father's family. There, she married her first cousin, David William Hesler; they had one son, Clyde David (1895-1902). Both my grandfather, William Howard Slavens, and my father, Ralph Westmeier Slavens, liked Will Hesler. George Washington Slavens never saw his two grandsons again, but he managed their inheritance when his mother-in-law, Susan Parks Parks, died in 1900. They were also included in his will when he died in 1907, and my grandfather, Howard, was able to purchase a farm in Arkansas with his inheritance.

My great grandmother, Laura Hesler, never gave up her dedication to the Confederate cause; I remember a poem she cited praising Jefferson Davis and attacking Abraham Lincoln. We loved her, but we did not share that opinion.

1940 Census

Marjorie Slavens

I looked at Ancestry.com for information about the 1950 Census and found something I did not expect to find. The 1950 Census records were

released this month, but indexing the records is a major task. We all appreciate the many people who work with these Census projects; it is not easy to read the handwriting of the Census takers at times, but they do their work, sometimes in very challenging working conditions. The people who transcribe the records are challenged by handwriting, but they complete their tasks as well as they can.

Census records are very important sources for all family historians. Before my mother, Mildred Welty Slavens, did her genealogical research beginning in the 1970s, she knew nothing about her ancestors before her grandparents, and there was a great deal she did not know about them. She spent hours in libraries in St. Louis and the Kansas City area trying to read the microfilm, and it was sometimes difficult to get a microfilm reader to use. She visited libraries, cemeteries, court houses, genealogical societies and wrote many letters, some of which were never answered.

Census records were so important for her. I bought her first computer for her 86th birthday. She learned, with the help of Ancestry, Fold3, Genealogy.com, Genconnect, etc. She made so many connections and was always willing to help other researchers on the net or here at Foxwood.

The 1940 Census was released in 2012, four years after she died. I tried to find us in the records on the net, but we were not in the index. This morning, I looked at Ancestry to see how the 1950

indexing was going, and, believe it or not, I found us in the 1940 Census. There were mistakes in our records, but I tried to correct them. I was so grateful to find them, and I appreciate all of the work done to permanently preserve them

Our surname was listed as “Slavers” instead of Slavens. (Handwriting!) It said my father was 22; he was 32. It said we lived in Pahuska, Oklahoma in 1935, and we lived in Shidler, Oklahoma. I was not on the original sheet, but I found me by clicking on “More Information). I was listed as Majorie, rather than Marjorie. (Not the first time that has happened.) My brother was listed as Everett G. No, his name was George Everett, so it should have been G. Everett. However, I found out how much money my father earned that year. How did five people live on that little? Many, many people did in 1940. He said he worked 52 weeks during the year. My mother said he was glad to finally have a regular pay check, beginning in April that year for \$17.00 a week. Our story was so similar to so many people in the 1930s. I will be so glad to see the 1950 records when the work is completed, but I was old enough to remember 1950, I remember very little, other than what people have told me, about 1940.

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