

The Story of Jim & Gladys (Jones) Cook

MARY GLADYS JONES: BIRTH & CHILDHOOD

Mary Gladys was born on Feb 27, 1889 at her parent's farm in the Pleasant Valley farm area near Leon, Wisconsin.



She was always called Gladys because Mary was her mother's first name also. Gladys did not go to high school like the

rest of her sisters. She had to stay home most of the time to help with the farm and raise her younger brothers and sisters. She was hurt by this situation since she never was permitted to get a higher education although her siblings had.

MARRIAGE: JIM COOK & MARY GLADYS JONES

In around 1914-15, Mary Gladys met James Cook while in Montana where she was visiting her sister, Vivian and her new husband Otto Oswald (who were married in 1914). Otto had worked for Mr. Steven Cook and had homesteaded with Jim. All of the Jones' girls visited the new western home of their older sister, Vivian, during the summers. They may have been curious about the west. Gladys came first. Isabelle & Hazel visited many times during the summers from 1917 to 1920, either separately or together. Myrtle didn't visit very much because she didn't get along with Otto Oswald. Florence was much younger than her sisters and didn't travel as much.



James and Gladys were married in Sparta in December 1915.

JAMES COOK: GROWING UP AROUND GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

James Webster Cook was born on April 28, 1885 on the family homestead in Hanson Township near Groton, South Dakota. He attended school only in the winter, when there weren't any farm chores. He was very good in math. Jim was a natural born mechanic. He could fix things without education or prior experience.

Land records in Aberdeen (Brown Cty, SD) showed a James W. Cook with numerous land transactions; however, none could be confirmed to involve our relative, James Webster Cook, rather than another of the Cook families living around Groton at the time. References to be checked in the future include: Book 8,p.8; Bk 29,p.178; Bk 30,p.519; Bk

31,p.369; Bk 13,p.414; Bk 36-474 Bk 24,p.283; Bk 3,p.500

HOMESTEADING IN MONTANA

In 1908, Jim, while in his 20's, moved to



Montana with several of his family to homestead a quarter section (160 acres) of land. (see history and illustration of claims under Stephen Cook). The official land description of Jim's claim was the SE 1/4 of Sec 22, in Town 4N, Range 24E. Jim filed homestead application # 462, serial #01855, receipt 462F&C. Jim proved his homestead in 1912 and obtained his homestead certificate #41001 on Feb 7, 1913; testimonial fee # 953505 (Yellowstone Cty Warranty Book 45,p.167).

ANOTHER J.W. & MARY COOK FAMILY ??

Land records listed a J.W.Cook and wife, Mary, as buying some land in May, 1909, in what is now smack dab

downtown Billings at the SW corner N.Broadway & N.3th Ave (Warranty Deed Bk.P,p.568). However, since our Jim & Mary Gladys didn't meet until at least 1914, this had to be another Cook family with the similar names (the researcher's main problem with common names). They sold the land in April, 1910 (Bk 32, p.577).

A J.W. Cook & wife, Mary, of Billings recorded a transfer of land (NE 1/4, SW 1/4, & SE 1/4 of Sec 12, T1N, R25E) on Jan 5, 1920, to the Montana Power Co for a power line transmission right of way (bk 73, p.420,#131664)

LIFE IN MONTANA FOR THE YOUNG MARRIED COUPLE

The new family first lived in Montana and continued to farm. Gladys helped as a cook on the chuck wagon, as the entire Cook family worked the farms. Jim didn't farm for long after he was married.

On Oct 6, 1916 Jim & Gladys sold their homestead land to Anneus Janshen for \$4000, probably to finance their land purchases in Buffalo, Wyoming (Bk 54, p.485, #83225).

THE MOVE TO BUFFALO, WYOMING

Jim moved his family to Buffalo, Wyoming in 1916. His brother, Elmer, also moved to Wyoming, settling on some land about 3 miles northwest of town.

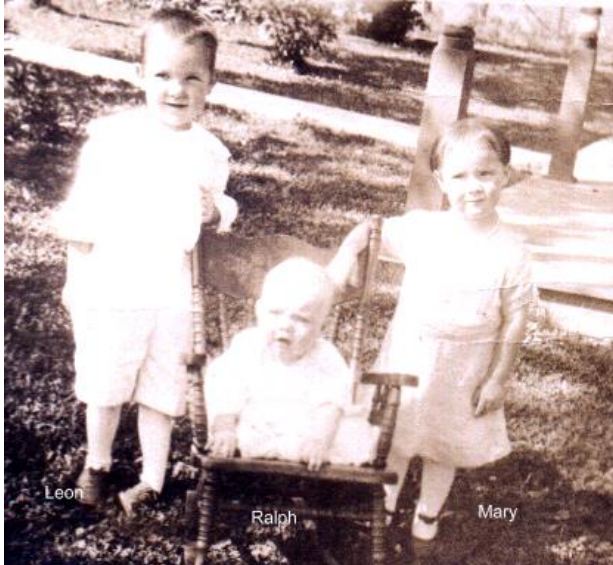
At about this same time, for some unclear reason, most of the Cook's that homesteaded in Montana also sold their land:

Oct, 1916--Jim

Dec, 1917--Martha

Nov, 1916--Blanche
Nov, 1918--Elmer
(rebought in Aug 1920)

On Oct. 16, 1916 the Cook brothers 3 lots in Buffalo from Ora & Ada Gilkey of Gillette, WY for \$1600 (Lot 6,7,8 of Block 46, in Burlington Addition). It was located on the NW corner of the



500th block of North Carrington Ave at Snider Street. Clear Creek runs through downtown Buffalo and a small drainage ditch ran on the west edge of the Cook lots. The land was about 4 blocks west of the downtown area of Buffalo (Warrantee Deed Book 24,p.268-Johnson Cty Clerks Ofc). On Nov 27, 1918 title of the land was transferred from the Cook Bros. to James Cook (Book 25,p.257), and on March 15, 1919 from James to Mary Gladys Cook (Book 25,p.320). Finally, on June 5, 1919 a warranty land transaction (unclear purpose-not viewed in 6/93) occurred from Signa Gilkey to Gladys & James Cook (Book 25,p.420).

The land was very much like Wisconsin, hilly and treed. In Buffalo Jim used his

automobile to operate a kind of chauffeur/taxi service. He was frequently away from home because of this work. During their stay in Wyoming, 3 children were born into the Cook family, James Leon, Mary Martha, and Ralph Webster.



After about 6 years, the family had to move from the area because the air was too thin for Gladys' heart and her health was failing. Gladys never had liked the west as a home anyway. It may have been too isolated, just like Montana. The Cooks moved to Wisconsin.



ON THE MOVE AGAIN

Earl Cook was one of Jim's cousins. He had a cottage on a lake near Minnesota. (Mary Lauzon, 8-92). The family visited him during a trip to see Aunt Luella McFarlane, Bessie Cook.

For about 6 months the Cooks lived on a farm in Beaver Creek (north of Sparta, west of the County Poor Farm) where Jim worked as a farm hand. The family then rented a house in Sparta while Jim worked as an ice delivery man. Jim had a bad appendix attack and had an operation in Sparta.

After about a year, Jim got a job on the John Allen farm in Farmers Valley and the family moved to the farm. They lived there for two years.



WORKING ON THE FATHER-IN-LAW'S FARM

In about 1924-5, Gladys' father, John Luther Jones, bought a farm in Fish Creek for a friend, but the arrangement failed. John called on his daughter and husband, Gladys and Jim, to work the farm.

While sawing wood in a field at the farm Jim's clothes became tangled in the drive shaft of the tractor and saw and he was badly bruised. In Wisconsin, Jim became increasingly ill as he acquired asthma and other health problems that bothered him for the rest of his life.

LIVING IN SOUTH DAKOTA AGAIN

In 1929, the family moved to the Raymond area (2 miles west of Logan school) near Clark, South Dakota so Jim could take better care of his health. Jim did a variety of farm jobs, including driving a 16 mule plow team for a large rancher/farmer.

FARMING IN WISCONSIN

In about 1932, Gladys' father was in his

70's and became ill, so the family moved back to Wisconsin to take care of the family farm in Fish Creek. Since the Cook family was Methodist, they joined the Fish Creek Methodist Church.

All of the other daughters had already owned farms of their own. When John L. died in 1933, the farm was given to four of the Jones daughters in an

"undivided 4 quarters" sharing. Jim continued to work the farm although his failing health required his oldest son, Leon, to take increasing responsibility. Jim never actually owned the land.

JIM COOK'S ILL HEALTH AND DEATH

James Webster Cook died on May 13, 1937, at age 52, after suffering more than a year of ill health. He died from influenza after suffering from myocardial degeneration and cardiac asthma for at least 2 years.

His funeral was held at the Fish Creek Presbyterian Church, with the Hyandale quartette providing song. Jim was buried at the Bangor Fairview Cemetery on May 16, 1937 (Sec 10, Block 36).



He is remembered by his daughter as a kind and soft-spoken father, with a big heart that would help anyone in need.

GLADYS CONTINUES FARMING AT FISH CREEK

After Jim Cook, her husband, died Gladys and her son, Leon, assumed full activity in the family farm at Fish Creek, Wisconsin. It had been equally left to Gladys and 3 of her sisters (Isabel Arne, Hazel Carlson & Florence Raymer) by their father. In 1942, the 4 sisters sold their interest to Leon Cook, who continued to operate the family farm until 1950.

In 1954 Gladys received a certificate of appreciation from the Baptist and Presbyterian Churches (of Bangor?-Ricard Cerretti & Don Johnson-Pastors) for teaching in their Vacation Bible School.

Gladys had Social Security # 397-22-1701.

FINAL REST

Gladys Jones Cook died at the St. Francis Nursing Home in LaCrosse on Nov 20, 1983. She died from a sudden cardiac arrhythmia. She suffered for years of arteriosclerotic heart disease and had cerebral arteriosclerosis and organic brain syndrome.; buried in Fairview Cem, Bangor, WI

