

GASCONADE VALLEY COUSINS

Mary Ann Poe

Born in Gasconade County, Missouri as the eldest child of Barnabas Madison **Poe** and Eliza **Backues**, Mary Ann, came into this world on January 21, 1832, just a year after the marriage of her parents. She married at age 16, brought eight children into this world that lived to maturity, one son and seven daughters and has a large number of descendants. Many of these are still living in or near the lower Gasconade Valley today.

Her marriage on July 13, 1848 to William M. **Anderson**, from Bond County, Illinois, is recorded in the Osage County, Missouri marriage book "A" on page 92. William and Mary Ann are found with the beginnings of their family as Household #528 in the 1850 Federal Census, Osage County, Missouri. In the 1860 Federal Census they are enumerated in Jefferson Township, Osage County, Missouri as Household #545 with Cooper Hill designated as their post office. We have no record of their location or movement between 1860 and 1900 but assume that they stayed in Osage County during that period of time.

In 1900 we find William and Mary Ann **Poe Anderson** in Maries County. They are enumerated in North Jefferson Township, Household #5 living with their daughter Julia and her husband Robert H. **Moreland**. This census record also shows that William and Mary Ann had 12 children indicating that there may have been four that either did not live to maturity or for whom we have no record. Another note from this census: North Jefferson Township seems to designate that portion of Township 41N that was allocated to Maries County from Osage County Township 41N when Maries County was formed in 1855. This would mean then that South Jefferson Township is Township 40N in Maries County on official survey and land records. The border between South Jefferson Township and Johnson Township on the south is the dividing line between Township 39N and Township 40N.

By 1910 Mr. **Anderson** is apparently no longer with us and Mary Ann is no longer living with the **Moreland** family. Julia and Robert **Moreland** have moved to Jackson Township and are found in the Federal Census living next to Alfred C. **Wagner** and his family. Mary Ann **Poe Anderson** died on Tuesday, May 2, 1911 according to the death notice in the Maries County Home Advisor of May 4, 1911. She was buried at Pilot Knob Baptist Church in Osage County, probably in the same row as her son William and his wife Nancy **McQueen Anderson**. There is no stone recorded in the inventory of this cemetery by the Osage County Historical Society in their survey of 1990-1992. However there are several "dressed field stones" in the same and adjacent rows where William and Nancy are buried and one of these may be her grave marker.

As noted previously; many of the descendants of William Madison **Anderson** and Mary Ann **Poe** still live in the Gasconade River watershed in Maries, Osage and Gasconade Counties. Several were neighbors during my early years and schoolmates at the Franklin and Mayflower schools.

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Their eldest daughter, Martha Jane **Anderson** married Jabez **Hancks** in Osage County, Missouri on May 28, 1868. Their children were Martha Virginia who married Judson D. **Courtwright**, John Matthew who died before his first birthday, Eliza Catherine who married John R. **Thompson**, Mary Susan who married Louis B. **Koerber** and Lemuel Jabez for whom we have no record other than his death in 1962 and burial at Pilot Knob Baptist Church in Osage County. The only child of Louis **Koerber** and Mary **Hancks** was Gertie **Koerber** who married Joseph **West**. One of their granddaughters, Helen, was one of my schoolmates and is remembered as a perky little girl with red hair. When Mary Susan died, Mr. **Koerber** added a bit of confusion to the family research by marrying her aunt and William and Mary Ann **Poe Anderson's** youngest daughter, Parisada.

The only son of William and Mary Ann **Poe Anderson**, William Madison, married first Nancy Jane **McQueen**, daughter of Sam **McQueen** and Ann **Baker Giles**. Of their children; Virginia married Ernest **Dreysse**, William Edward apparently never married; Mary Alice married J. H. **White** and no further record is found; we have no marriage record for Frances but Jaine **Anderson** in the 1900 Maries County census is apparently her child; Malinda Elizabeth "Lizzie"; married William **Mehrhoff** and according to all the research gathered; Maggie Esther had four husbands beginning with Abraham **Barnhart**. When Nancy **McQueen** died, William **Anderson** married Merillda **Haffner** and they had a son, Thomas. "Maries County, Missouri", Volume II, 1990 records that Thomas died in a house fire in Arkansas.

Eliza A. **Anderson** married Adam **Ridenhour**, son of John and Elizabeth **Reed Ridenhour**. Since we are also descended from John and Elizabeth **Ridenhour** in their union we encounter our first line of "double" cousins. They had eight children of which we have some record. Martha C., and Alta died as infants, Alfred died at age six and all three are buried at Pilot Knob Baptist Church. Of their children who lived to maturity; John W. married Rhoda Belle **Harris**; Mollie married Richard **Ready**, son of Levi **Ready** and Belle **Kelly**, Alexander married Anna Belle **Groff**, daughter of Samuel and Melissa **Anderson Groff**; Ray Robert married Eather V. **Bledsoe** and Louis Henderson married Pauline "Polly" **Pointer**, daughter of McGregor and Mary **Brannon Pointer**. Of their descendants the grandchildren of Richard and Mollie **Ridenhour Ready** were all my schoolmates at Franklin and Mayflower except Roger who was too young at that time to attend school. Georgia Lea and I were in the same class and graduated from the eighth grade together at Mayflower School.

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Susan H. **Anderson** married Theodore **Skaats** or **Skates** the son of Asbury and Sophia **Compton Skates** in Osage County on November 7, 1875. Mr. **Skates** was born on Green County, Ohio. They are found in Maries County, Johnson Township in the 1880 Federal Census but then moved away from this region. Their children were Henderson, Martha, Mary Ela, Arthur W.A., Cleveland, Emet, Susan H. and Clarence. The only record of a person connected to this family that this researcher has found was the second wife of Arthur W. A. **Skates** who died in Los Angeles, California in 1964.

Mary Malinda **Anderson** married Robbert **Skates**, the brother of Theodore two weeks before Susan married Theodore. Their children are Alberta E., Eva A., Clara, who was either stillborn or only lived a few hours, Elmer R., Evert M. Emert W.A. and Althea E.A. Since this family moved quite frequently, their children were born in Osage, Maries, Phelps and Franklin Counties in Missouri. Mary died in Kansas City and Robbert died in Los Angeles, California but both are buried in Mt. Moriah Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri. Most of their children lived and died in either the Kansas City or Springfield, Missouri areas except Evert M. who moved to Oklahoma.

No record beyond her birth and the 1870 Federal Census of Osage County, Missouri has been found for Nancy F., the sixth child of William and Mary Ann Poe **Anderson**.

Julia Ann **Anderson** married Robert H. **Moreland**, son of Edmond and Rebecca **John Moreland**, on December 12, 1886. Though they lived in Maries County, no record of their marriage has been found in either Maries or Osage Counties. Most of the family group sheet information for their descendants came from a family tree chart created by their daughter, Mildred **Moreland Whitlow**. Of their 13 children, five died without issue, Cynthia was stillborn in 1887; James William died at age 19; Elbert Nathan at age 2, Lloyd at age 3 and George Eugene at age 20. Mary Rebecca married Belden **Da Malone** first and then seven years later David **Miller Jr.**; locations of their descendants are not at hand. Elsie Gertrude married Christopher **Gibson**, lived in Indiana and left no issue. Robert Francis **Moreland** married Shirley Birdy **Curtis**, some of their descendants have been found in California but most whose location has been established were in the St. Louis area. Minnie May first married Stephen A. **Douglass** and left six children then in later years married Nolan D. **Mellott**. Most of her children apparently lived in St. Louis County. Clarence Raymond married Nellie May **Lowe**, daughter of Robert Edward and Anna Aspize **Vaughn Lowe** and moved to Scott County, Missouri. They left no children. Margaret Ethel **Moreland** never married and died in St. Louis County, Missouri in 1993. Mildred Beatress married Edward **Condon** first and then Woodrow **Whitlow**; neither marriage produced children. Like her older sister, Margaret, Vada **Moreland** never married and died in St. Louis City, Missouri in 1971.

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Parisada, the youngest child of William and Mary Ann **Poe Anderson** was the second wife of Louis B. **Koerber**, the son of Louis **Koerber** and his wife Charlotte, and left a multitude of descendants in this region. Of their six children, Minnie died at age 12 and Anna died at about age 16; both are buried at Little Flock Baptist Church just north of Vienna, Missouri. Ella Martha married Clarence Emery **Wagner**, son of Alfred Casper and Nora **Test Wagner**, and many of the **Wagner**, **Whalen**, **Williams** and descendant families live in the Maries and Osage County area today. Of her grandchildren I attended school at Franklin and Mayflower Schools with Darlene, Anna Belle and Steve **Williams** and Owen **Wagner**; the rest were younger. Clara Aleen married Hershel **Wagner**, an older brother of Clarence **Wagner** and many of their descendants still live in mid-Missouri. Barbara Ethel married August **Mehrhoff**, moved to Gasconade County, Missouri and the location of their descendants is not known. Louis Henry **Koerber**, married Maudie Rhea **French**, daughter of Benjamin and Louisa Eads **French** and lived in Maries County, Missouri near St. James. Their descendants who have been found are either in the metropolitan St. Louis area or Phelps County, Missouri.

As a young boy growing up in the Paydown area I knew many of these people as friends, neighbors and schoolmates but did not know that they were also cousins. After spending several years reading local and family history and researching their genealogy what I see now only seems natural. When a group of people live in the same general vicinity for three, four or as many as seven generations; family lines will become crossed, mixed and generally scrambled to the extent that a number chart would be required to understand how everyone is has become "Gasconade Valley Cousins".