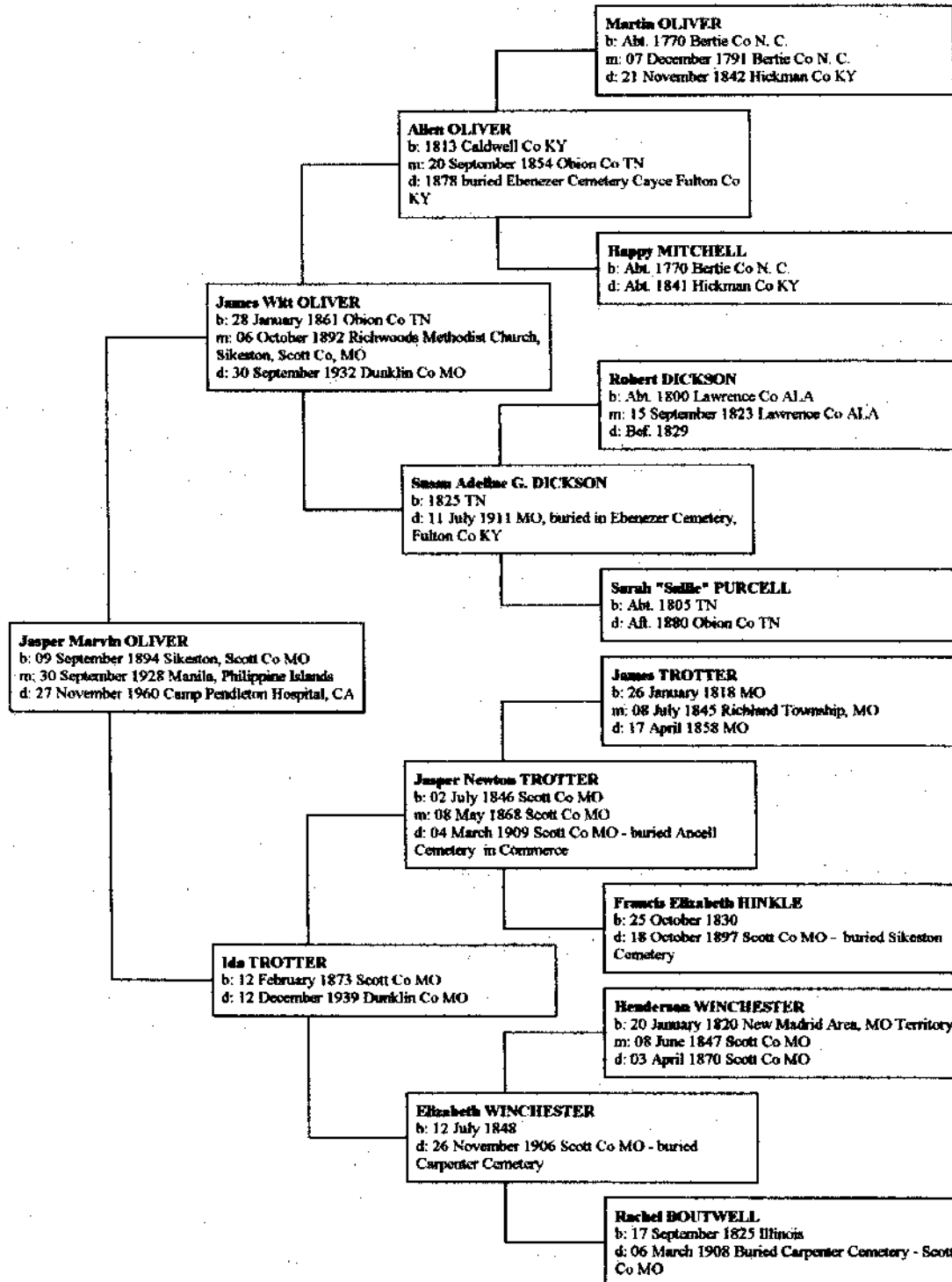


Ancestors of Jasper Marvin OLIVER



Submitted by Shirley Oliver Stuelpnagel— Email: sostuelpna@aol.com

GAITHER'S FAMILY REUNION

The Gaither family is having a family reunion in June of 1999 and they will be coming to Commerce to tour one of the towns the Gaither family lived. If you are a Gaither descendent please contact: Catherine Gaither Allison— 1306 Victoria Dr. — Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-2854 for more information.

JOHN TAYLOR GAITHER 1832- 1891

John T. Gaither was born 27 Jan. 1832 in Davidson Co. Ky. In 1833, when he was one year old his family moved to Cape Girardeau Co. Missouri. He was the third child of John C. Gaither Jr. and Rebecca Bell. The oldest child being Benjamin Bell Gaither, James W. John, and four sisters, Harriet (named for her aunt) Margaret, Mary & Rebecca.

John was just five years old when his father died. His brother Benjamin was 13 years old and within a year he went to Jackson, Missouri to learn the tanners trade under the apprenticeship of James M. McGuire by serving six and one-half years. John also went there to learn to be a tanner. In 1845 Benjamin went to Commerce, Missouri and established a tan-yard, his brother John followed him to Commerce. Both men were involved in general merchandise, milling, and farming. They owned large tracks of land in Commerce, Benton, and Morley they let out to tenant farmers. James moved to Texas.

John left for New Orleans in 1849 and returned in about a year to enter schools in Cape Girardeau where he finished his education in 1852. Then with his brother James and others he went by ox teams to California to look for gold. It took 110 days during which he drove the team every third day, taking his turn. He stayed about two years, returning in 1854 to Commerce, Missouri and purchased the tan-yard from his brother Benjamin. When the Civil War broke out he engaged in farming and dealing in wood on Big Island, in the Mississippi River.

He married Columbia Daughtery in 1858, they had 9 children. He was elected treasurer of Scott Co. In 1868. For 27 years he served as school director.

Editor's Note: Please contact Mrs. Allison if you are related to the Gaither's or if you can remember any stories about them that you would like to share.

THANKS

The Commerce Historical Society would like to thank everyone for their support and help in the last two years and hope you will continue to support us. The membership list of lifetime members are growing. The list is as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph E. VonDoersten, Jr.--Kirkwood, Mo	
Mr and Mrs. Robert Chas. Michael Jr.--Commerce, MO	
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