

PEEPLER C. JORDAN

THE FOUNDER OF A
FAMILY THAT HAS
SPREAD AND PROSPERED
FOR 200 YEARS!

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY
MAX HERMAN JORDAN, SR.

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PART I

PEEPLES C. JORDAN - FIRST GENERATION

P. O. Box 823
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564

Dear Cousins,

Preparation of this family record has been in process for several years. Many of you have contributed to it and have given me support and encouragement. Please accept my sincere appreciation.

Family records are never complete. Someone is born, someone marries, and someone inevitably dies, and those events call for changes in the record. Please record them for your family. It will be much easier for someone in the future to put together another, and better, volume than this.

There are omissions and, perhaps, errors in this record. If you have family information not included, please send it to me. When you find errors, please correct them and mail me a copy of the correction.

My special thanks go to Mary Greene Jordan, Tyler, Texas, who typed a large volume of material for me, and to Marcus Jordan, Cincinnati, Ohio, who put the entire manuscript on computer. Without these contributions I would still be struggling.

Finally, to all of you who have supplied raw material---too numerous to name---thank you. Literally, I couldn't have done it without you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Max H. Jordan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Max Herman Jordan

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FOREWORD

A marker at Jamestown, Virginia, lists the names of the Burgesses who represented the different areas of the Jamestown Colony at the first General Assembly of Virginia. Among them was Samuel Jordan who was one of two representatives from Charles City, an area that included Samuel's plantation, Jordan's Journey. This was the beginning of representative government in the English Colonies of North America.

This also was the beginning of participation by persons named Jordan in political, civic and community life in North America. Although no link has been established to connect the family of P. C. Jordan with the first Samuel Jordan of Virginia, a tendency to become involved in the political process is characteristic of many descendants of P. C. Jordan. For instance, in Jones County, Mississippi, Amos Jordan served two terms as sheriff, 1900-1904 and 1908-1912. His son, Leon Cooper Jordan, also served as sheriff during the term 1932-1936. Serving as members of the Jones County Board of Supervisors were J. William Jordan for 12 years, his son, Bunk Jordan, for several terms, and Archie C. Jordan for eight years, 1944-1952. Alfred Lott, a descendant of William Jackson Jordan, presently serves as County Clerk in Perry County, Mississippi, an office he has held for several terms. H. H. Hardee, Jr., a great-grandson of M. P. Jordan, serves in a similar capacity in Wayne County, Mississippi.

These instances of holding public office are cited to illustrate the willingness of Jordan family members to accept public responsibility. This apparently is a characteristic evident since earliest efforts at self-government began in North America. The instances cited are by no means the only ones, and in most instances the office was honored by the person who held it rather than only the person being honored by the office.

The purpose of this family record is to list names, show relationships, and cite origins to the extent they are known. No attempt has been made to show occupations. However, family members hold positions in practically every profession and craft and as a result the communities in which they live are better.

PEEPLS C. JORDAN

Goodspeed's Memoirs of Mississippi, page 1047, contains information that was provided by Ashberry B. Jordan of Ellisville, Mississippi, relating to his family members and their movement from Alabama to Mississippi in 1855. He stated that his father was Peebles C. Jordan and that his mother was Charlotte Weldon Jordan. They were married in Alabama, but both were natives of Georgia.

The date of P. C. Jordan's death is given as August 5, 1867, and the date of Charlotte Weldon Jordan's death is April 1, 1875. In the 1850 census of Butler County, Alabama, P. C. Jordan's age is listed as 55, and his wife's age is listed as 52. This would make the year of his birth 1795 and the year of his wife's birth 1798. From this information, it can be noted that, at age 60, P. C. Jordan left Alabama where he had lived for at least thirty-five years to find new land and a new home. Available evidence indicates that it was a well planned move. It apparently included his entire family and the families of his married children. The means of transportation would of necessity have been wagons pulled by mules, horses or oxen.

The same year, 1855, that P. C. Jordan left Alabama, he bought land in Jones County, Mississippi. In Jones County Deed Book B, page 310, a transaction is recorded in which John R. Shows and wife, Ellanor, sold 80.12 acres of land to Peebles C. Jordan for \$250.00. (Note spelling of first name.) The land is described as the SE-1/4 of the NE-1/4 and the SE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 of section 10, Township 6 north, Range 12 west. The transaction took place on December 14, 1855, and the deed was recorded on March 1, 1856. Apparently in subsequent years more land was added to the original purchase as a court ordered settlement of P. C. Jordan's estate in 1876 showed that he owned 212 acres.

Apparently the earliest record of P. C. Jordan is the 1820 census. He is listed in the 1820 census of Conecuh County, Alabama, as an unmarried male who was not a member of another family or household. Also listed in the 1820 Conecuh County census was Radford Jourdan (note spelling) who had a wife, 4 sons and 4 daughters living at home. It should be noted that in 1820 the only names listed in the census records were heads of families. Others in families were listed only by sex and numbers of members over and under age 21. Radford and P. C. Jordan (Jourdan) were the only ones of that name listed in the 1820 census of Conecuh County. Speculation naturally arises as to a possible family relationship between Radford and P. C. Jordan (Jourdan). It is reasonable to assume that P. C. was an older son of Radford who had left home and gone out on his own. He was 25 years old at the time. However,

no proof of a family connection between the two has been found. One interesting fact is that we can establish a Georgia connection for Radford. He participated in the Georgia Land Lottery of 1805. He was eligible for two chances in the lottery, which meant that he was married and had a family. In 1805, P. C. was ten years old. Radford was lucky on one of his chances and was awarded a parcel of land. Apparently he disposed of it and moved to Alabama sometime between 1805 and 1820.

In available records, P. C. Jordan's first and last names are spelled in different ways. (First name, Peeble, Peoples and Peeples; last name Jordan and Jourdan). It most frequently occurs as Peeples C. Jordan, which is the spelling that will be used in this account. There is no known record of his middle name, but it may have been Columbus. Several of his descendants were given that name.

The family background of Charlotte Weldon Jordan, wife of P. C. Jordan, is as obscure as is that of her husband. In the 1820 census of Conecuh County, Alabama, several Weldons are listed. Among them are two heads of families, Isaac and Jacob, who may have been brothers. The name was spelled Weldin. Individuals with these identical names participated in the Georgia Land Lottery of 1805. This establishes a Georgia connection for the Weldons. In 1820, Jacob Weldon's family consisted of a wife and five children. Three of them were boys under 21, one girl was over 21, and one girl was under 21. Later census records established that Charlotte Weldon was born in 1798, which means that she would have been 22 years old in 1820. It is easy to assume that she was the daughter in the Jacob Weldon family who was over 21 years old. Apparently she and P. C. Jordan were married sometime in the year 1820 as is indicated by the ages of their children in later census records. As further circumstantial evidence that Charlotte was Jacob Weldon's daughter, she and her husband named their first son Jacob Jackson Jordan.

After Charlotte Weldon Jordan's death in 1875, her son, A. B. Jordan of Ellisville, Mississippi, was appointed to settle the estate. Copies of two court orders are in existence, which authorized A. B. Jordan to sell the personal property and the real property that made up his parents' estate. These copies are hand written, very dim and difficult to read. However, the page that lists the personal property and the terms of its disposal is legible. The personal property is listed as follows: 18 head of cattle, 1 yoke of oxen and wagon, 15 head of hogs, one mare, and one lot of household furniture. This court order was issued by R. Boyd, Chancellor, on July 6, 1875. The court order specified that the Administrator "make a full report of his proceedings

under and by virtue of this decree on or before the January term of this court".

At the January, 1876, term of court, A. B. Jordan, Administrator, reported to the court that the personal property had been disposed of. A second court order was issued which called attention to an exhibit provided by the Administrator "whereby it is represented to the Court that the personal estate of said deceased is insufficient to pay his debts". Authorization was then given for the Administrator to sell the land in the estate which, according to the court order, consisted of 212 acres. This court decree was given on January 4, 1876. It specified that a citation be issued to the following persons notifying them of the land sale:

1. Lucinda Melvin - John Melvin (Lucinda, daughter of P. C. Jordan)
2. A. B. Jordan (son of P. C. Jordan)
3. R. G. Jordan (son of P. C. Jordan)
4. John H. Jordan (son of P. C. Jordan)
5. Harty (Hartis) Sumrall - Dennis Sumrall (Hartis Jordan, daughter of Jacob Jackson Jordan, deceased, granddaughter of P. C. Jordan)
6. Wm. J. Jordan (son of J. J. Jordan, grandson of P. C. Jordan)
7. M. P. Jordan (son of J. J. Jordan, grandson of P. C. Jordan)
8. Ollie C. (Olive) Jordan (daughter of J. J. Jordan, granddaughter of P. C. Jordan)

According to the court order, all of the above were adults who were residents of Jones County, Mississippi, excepting John H. Jordan whose post office was Many, Louisiana. (Note: information in parenthesis is supplied by the writer and is not a part of the court order.)

In addition, the citation names the following minors:

1. A. T. Jordan (son of J. J. Jordan, grandson of P. C. Jordan)
2. M. C. Jordan (son of J. J. Jordan, grandson of P. C. Jordan)
3. John H. Sumrall
4. P. C. Sumrall
5. Nancy Sumrall
6. Charlotte Sumrall
7. Asberry Sumrall
8. John Sumrall (?) (Possibly this is a duplication of number 3 above.)
9. Anna Sumrall

The court appointed J. H. Bynum as guardian for the minors. Ad Litem is the term used to describe the type of guardianship it was to be. Ad Litem

means "for the suit or action at law". From the listing of minor children in the citation it is apparent that one of P. C. Jordan's daughters married a Sumrall and that she was deceased in 1876.

According to Ashberry B. Jordan, his parents, P. C. and Charlotte Jordan, had 11 children. Their names are listed below in the order that they appeared in Goodspeed's Memoirs, which may be the order of their births. There is no indication as to whether all of them survived to adulthood. The notes accompanying some of the names are the result of information provided by family members and the writer's research.

1. Huldah Jordan
2. Jacob Jackson Jordan He was born in Alabama in 1822 (census) and came to Mississippi in 1855. He and his family will be presented in more detail in this account.
3. John Henry Jordan Born in Alabama July 29, 1823. Came to Mississippi in 1855. Later moved to Sabine Parrish, Louisiana.
4. Luvinda Jordan The first name is probably misspelled. This likely is Lucinda, wife of John Melvin, listed in the court order.
5. Nancy S. Jordan Born in Alabama in 1828 (census)
6. Harriet E. Jordan Born in Alabama in 1829 (census)
7. William C. Jordan
8. Ashberry Benjamin Jordan Born in Alabama July 26, 1833 (grave marker, Tularosa Cemetery, Jones County, Mississippi).
9. Aaron P. Jordan
10. Robert G. Jordan Born in Alabama January 3, 1837; died October 4, 1892. Married Nancy Hall, born November 1, 1850; died May 2, 1912. Information from census and grave marker in an abandoned cemetery in Morriston community, SE Jones County, Mississippi.
11. Charlotte M. Jordan Born in Alabama in 1840. She was deaf. Died in 1907. Buried in Union Cemetery, Jones County, Mississippi.

In comparing the lists of names in the court order and the children of P. C. Jordan, it is obvious that some of the children were not notified of the land sale. This leads to conjecture that some of the children did not live to adulthood, or that the whereabouts of some of them were not known. In this regard an observation is worthy of note: An examination of census records

of Jones County for the year 1870 revealed that Green B. Sumrall and wife, Harriet, had the following named children: Nancy, age 10; Berry (Asberry?), age 7; Harriet, age 6; John, age 4; Anna, age 2; Lucinda, age 10 mo. Five of the above named children are listed in the court order. Lucinda is not listed in the court order and, apparently, she and her mother died prior to 1876. Therefore, a logical conclusion is that Harriet E. Jordan, daughter of P. C. Jordan, married Green B. Sumrall and died before the children were grown.

The Charlotte Sumrall listed in the court order was probably Charlotte Jordan, youngest daughter of P. C. Jordan. As stated above, she was deaf and the court could have deemed that her interests should be looked after by the court appointed guardian Ad Litem. Inadvertantly she was listed as a Sumrall.

P. C. Jordan's children who are not listed in the court order include: Huldah; Nancy S.; William C.; Aaron P. An unanswered question is: Did they survive to adulthood?

Max Herman Jordan
November 6, 1986

