

The Janes Family - Interesting Facts



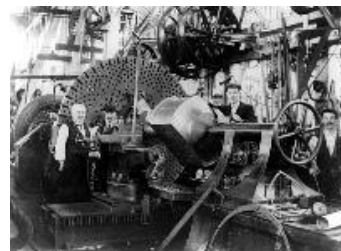
This interesting and unusual name is of medieval English origin, and is found chiefly in Devon and Cornwall. The derivation is from the Middle English given name "Jan", a variant of John, from the Hebrew, meaning, "the Lord is gracious", or "Grace of the Lord", brought back to England by the Crusaders, where it began to spread in the 12th Century.

In early Cornwall, there is a record in the Ministers' Accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall which shows a Simon Ianes in 1297. A John Janne was listed in the Subsidy Rolls for Cornwall in 1327, and a William Jan was listed in the Subsidy Rolls of Somerset in that same year.

Norman surnames are characterized by a multitude of spelling variations. The frequent changes in surnames are largely due to the fact that the Old and Middle English languages lacked definite spelling rules. The introduction of Norman French to England, as well as the official court languages of Latin and French, also had pronounced influences on the spelling of surnames. Since medieval scribes and church officials recorded names as they sounded, rather than adhering to any specific spelling rules, it was common to find the same individual referred to with different spellings. The name has been spelled Janes, Jans, J'Anes, Jeanne, Jeynes, Jayne, Jane and many more.

Mary Janes (1856 - 1929), is not included in the 1901 census for 2 reasons, firstly, because she married Henry Abbott on 12/01/1895 in Kensington and secondly, because they emigrated to South Africa. They sailed on a ship called the Guelph which arrived on 15/12/1898. Also, Mary's sister Susannah (1866 – N/K), emigrated to South Africa.

I wonder if Mary & Susannah met up with their little brother Edward (1872 - 1918) when he was in South Africa with the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders during the Boer War.



Thames Iron Works workers and football team

At the beginning of the 20th century at least some of the Janes were living in West Ham so this has given me the opportunity of putting a couple of photos of Thames Iron Works and its workers as the Janes may have worked there. (The reason I wanted to include these photos is that Thames Iron Works' football team turned professional in 1900 and they changed their name and became West Ham United.)

Joseph Henry Janes (1874 – 1938) was actually called Joseph Henry Mountford on his birth certificate as his mother, Mary Ann Mumford (1854 – 1916) did not marry William Wood Janes (1837 – 1906)

until 1878. There is no father named on Joseph's birth certificate but it is assumed that William was his father.

Edward Constance Janes (1872 – 1952) married Sarah Elizabeth Underwood (1871 – 1949) in 1894. In the 1901 census they are together with 3 of their children; Edward Vincent (1895 – 1981), Oswald Petzel (1897 – 1927), and Aileen Constance (1899 – 1976). Another child Veno Cleo (1901 – 2002) was born after the census had been taken. A 5th child Frederick, who supposedly was born about 1893, disappeared after birth as he is not on any Census, that I have seen, so far. I would like to get his birth certificate but I'm not sure when/where he was born.

Between 1901 and 1904 something happened as Edward and Sarah must have separated. In 1904 Sarah and the children emigrated to America (see the passenger list in Documents) and she declared that she was a widow. Also, in the 1911 & 1921 Censuses and the 1939 Register Edward said he was single. Edward emigrated to America sometime after 1939 as that is where he died in 1952, in Utah. Sarah died in 1949, in Oregon, so I don't think they ever got back together.

Edward Constance Janes and Sarah Elizabeth Janes (nee Underwood) had 5 children, see below what happened to them as the children seem to have been sent away.

Frederick Janes	1893	Disappeared, don't actually know whether he went to America.
Edward Vincent Janes	1895	Adopted by Charles & Anna Rockwoods, In America's 1910 Census they state that he was their adopted son, but he is still using the surname Janes. They were in Idaho.
Oswald Petzel Janes	1897	Adopted by Seymour & Priscilla Fackrell, In America's 1910 Census, he is with the Fackrell family, and his surname is now Fackrell and they state that he is their adopted son. They were in Idaho.
Aileen Constance Janes	1899	Adopted by Charles & Anna Rockwoods, In America's 1910 Census they state that she was their adopted daughter, but she is still using the surname Janes. They were in Idaho.
Veno Cleo Janes	1901	After arriving in America there is no record of her until she gets married in 1920. She was still using the surname Janes. They were in Utah.

On a web site I found the following for Oswald:

Priscilla & Seymour Fackrell adopted Oswald. Sarah Janes gave Oswald & his siblings away when they came to the U.S. Oswald was given to a blind man with a tin can & a monkey. They lived on the streets. It was there that the Fackrell's noticed Oswald.