

The Descendants of Joseph Shawhan (1802-1855)

by Robert E. Francis

First Generation

1. Joseph SHAWHAN. Born in Sep 1802 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. Joseph died in Died during California Goldrush, El Dorado Co., CA in 1855; he was 52. On 29 Sep 1835 when Joseph was 33, he married Mary Magdalene BIRCH, daughter of Thomas Erskine BIRCH Rev. & Mary Magdalene MILLER, in Cynthiana, Ky. Born on 14 Feb 1818 in Cynthiana, Ky. Mary Magdalene died in Plattsburg, MO on 21 May 1909; she was 91. Refer to Volume II, p. 185, for further information about Mary Birch.. Also, refer to Volume II, p 361, for a second genealogy of this family.

They had the following children:

- i. Ana Birch, born abt 1836. Ana Birch died as a child.¹
 - 2** ii. John Erskine (1838-1905)
- Mary Magdalene second married Abram F. DUDLEY.

Second Generation

2. John Erskine SHAWHAN. Born on 23 Sep 1838 in Bourbon Co., KY. John Erskine died in Kansas City, Missouri on 8 Aug 1905; he was 66. Buried in Weston, Missouri. John Erskine SHAWHAN. Born September 29, 1838 in Bourbon County, Kentucky and died August 8, 1905 in Kansas City, Missouri. He married Mary Ann Jourdain October 2, 1858. She was bom March 3, 1841 and died February 5, 1924. She was the daughter of Dr. William Dill Jourdain and Ruth Sparks Overstreet, and the grand-daughter of Gen. John Sevier (1745-1815) who had served in the Revolutionary War, and was later the Governor of Tennessee.²

On 2 Oct 1858 when John Erskine was 20, he married Mary Ann JOURDAIN, daughter of William Dill JOURDAIN Dr. & Ruth Sparks OVERSTREET. Born on 3 Mar 1841. Mary Ann died on 5 Feb 1924; she was 82. They had the following children:

- 3** i. John Erskine (1859->1903)
- ii. William Dill. Born on 14 Aug 1861. About 1887 when William Dill was 25, he married Jessie PATTERSON, born in 1863.³
- 4** iii. James McCune (1863-1911)
- iv. Mary Jourdain. Born on 25 May 1865. Mary Jourdain died on 8 Feb 1899; she was 33. Mary Jourdain SHAWHAN. Born May 25, 1865 and died February 8, 1899. She married Charles F. Hanlon in 1889. He was born in about 1864.⁴ In 1889 when Mary Jourdain was 23, she married Charles F. HANLON.
- 5** v. Ruth Agnes (1868-)

Third Generation

3. John Erskine SHAWHAN Jr. Born in 1859 in Plattsburg, MO. John Erskine died in Chicago, Illinois aft 1903; he was 44. Occupation: Businessman, stock broker, and banker in San Francisco, CA. John Erskine SHAWHAN II. Born in 1859 in Plattsburg, Missouri. He was a businessman, stock broker, and banker in San Francisco, California; the Chairman of the Governing Committee of the Stock Exchange, an investor in the Silver Mines in Nevada; "established the Board of Trade house; was a partner in R.B. Hawley & Co. in Chicago in 1884;" and involved in a land and cattle syndicate in Texas. Mattie Crossete in 1880. She was born in about 1860. He "died as a pauper in Chicago, Illinois."⁵

They had the following children:

- i. Mary Bartlett. Born in 1882. Mary Bartlett died in 1933; she was 51. Mary Barlett SHAWHAN. Born in 1882 and died in 1933. She first married Ross MOORE in about 1903 and second married Allen S. HOAR after 1904. He was a career U. S. Naval Officer.⁶
- 6** ii. Louis F. Crossette (1886-1929)

John Erskine SHAWHAN second married, February 4, 1901, Emma Alberta CHENE and had issue. He died in 1904 and is buried in Weston, Missouri.⁷ They had the following children: Floi Tait, born in 1902—she married SEBASTIAN; John Erskine, born in 1908.

4. James McCune SHAWHAN. Born on 16 Sep 1863. James McCune died on 28 Jun 1911; he was 47. James McCune SHAWHAN. Born September 16, 1863 and died June 28, 1911. He married Ada ROMER July 25, 1885, at Trinity Episcopal Church in San Francisco, California. She was born March 20, 1865 in San Francisco, California and became a well known artist in the San Francisco Bay area and had exhibits in the Bohemian Club and the Mechanic's Institute. She died September 17, 1947 at her daughter's home in Oakland, California. They had issue.⁸ Ada's obituary reads as follows:

“SHAWHAN, Ada Romer (1865-1947). Portrait and still life painter. Born in San Francisco on March 20, 1863. Shawhan was a member of a pioneer family whose father arrived in the Gold Rush. Her most famous work was a large canvas of the heads of 40 painters, writers and musicians who were her contemporaries before 1906. She died at her daughter's home in Oakland in 1947. Works held: Bohemian Club (portrait of George Bromley). Exhibited: Mechanics' Inst., 1897 (floral still life). 1 SF Examiner, Sept. 18, 1947.”⁹

They had the following children:

i. Violet Romer. Born on 14 Mar 1886 in San Francisco, California. Violet Romer died in Port Jefferson, Long Island, New York in 1970; she was 83. From “Shawhan-Shaughen Genealogy,” p. 42: “Violet Romer Shawhan... who has carried on the traditional fame of the Shawhan's (quoting from the London Graphic) ‘Some of the most graceful and delicate dancing that has ever been seen on the London Stage, an artist to her fingertips’ and also from the Hippodrome in London ‘Violet Romer must have come into the world to the strains of Mendelssohn's Spring Song, etc.’” It was Violet Romer Shawhan who established the Revolutionary record of Daniel Shawhan, the Bourbon Co., Ky. pioneer, with D.A.R. (“Shawhan-Shaughen Genealogy,” p. 43)

A dedication to Violet was written in a journal: “Violet Romer SHAWHAN. Born March 14, 1886, in San Francisco California. She was a dancer of international reputation. The London Graphic said she performed “some of the most graceful and delicate dancing that has ever been seen on the London stage, an artist to her fingertips.” When appearing at the Hippodrome in London she was recorded that “Violet Romer must have come into the world to the strains of Mendelssohn's Spring Song”. She lived in Oakland, California with her mother, and later in Mt. Vernon, New York with her brother Romer. She died unmarried in Oakland, California in March 1970. DAR # 299818, Belle Terre, Port Jefferson. Long Island New York 1937.

ii. Romer. Born on 29 Aug 1888. Romer died in Jun 1970; he was 81. Romer married Zayda Justine ZABRISKIE, in New York, New York. Zayda Justine died on 4 Aug 1956 in Mt. Vernon, New York. Refer to Volume II, p. 191, for further information about this family.

5. Ruth Agnes SHAWHAN. Born on 7 Apr 1868. Born April 7, 1868. In 1904 when Ruth Agnes was 35, she married H. E. FORTLAGE, in England. They had one child, June Mary, born in 1902. June Mary died in 1932; she was 30.

Fourth Generation

6. Louis F. Crossette SHAWHAN. Louis Crossette SHAWHAN (CROSSETTE). Born in 1886 and died in Washington, D.C. in 1929. He had served as an assistant to President Hoover. He married Marie PEARCE in about 1909 and lived in Washington, D.C. She was born in about 1888 and was appointed to the Bureau of Standards by President Hoover. Note. “Louis' mother Mattie was deserted by his father, John Erskine Shawhan II while Louis was a child. Louis was so angered by this action that he changed his surname to ‘Crossete’, his mother's maiden name and his middle name.”

They had the following children:

- 7 i. George (1910-1985)
- ii. Betty, Born in about 1912 and married five times.¹⁰

Fifth Generation

7. George CROSETTE. Born on 26 Jul 1910 in Chicago, Illinois. George died in Kensington, Maryland in 1985; he was 74. George CROSETTE. Born July 26, 1910 in Chicago, Illinois. He was Chief of Geographic Research for National Geographic Magazine in Washington, D.C. He married Elizabeth Uhle Ferg in 1935. She was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1912 and grew up in Morristown, New Jersey. He died in 1985 in Kensington, Maryland. In 1935 when George was 24, he married Elizabeth Uhle FERG. Born in 1912 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

They had one child:

8 i. Elizabeth Ann (1939-)

Sixth Generation

8. Elizabeth Ann CROSETTE. Born in 1939 in Kensington, Maryland. In 1969 when Elizabeth Ann was 30, she married DEORSEY. They had one child, Matthew Shawhan, born in 1976.

ENDNOTES

¹ For most of the extant historical references to this line of the family, I owe a debt of thanks to Dr. Bernie O'Neil. Bernie has graciously given permission for me to use information sent from "The Birch Family History: Part 4, Descendants of Dr. Charles Birch of St. Kitts 1729-1768" by Dr. Bernherd O'Neil, pp. 250-252.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid. Also, Marriage date and location confirmed in San Francisco marriage records listing. "Shawhan, J. Jr. Crosette, Mattie 1880M-3846"

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "Artists in California, 1786-1940" by Edan Milton Hughes, San Francisco: Hughes Publishing Company (no date), p. 421.

¹⁰ O'Neil.