

The Way West, 1857 - Ohio to Missouri and Beyond

A short migration history of five Jenkins, Allen, Bebee, and Gaston families

Introduction

In April, 1857, Harrison Jenkins and family started westward from Ohio with a party including Joe Gaston and wife, Ruhanna (Allen) Gaston; William Allen Bebee and wife, Lucinda (Allen) Bebee; James Jenkins and wife, Anna Allen Jenkins; Robert Allen and wife, Marie, and children. They went by wagon to Bloomfield, Ohio and by rail to Portsmouth and from there on an Ohio River steamboat to the Mississippi River. Then up to St. Louis and on to Lexington, Missouri, where they stayed for a year, Harrison working on a large farm. In February of 1858 he and his family went on west to Franklin County, Kansas, the other families remaining at or near Lexington, Missouri. Mr. Jenkins had signed for a claim in Franklin County, Kansas in 1857. He d. in Baldwin, Kansas of typhoid fever Apr. 2, 1858, where they had stopped (Prairie City, later Baldwin). His wife, Nancy, and her 4 dau.'s went on to the land her husband had planned for them to make their farm home a year earlier.

SOURCE: OUR ALLEN & WAIT LINES, COMPILED BY ETHEL A WOLFE, 1970, P. 14

Of the children of William H.C.Jenkins and Nancy Horton ,Five families are here very fully listed. They are Joseph,Azariah,Nancy,Andrew and Rebecca. Of the others Susan,Mary,Harrison,James and Solomon went to the WEST many years ago and none of the family in Ohio in (1925) seem to have any knowledge of the whereabouts of their descendants. Solomon visited in Ohio some twenty years ago (about 1905). It seems that William died in Gallia county,O. He had a daughter who married in Gallia county and a son William is said to have been in the hardware business in Knoxville,Tennessee in the 70's.

SOURCE: A TABULATION OF THE DESCENDANTS OF JOSEPH HORTON (A SOLDIER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION) AND OF FAMILIES ALLIED BY MARRIAGE, AUTHORED BY T. W. HORTON, 1925

These five Jackson County, OH families (including James and Anna Allen-Jenkins, 3rd grandparents of the author) migrated to Lafayette County, MO and beyond. They were, in a sense, lost families, with minimal, if any, communication with their families back in Ohio. All researched Missouri and Kansas Jenkins and Allen family trees for these five families had a brick wall on ancestors past their earliest documented relatives. For many researched Jackson County, OH Jenkins and Allen family trees, these five families, that left in 1857, were unknown. Through this document, for the first time in over 160 years, the 'lost' Gastons, Jenkins, Bebees, and Allens have been repatriated with their Ohio roots.

Let's take a brief trip back in time, reassemble the lives of these western migrating pioneers, and see what happened to them.

Principals

Migrating Family One:

Harrison Jenkins

1823–1858

BIRTH 23 AUG 1823 • Jefferson, Jackson County, Ohio

DEATH 2 APR 1858 • Baldwin, Franklin County, Kansas

Nancy Allen

1827–1913

BIRTH 21 MAR 1827 • Fayette County, West Virginia

DEATH 27 JUL 1913 • Topeka, Shawnee, Kansas

Migrating Children: four daughters

Migrating Family Two:

James Horton Jenkins Sr (3rd grandfather of the author)

1820–1880

BIRTH ABT. 1820 • Jefferson, Jackson County, Ohio

DEATH JUN 1880 • Daviess County, Missouri

Anna Allen (3rd grandmother of the author)

1825–1857

BIRTH 12 APR 1825 • Grayson County, Virginia, USA

DEATH ABT. JUL 1857 • Lexington, Lafayette, Missouri

Migrating Children: two daughters, one son

Migrating Family Three:

Joseph Lyman Gaston

1827–1883

BIRTH 15 MAR 1827 • Scioto County, Ohio

DEATH 27 JUL 1883 • Waco, McLennan, Texas

Rhuamah Allen

1829–1859

BIRTH 14 JUN 1829 • Logan County, West Virginia

DEATH 29 SEPT 1859 • Lexington, Lafayette, Missouri

Migrating Children: four sons

Migrating Family Four:

William Allen Bebee Sr

1829–1898

BIRTH 1 JAN 1829 • Jackson County, Ohio

DEATH 25 DEC 1898 • Franklin County, Kansas

Lucinda O'Neill Allen
1833–1908
BIRTH 31 MAR 1833 • Jefferson, Jackson, Ohio, USA
DEATH 3 SEP 1908 • Ottawa, Franklin, Kansas

Migrating Children: two sons, two daughters

Migrating Family Five:

Robert Allen Jr
1823–1842
BIRTH ABT. 1823 • Grayson County, Virginia, USA
DEATH 1842 • Scioto County, Ohio

Mariah "Marie" Reed
1820–
BIRTH ABT. 1820
DEATH Unknown

Migrating Children: unknown

Mostly, this was an Allen Family migration, the four daughters of Robert Allen Sr. By my count there were 8 adults and 16 children, a total of 24 in the party. One thing to note is that the *Our Allen & Wait Lines, Compiled by Ethel A Wolfe, 1970, P. 14* snippet includes Robert Allen and his wife Marie (RE: Migrating Family Five). What little I found for this couple leads me to think they did NOT migrate. Robert Allen Jr died in 1842, of 'Milk Sickness', at the home of his father, Robert Allen Sr, in Scioto County, OH.

Why did the other families leave Jackson County, OH and migrate west to northwest Missouri? Likely, it was the enticement of "free bounty land". The father of the Allen children, Robert Allen Sr, (1792-1879) was a War of 1812 veteran. He served for about ten months. According to the Bounty Land Act of Sept, 1850, those who served at least ten days, bounty land was granted to the veteran and/or his minor children. Those entitled to land under this act would receive a certificate from the Department of the Interior for land which was located at any land office of the United States.

Travel

In her 1970 account of the Allen and Jenkins family migration, Ethel Wolfe stated that the families travelled by wagon from Jackson County, OH to Bloomfield, OH (likely, Bloom Furnace). Then, by train (likely, the Scioto and Hocking RR) from Bloomfield to Portsmouth, OH. In Portsmouth, they boarded a passenger packet-boat (steam powered) and traveled down the Ohio River, then north on the Mississippi River to St. Louis, and finally, west on the Missouri River to Lexington County, MO.

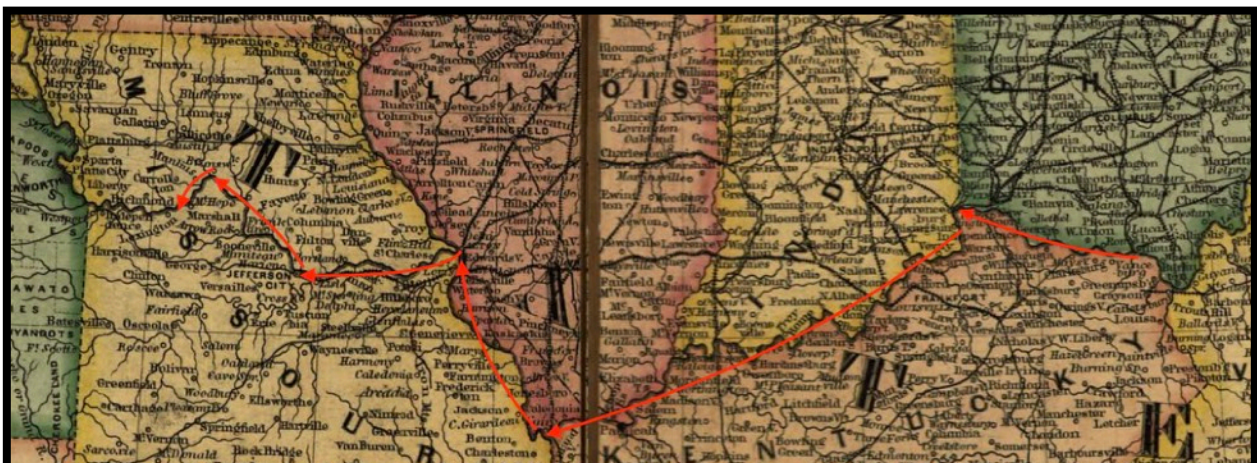


Big Sandy and Cincinnati Packet

THE Light Draught Passenger packet *BOSTON*, Capt. WASH. HONSHILL, MARSH CLARK, Clerk, passes Portsmouth Mondays and Thursdays, at 3 p. m. turns Wednesday and Saturdays at 8 a. m. Business men taking this boat can have a tire day in Cincinnati.

Portsmouth & Cincinnati Packet

LEAVES on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, the Light Draught Passenger packet *BOSTONA*, Wm. McClain.





The families initially settled together in the Lexington township region of Lafayette County, MO. Some stayed, some moved elsewhere in MO, and some moved on westward. Let's now take a closer look at each of these migrating families and see where they ultimately settled and how their lives played out.

One: Harrison Jenkins and Nancy Allen-Jenkins

This family has been well documented and is the most public facing, with several Jenkins children rising to prominence. In April, 1857 Harrison Jenkins, Nancy, and their children - Ruhama, Lucinda, Mary Alice, and Anna - made the long and arduous trip to Lafayette County, MO. From there, they made their way farther west into eastern Kansas, specifically, Franklin County, just west and south of Kansas City, KS. In a 1931 obituary for one of their daughters, Lucinda, it was stated that her parents came to Kansas "in an effort to keep it (Kansas) free of slavery".

Tragically, about one year after this family migrated, Harrison Jenkins died in April, 1858 - cause of death, typhoid fever. Nancy Allen-Jenkins remarried the following year, Feb 1859, to David Swank. Interestingly, Nancy had four daughters with Harrison Jenkins. With David Swank, she had four sons; Charles, John, William, and James. About 1876, David Swank left Nancy and moved himself and his sons to Fox Valley, Linn, Oregon - SE of Salem, OR. As for the four daughters of Harrison and Nancy who migrated, let's take a brief look at each of their lives.

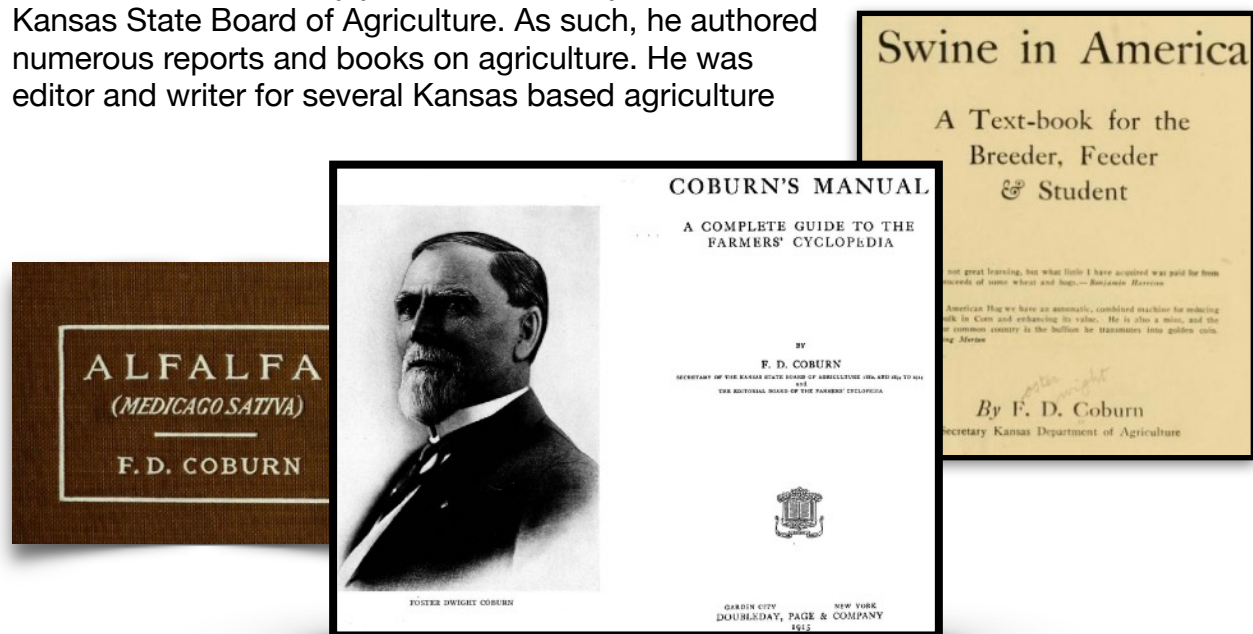
Ruhama Jenkins (1845-1877) was the youngest. She married John M Parkinson in 1862. John Parkinson (1842-1897) was a successful cattle dealer and, with a partner, established the Mundy-Parkinson ranch in Franklin County, KS. Five children were born to John and Ruhama. Ruhama died at the age of 30 in 1877. John remarried to

TRIES TO KILL JOHN H. WAITE.
Kansas Stockman, Falling in This, Takes His Own Life.
Pomona, Kan., Feb. 23.—John Parkinson, a farmer of this county for thirty-five years, and formerly very wealthy, shot Captain John H. Waite, the secretary and treasurer of the Barse Live Stock Commission Company of Kansas City, in the head about 11 o'clock this morning, and then killed himself, falling across Mr. Waite. Mr. Waite's wound is not dangerous.

another Ohio Allen family member, Emma Viola Beebe (1854-1933), daughter of William A Allen and Lucinda O'Neill-Allen, in 1888 (see below). Five children were born to that union. John Parkinson, in Feb 1897, due financial and other pressures, tried to murder one of his creditors, and then turned the gun on himself. This incident was well documented in local papers of the time.

Lucinda Jenkins (1848-1931) was the second child of Harrison and Nancy Jenkins. She was one of the first students to attend Baker University (founded 1858) in Ottawa, KS. Following graduation, she taught school in Douglas County, KS. She married Foster Dwight Coburn in 1869. In 1870, the Coburn's settled untilled land and pioneered farming and animal husbandry techniques on land near Pomona, Franklin County, KS. They had five children.

Foster Dwight (F. D.) Coburn (1846-1924) was a widely respected farmer, editor, and author. He served many years as Secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. As such, he authored numerous reports and books on agriculture. He was editor and writer for several Kansas based agriculture



magazines and newspapers. And, he lead several financial institutions in senior level and board roles.

Mary Alice Jenkins (1850-1926) was the third daughter of Harrison and Nancy Jenkins. She married Alexander C Brothers (1840-1903) in Dec 1867. He was a farmer and building contractor. Public records strongly indicate that this couple had no children. They remained husband and wife for 35 years until Alexander's death in 1903. About 1921, Mary moved to San Diego, CA to live with her sister, Anna Jenkins-Wilson. There she died Dec 1926.

Anna Elizabeth Jenkins (1855-1942) was the fourth daughter of Harrison and Nancy Jenkins. She married Henderson L Wilson in Jan 1877. He was a skilled craftsman and entrepreneur of sorts with interests in the pump, windmill, wagon making, and paint and wallpaper businesses. Public records show the couple as having four children.



Two: James Horton Jenkins Sr and Anna Allen-Jenkins

We know from the Ethel Wolfe 1970 account that upon arrival in Lafayette County, MO in the spring of 1857 James and Anna settled on land in Washington Township, south of Lexington, MO. Tragically, Anna Allen-Jenkins died in the summer of 1857, leaving James with three children to care for; Louisa, Ellen, James H Jenkins Jr. James Sr remarried to Mary Jane Boyers (1840-1902) in Mar 1858. James was about 38 and Mary was 18. This union produced seven children; Joseph, David, Andrew, Ruth, John, Margaret, Emmett. Let's take a brief look at the lives of the three children of James and Anna Jenkins who migrated with their parents.

Louisa Jane Jenkins (1844-1916) was the first born of James Sr and Anna. Following the death of her mother, Louisa was found in the 1860 census, age 20, living with Hugh Fielding Rice and his mother, Nancy, in the town of Lexington, MO. Why she was living with the Hugh Rice family instead of with her father and step mother is unknown. As an aside, Hugh Rice, in 1860, owned six slaves, ranging in age from 1 to 20.

In Dec 1865, Louisa married Hezekiah Santmyer (1844-1922) in Lafayette County, MO. Hezekiah was a confederate soldier, joining in Apr 1862, as part of Capt. H.M. Bledsoe's Missouri Light Artillery. He was wounded by a shell in May 1864 and then captured in Apr 1865.

Hezekiah and Louisa had five documented children. However, one census record indicated they had a total of nine children. In the 1900 census, Hezekiah listed his marital status as "widowed" and was a boarder. In the 1900 census record for Louisa, she listed her marital status as "widowed" and was living with her son. However, in the 1910 census record, Louisa listed her marital status as "divorced" and was living in the household of her daughter, Addie.

Ellen Nora Jenkins (1847-1937) was the second daughter of James Sr and Anna. Since we cannot find an 1860 census record for Ellen, we don't know where she was sent after her mother died and her father remarried. However, it must not have been far because she married Albert Bauswell (1841-1911) in Aug 1865, in Lafayette County,

MO. Albert was a Union soldier, joining in Jan 1863 and medically discharged in Jun 1865 ("chronic conjunctivitis").

Evidence suggests that Albert's father, James M Boswell, was implicated (investigated by a Union Provost Marshall) in 1865 with civil war activities supporting the Confederate cause. This activity likely caused a rift in the family such that the Boswell name was changed to Bauswell for several sons who supported the Union side, including Albert.

Albert and Ellen Bauswell initially settled as farmers in Lafayette County, MO. There are numerous real estate transactions during this period indicating that the Bauswell's were relatively wealthy. By 1885, they had relocated to Wyandotte County, KS with Albert transitioning to being a carpenter. They had four sons and one daughter.

James Horton Jenkins Jr (1852-1903) was the only son of James and Anna. The 1870 federal census (no 1860 census record has been found) shows that James Sr and Mary were living in Washington Township of Lafayette County, MO with seven children, including James H Jenkins Jr, age 18. After 1870, we lose track of James until 1897, when he married Ellen Mathews (1878-1922) in Pierce County, WA. He was 44, she was 19. It would seem likely that he had a first wife and perhaps more children. Regardless, James and Ellen Jenkins had two children. James was killed in Dec 1903 in a train accident.

Three: Joseph Lyman Gaston and Rhuhamah Allen-Gaston

It seems like each of these migrating families suffered an early loss. Joe and Rhuhamah Gaston were no exception. The Joseph L Gaston family is poorly documented. However, we know that Rhuhamah died in Lafayette County, MO in Sept 1859. She left Joseph with four sons to care for; Ebenezer, Lawrence, Elijah, and James. Unfortunately, with no available public records, the lives of these four sons are as yet a mystery. Thus, we are unable to briefly discuss the lives of the four children of Joseph and Ruhamah who migrated.

NOTE: Public records suggest that, not only did Joseph and Rhuhamah Gaston migrate in 1857, but so did his brother and his family, Loren Tuller Gaston (1826-1903) and Mary Jane Henson-Gaston (1828-1882). The Loren T Gaston family is well documented in Lafayette County, MO and Reynolds County, MO. So, perhaps, instead of Robert Allen Jr and Marie Reed-Allen migrating, as stated in *Our Allen & Wait Lines, Compiled by Ethel A Wolfe, 1970*, it was actually Lauren and Mary Gaston (and as many as five of their children).

After Rhuhamah's death, Joseph L Gaston (with or without his four sons) returned to Scioto County, OH and married Matilda Hawkins (1827-1913) in Aug 1860. The next record we found was the 1880 census in Coryell County, TX. In it, Joseph L Gaston

was married to Matilda and two daughters and one son were listed: Ida, Ada, and Alva. These children are well documented in the public records with numerous descendants.

Four: William Allen Bebee Sr and Lucinda O'Neill Allen-Bebee

Our final family is, perhaps the most prolific. William A Bebee married Lucinda O'Neill Allen in May 1849 in Scioto County, OH. They proceeded to have at least eleven children between 1850 and 1872. Four of the eleven, Robert L, Commodore Perry, Emma Viola, and Nancy J, were part of the 1857 migration from Ohio to Missouri. This family settled on land in the Concord Township of Washington County, MO - SW of St. Louis. It could be that these folks left the main migrating part at St. Louis, MO and proceeded SW to their new home in Washington County. William Bebee worked in the industry he was most familiar with - Iron production. In the 1870 and 1880 census records, his occupation was attending to an iron furnace. By 1895, William, Lucinda, and their youngest son, William had relocated to Pomona, Osage County, KS. This move would place them near where Lucinda's sister, Nancy Allen-Swank was living, in Franklin County, KS. Now, let's take a brief look at each of the lives of the two sons and two daughters of William and Lucinda Bebee who migrated with their parents.

Robert Bebee (1851-1903) was the first son of William and Lucinda, born in Gallia County, OH. Robert married Mary Alice Robinson (1850-1923) in Ironton, Iron County, MO on Feb 24 1874. Robert was elected to the Iron County School Board in 1882. His occupation from 1860 to 1880 was as a foreman at an iron furnace. In 1883 Robert moved his family to Saint Louis where he became first, a police officer, then, about 1890, a fireman for the city. Robert and Mary Alice had six children. He died suddenly at his home (cause unknown), Mar 13, 1903, at the age of 52.

Commodore Perry "C. P." Bebee (1853-1936) was the second son of William and Lucinda Bebee, born in Scioto County, OH. He married Emma Viola Allen (Apr 1854-May 1933) Apr 21, 1874 in Washington County, MO. Emma was a first cousin of C.P. Her parents were James Allen and Mary Frances Carter-Allen. James was a brother of C.P.'s mother, Lucinda Allen. Sometime in the mid-1880's, C.P. moved his family to Saint Louis where he became a police officer. It's likely that he and his brother, Robert, were on the police force together. C.P. and Emma had six children together. In the late 1920's C.P. and Emma retired and moved out to Los Angeles, CA. He died there in 1936 at the age of 82.

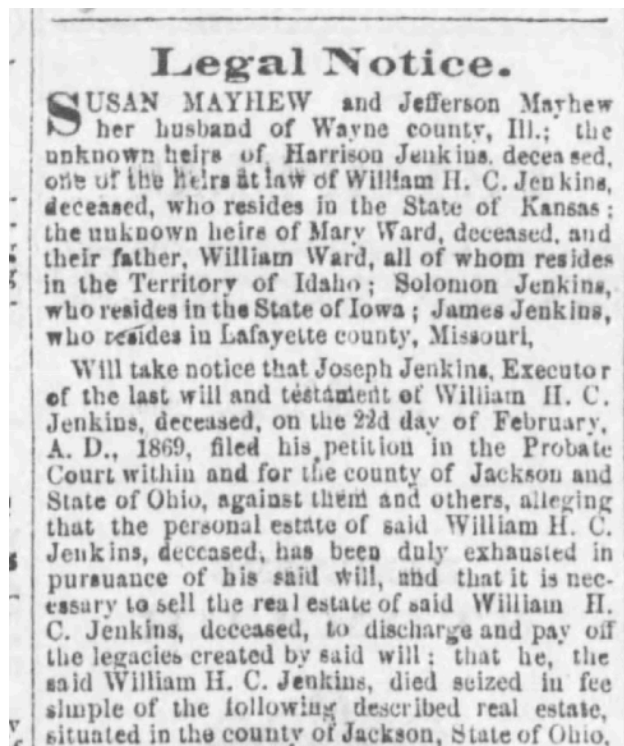
Emma Viola Bebee (Oct 1854-Jun 1933) was the first daughter born in Scioto County, OH to William and Lucinda Bebee. She married John M Parkinson (1842-1897) in May 1888 in Pomona, Osage County, KS (see above). The Parkinson's had five children. Following the death of John Parkinson in 1897 (self inflicted gunshot), his estate was contested by John's former business partner, Jeff Mundy. As a result, much of the property owned by the Parkinson's was sold in a sheriff's sale to satisfy debts. By 1920 she had moved to San Francisco, CA where she lived with one of her daughters. She died there in 1933 at the age of 78.

Nancy J Bebee (1856-Jan 1938) was the second daughter of William and Lucinda Bebee, born in Scioto County, OH. She married Calland Arnold (1843-1915) in Oct 1874 in Washington County, MO. Calland was a clerk, bookkeeper, and auditor in the Cape Girardeau, MO area for many years. He died in Mar 1915 due to a severe fall at home. Calland and Nancy had four children. Following the death Calland, Nancy moved to Kansas City, MO to be close to her children and died there Jan 1938.

Finishing Up

It's clear that, even though these families started out traveling together, they soon separated, some moved west into Kansas, some stayed in east-central Missouri, and others moved to areas SW of Saint Louis, Missouri. It does appear that at least some of the family groups continued to communicate amongst themselves. However, communication with relatives back in Ohio was, at best, sparse.

For example, in 1869, following the death of the Jenkins family patriarch, WHC Jenkins, in 1856, family members who had moved west in 1857 were still being sought to settle his estate.



Hopefully, with the help of this document, the Allen, Gaston, Bebee, and Jenkins families that migrated out of Jackson County, OH in the spring of 1857 can now be reunited in family trees and lost histories restored for their many descendants.

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