

Rt #1 Box 8a
Highland, Kansas 66035
June 17, 1996

Jeannie Donahoo
101 Rainbow Drive
Livingston, Texas 77351

Dear Ms. Donahoo:

Believe it or not I am answering your correspondence!!

Yes, I am the one to whom you need to correspond. There are not many others who are interested in this. I have had two surgeries for cancer in the left breast in December and radiation treatments for six weeks. The treatments ended March 1st. The only side effects has been the extreme exhaustion. My prognosis is good..it was caught early and there were no cancer cells in the lymph nodes which they removed.

My family heard the word cancer and immediately wanted to do everything fun which we were going to do "some day". So after the treatments, we went to Disney World in Florida. I really was too tired to go but went anyhow to please them. The walking at Disney World was too tiring so I had to travel in a wheel chair..this was embarrassing but it turned out fine....we got to go to the front of lines etc. and the grandchildren took turns pushing (which they thought was great fun).

My correspondence is stacked high and my apologies for this. It sounds as if you have had some frustating times in your search.

I went to the college today and photocopied your grandmother's obit which I'm sure you already have. I went through the 1892 papers searching for your grandfather's obit which was not in the Severance papers. I did not search the Kansas Chief or Highland Vidette. That may be a resource but I am going to go ahead and send this. As you know it takes a lot of time whithout a date..52 newspapers for the weekly papers.

And at that period of time there were not many obits included in the news...only national news. Enclosed is the obit for Martha Reeder Lawhon 10 July 1919 in the Highland Vidette.

The local mortuaries do not have the records from that date which is a pity. They are a good source of information after the 1900s but many have obits only after the 1910s.

The pastor of the Christian Church does not have records that far back. They have them from the early 1900s. Even these records do not give the parents names of the deceased and that is what you need.

One resource which you may find helpful are the Lawhons in St. Joseph, MO. There are quite a few and I will list just a few. I do not know these people but you may find someone who has already done some work on Lawhons. There is a Lawhon Construction Co in St. Joseph and I think Carl is the one who runs this.

Carl A. Lawhon 3605 W Colony Square St. Joseph, MO. 64501

Ival V. Lawhon Jr. & Renee 1306 N. 13th St. Joseph, MO 64501

M.A. Lawhon 2802 Monterey St. Joseph, MO. 64501

I went through the Federal census which you may already have. These were spelled "Lawhorn and Lahon" which are your people even though the spelling is changed.

In 1870 Federal Census:

James Lawhorn (living in Centre Township which is the center of Doniphan County & includes Troy the county seat) age 40 years and this particular census says he was born in VA..probably a mistake? his occupation is farming

Martha Lawhorn, his wife, age 27y born in Indiana (which does not coincide with the 1880 census..probably a mistake also..I did not copy this directly from the census but from a compilation of the census)

Henry S. Lawhorn, a son of James & Martha, age 11y born in KS. occupation listed as a student,

Arminta Lawhorn, a daughter, age 3 years and born in KS.

Ulysses Lawhorn, a son, age 1 year born in KS.

Also, in another residence was found:

Isaac B. Lawhorn, age 32 years, a farmer, born in Indiana, and living in Wolf River Township (this is where Severance is located)

Mary A. Lawhorn, his wife, age 24 years, born in Tennessee

Mahalia J. Lawhorn, his daughter, age 5 years, born in Mississippi

Rebecca E. Lawhorn, a daughter, age 5 years, born MISS.

Chloe Lawshorn, a daughter, age 2 years, born TN.

At another residence in Centre Township I found Benjamin Lawhorn age 14 years, a farm hand, born in Missouri living with another family

In 1880 I found:

James Lahon age 37 years, occupation: blacksmith, born in Indiana? (found another birth location!!) and his parents were born in Tennessee, James was living in Severance at this date which is in Wolf River Township and this is the reason I searched the Severance newspapers at Highland Community College.

Martha Lahon, his wife age 33 years, born in TN as were her parents

Lee Lahon, his son age 5 years born in TN as were his parents (this information does not coincide with that given for James which lists James birth in Indiana)

Sidney Lahon, his son, age 5 months born in KS.

I do not see these children in your listings..they may have been the ones who had preceded Martha Reeder Lawhon in death? Harry would have been born ca 1859 which means he may have been the son of a previous marriage of James?? it could have been Martha who would have been 16 years at the year of his birth. Perhaps the marriage date is wrong?

There is quite a range of ages between Harry and the next one listed: Aminta Lawhorn who is age 3 years born ca 1867 and Ulysses G who was born ca 1869 according to the census. Martha and James weren't even married according to Martha Reeder's Lawhon's obit until 1872. This Federal Census which was taken in 1870 shows them as husband and wife. There are several discrepancies in all the information.

Of course, the children who were born between those ages could have died. If so, the wedding date could be wrong and they were married in 1858 or 59 which makes everything fit in this puzzle.

Perhaps you can correct the information. In the census, many times there are errors depending on who gave the information to the census taker and how good the census taker was at writing the information down. The same is true for obituaries. They are usually fairly accurate, though. The death date is usually always correct or close at least. But the birth and marriage dates could be in question.