

Timeline for Samuel Washington Jenkins

Updated 16-03-2021

Year	Individual event
1848	born on the 19 th of March in Jackson County, North Carolina as the eleventh and youngest child of John Samuel Jenkins and Mary Nations
1864	<p>volunteered on the 20th of April as a private in Company L of the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry at Maryville, Blount County, Tennessee occupation at enlistment: farmer physical description: 5' 6", fair complexion, blue eyes, sandy hair</p> <p>The 3rd Tennessee Cavalry underwent a period of inactivity in Northern Alabama for four months. In September detachments of the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry skirmished around Decatur, Morgan/Limestone County, Alabama. On the 24th of September a portion of the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry under Major S.W. Pickens surrendered at Athens, Limestone County, Alabama, without a fight.</p> <p>Samuel Washington guarded the Nashville and Decatur Railroad together with the rest of the regiment in blockhouses at Sulpher Trestle (near Elkmont), Limestone County, Alabama. On the 25th of September the Union soldiers surrendered to Confederate forces under the command of General Nathan Bedford Forrest at Sulpher Trestle. Together with 300 members of the 3rd Tennessee Cavalry, Samuel Washington marched to the Confederate prison, Castle Morgan, in Cahaba (near Selma), Dallas County, Alabama.</p>
1865	<p>With other Union prisoners of war from the prisons of Cahaba in Alabama and Andersonville in Georgia, Samuel was released and marched to a small parole camp, Camp Fisk, outside of Vicksburg, Mississippi to await release to the North. They were officially paroled in Vicksburg, Mississippi on the 21st of April and waited there to be transported north by steamship.</p> <p>The steamship, Sultana, arrived from New Orleans, Louisiana in Vicksburg, Mississippi, to get a leaky boiler repaired and to pick up her load of prisoners.</p> <p>While the paroled prisoners, primarily from the states of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia were brought from the parole camp to the Sultana, a mechanic was brought in to work on the leaky boiler. Although the mechanic carrying out the repair wanted to cut out and replace a ruptured seam, Mason, the Sultana's captain, knew that such a repair would take a few days and cost him his precious load of prisoners. Instead, Mason and his chief engineer, Nathan Wintringer, convinced the mechanic to make temporary repairs, hammering back the bulged boiler plate and riveting a patch of lesser thickness over the seam. Instead of taking two or three days, the temporary repair took only one.</p>

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1865	<p>During her time in port, and while the repairs were being carried out, the Sultana took on the paroled prisoners. Although the Sultana had a legal capacity of only 376, by the time she backed away from Vicksburg on the night of the 24th of April 24, she was severely overcrowded with 1,960 paroled prisoners, 22 guards from the 58th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 70 paying cabin passengers, and 85 crew members, a total of 2,137 people.</p> <p>The Sultana spent two days traveling upriver, hopelessly overloaded and fighting against the spring floods. On the 26th of April, the Sultana stopped at Helena, Arkansas. About 7.00 p.m., the Sultana reached Memphis, Tennessee and the crew began unloading 120 tons of sugar from the hold. Near midnight, the Sultana left Memphis, perhaps leaving behind about 200 men. She then went a short distance upriver to take on a new load of coal from some coal barges. At around 1:00 a.m. on the 27th of April, she started north again.</p> <p>Around 2.00 a.m. on the 27th of April, when the Sultana was just seven miles north of Memphis, her boilers suddenly exploded. The terrific explosion flung some of the deck passengers into the water and destroyed a large section of the boat. The twin smokestacks toppled over, the left-hand one backwards into the blasted hole, and the right-hand one forward onto the crowded forward section of the upper deck. The forward part of the upper decks collapsed into the exposed furnace boxes, shoving kindling into the open fire boxes which soon caught fire and turned the remaining superstructure into an inferno.</p> <p>While this fight for survival was taking place, the southbound steamer Bostona (No. 2), built in 1860 but coming downriver on her maiden voyage after being refurbished, arrived at about 3.00 a.m., an hour after the explosion, and arrived at the site of the burning wreck to rescue scores of survivors. At the same time, dozens of people began to float past the Memphis waterfront, calling for help until they were noticed by the crews of docked steamboats and U.S. warships, who immediately set about rescuing the half-drowned victims.</p> <p>Eventually, the hulk of Sultana drifted about six miles to the west bank of the river, and sank at around 9.00 a.m. near Mound City and present-day Marion, Arkansas, about seven hours after the explosion.</p>

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1865	<p>Other vessels joined the rescue, including the steamers Silver Spray, Jenny Lind, and Pocohontas, the navy ironclad Essex and the sidewheel gunboat USS Tyler.</p> <p>Passengers who survived the initial explosion had to risk their lives in the icy spring runoff of the Mississippi or burn with the boat. Many died of drowning or hypothermia. Some survivors were plucked from the tops of semi-submerged trees along the Arkansas shore. Bodies of victims continued to be found downriver for months, some as far away as Vicksburg. Many bodies were never recovered. Most of Sultana's officers, including Captain Mason, were among those who perished.</p> <p>Survivors of the explosion panicked and raced for the safety of the water but in their weakened condition soon ran out of strength and began to cling to each other. Whole groups went down together.</p> <p>According to family stories, Samuel fell from the upper deck to the lower deck and tripped over a coil of rope causing a scrotal rupture or hernia that he was to suffer from later in life. Since he was a good swimmer, he jumped into the water and was eventually picked up by a gunboat. After his injury was discovered, he was taken to Adams General Hospital in Memphis. According to hospital records, Samuel had intermittent fever, but he was lucky that he was one of the 755 rescued. 300 of that number died in hospital due to severe burn or injuries. Approximately 2,500 perished in the Sultana disaster.</p> <p>Samuel survived the Sultana steamship disaster near Memphis, Tennessee on the 27th of April, was released from hospital and returned to duty on the 30th of April. On the 3rd of May Samuel was in Camp Chase, Ohio. From there he was sent to Nashville, Tennessee on the 17th of May and was honorably discharged with the rank of corporal from the Union Army in Nashville, Tennessee on the 10th of June. From Nashville Samuel made his way home to North Carolina on foot.</p>
1866	<p>married Elizabeth (Eliza) Jane Rose on the 6th of May 1866 in Macon County, North Carolina, daughter of Enoch Rose and Mary Crisp.</p>
1868	<p>son William Francis born on the 8th of March in Fannin County, Georgia</p>
1870	<p>at the time of the 1870 US Census (6th August 1870) Samuel Washington was living and working with his parents on their farm near Deep Creek, Jackson County, North Carolina. Eliza and William Francis were living with Eliza's parents in Fannin County, Georgia.</p>

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1872	birth of son Emanuel Alexander in Higdonville, Macon County, North Carolina on 6 th of February
1873	birth of daughter Mary Clementine in Webster, Jackson County, North Carolina on 29 th of November
1876	birth of son Samuel Washington in Webster, Jackson County, North Carolina on 28 th of May
1880	at the time of the 1880 US Census Samuel and Eliza were living with their daughter and three sons in or near Ducktown, Polk County, Tennessee
1881	a daughter Eliza Jane was born in Ducktown, Polk County, Tennessee on the 21 st of June
1884	a son, Arthur Augustus, was born in Ducktown, Polk County, Tennessee on the 3 rd of February
1886	Samuel moved with his family from Ducktown, Polk County, Tennessee to Hamilton County, Tennessee. According to family stories, he is said to have worked in the Soddy coal mines and to have done light farming. son, Charles Arthur, was born in Millers Grove, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 18 th of August. At the time Samuel and his family were living on a piece of property near the Tennessee River in the area then known as Millers Grove (now within the site of the Sequoia Nuclear Plant) which had a school for the children.
1894	Samuel received his doctor's degree from the U.S. Grant University in Chattanooga, Tennessee on the 13 th of March. He set up his practice on Wall Street in Soddy in a building adjacent to a pharmacy. He was the first doctor to practice medicine in Soddy. Later he moved his office to where the old Company Store used to be.
1899	Elizabeth Jane Rose died in Soddy, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 6 th of December and was buried in Hot Water Cemetery on Mowbray Mountain. After the death of Eliza, Samuel Washington divided up his land holdings and money among his children, but retained the house and property near the Tennessee River.
1901	Samuel Washington married his second wife, Sarah Ann "Sallie" Good, in Coulterville, Rhea County, Tennessee on the 25 th of July. Sallie was the daughter of John Ewing Good and Martha Frances Davis.

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1902	birth of daughter Grace Betty in Millers Grove, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 31 st of July
1903	birth of daughter Willie Irene in Millers Grove, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 4 th of December
1905	birth of daughter Charlotte Marie in Millers Grove, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 6 th April
1907	birth of daughter Chrystal Margaret in Millers Grove, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 19 th of February
1909	birth of daughter Mary Agnes in Millers Grove, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 25 th of September
1911	birth of son John Thomas on the 2 nd of June
1912	U.S. Army Civil War pension approved on the 4 th of June
1913	birth of son Theodore Edison on the 16 th of May
1914	birth of son James Arthur on the 13 th of November
1916	birth of son Edwin Lloyd on the 25 th of September
1918	birth of son Clarence M. on the 26 th of March; Clarence died on the 6 th of August
1919	Samuel gave up his medical practice in Soddy which was then taken over by Dr Edwin Lloyd Jenkins (no relation). Samuel bought a house at 703 Dodson Avenue in East Chattanooga and moved his family there. birth of daughter Glenna Roberta in East Chattanooga, Tennessee on the 18 th of November
1920	Sometime after the 4 th of January, Samuel purchased a house on Back Valley Road (now 428 Retro Hughes Road) right by the railroad tracks and moved From East Chattanooga to Bakewell, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Their son James Arthur died during the flu epidemic. Both Samuel Washington and his wife Sallie had a bad case of the flu so Dr Edwin Lloyd Jenkins had to carry James in a pine box across his horse and bury him on Soddy Mountain.
1921	birth of daughter Sallie Maude in Bakewell, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 13 th of December

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1924	<p>birth of son William George in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 29th of May</p> <p>Samuel's wife, Sarah Ann Good, died in the Chattanooga Sanitarium, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 27th of June as a result of a splenic abscess complicated by childbirth. With Samuel's blessing, Billy was taken in and raised by his half-brother, Samuel Washington Jr., and his wife, Gwendolyn Games.</p>
1926	<p>received first US Army pension check in the amount of \$100</p>
1933	<p>Samuel died in Bakewell, Hamilton County, Tennessee on the 19th of January and was buried with military honours in Varner Cemetery, Soddy next to his second wife, Sarah Ann Good.</p>