

moving was a reluctance on his part to leave the people who depended upon him for leadership and spiritual guidance.

Another subject dear to Jacob Clark, and often mentioned in his letters, was the railroad. The surveying for the railroad was near his property and the tracks, when laid, would edge alongside his orchard. Clark had intense feelings about the completion of the railroad. He had great interest in the growth of the area and he knew the railroad would stimulate that growth.

In late 1854, while still serving in the ministry, he also worked in St. Louis as an associate editor of a church publication. He would visit Mt. Helicon once a month to be with family and friends for a few days then return to St. Louis to resume his duties with the paper.

The railroad at that time was completed from St. Louis to Pacific. Rev. Jacob would travel by train to the end of the line where his sons would meet him with horse and buggy to continue his homeward journey.

In 1855, he wrote to Rev. Braley, "We have some prospect for the southwest branch railroad to be put under contract this spring. This runs by my house and when it is finished, I can go home and return every few days if I should continue my business here (St. Louis)."

A letter dated July 1857 to Braley was probably the last one before Clark's death. It contained a few lines about his poor health, but most of it referred to his hopes for the future of their children and about the ministry.

Rev. Jacob's love for his people was evident in the contents of his written will. He bequeathed a parcel of land to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church for the purpose of building a new church. He also requested a parcel of land be reserved for a burying place for his family and the Stephen Sullivan family. This property became the Clark Family Cemetery on Springfield road, which was a part of the Mt. Helicon farm. The Sullivans were not buried in the Clark cemetery since they had requested to be buried "at the highest point" in the southeast part of Sullivan.

Rev. Jacob Clark died September 22, 1857, at the age of forty-seven, less than two years before the town of Sullivan was organized. He didn't live to see the completion of the railroad, a project he had envisioned for so long. He would have been pleased to know that his friend, Stephen Sullivan, was instrumental in bringing about the actuality of both historic events.

Following the Civil War, the Clark store at Mt. Helicon was moved to Sullivan. Many years later, it was moved once more to the large new store building erected by Jacob's son, James R. Clark, and Carrick Martin. The building later became the Clark-Lane store. It was located just north of the railroad that Rev. Clark had envisioned alongside his orchard at Mt. Helicon. Jacob's wife, Phoebe Whitmire Clark, died on October 9, 1875.

As a minister, Rev. Jacob Clark had served his people well, relying upon his faith to give him the needed strength to ease the burden of poor health. His life span was brief, but during that span, he was a faithful servant to his people.

As Sarah Simmons wrote: "Jacob Clark was a man esteemed and loved by everyone." Despite the adversity of fragile health, he was a stalwart pioneer in the early history of the Sullivan community.

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### Smith Jackson, 1834-1906

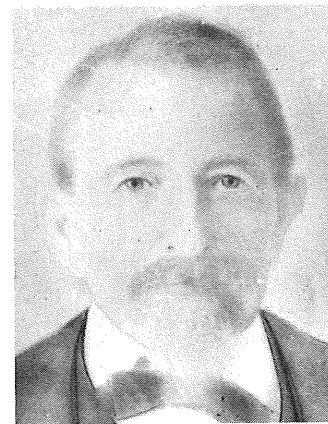
**Credits:** *Sullivan Sentinel*; *Jackson Family*, *History of Washington County*

Smith Jackson, son of Phillip Jackson, was born in Washington County in 1834. His parents moved to Missouri from

Kentucky in the early 1830s, a short time before Smith's birth.

True pioneers, the Jacksons settled near the area that was later to become the town of Sullivan. At this time, Missouri was the frontier of the West and much of it not settled. Each family faced the challenge to clear the land, build their homes and to cultivate the new ground about them.

Jackson's mother died when he was very young. As a young man, growing up, he was considered a friendly, outgoing person who made friends easily.



— Nancy Schatz Jackson  
Smith Jackson

In 1855, several years before Sullivan was founded, Smith Jackson married Eada Simmons, daughter of John and Rachel Sparks Simmons. They had ten children: Susan, Martha, Rachel, Catherine, Philip, Melissa, William, Mary Ellen, Andrew C., and John. Jackson was a devoted family man, providing well for his large family.

In 1863, Jackson's life was changed abruptly by an event that became a source of anguish to him and his family for many years.

The story, repeated through the years to Jackson's descendants,

told of Jackson serving as a juror in a trial at Potosi, Missouri. According to Jackson's testimony, he (Jackson) and two other men were returning home after a day of jury duty. Walking along, resting their horses from the long ride, the two travelers with Jackson began to quarrel. As they proceeded, the argument became more intense and suddenly erupted into violence. As an eyewitness, Jackson testified at the trial that the accused man stabbed the victim with a knife, mortally wounding him.

The prisoner was found guilty and was sentenced to hang; however, the sentence was commuted. The Civil War was being fought at the time and the prisoner was pardoned to go into the army. During his incarceration, the prisoner continually made threats, stating that he intended to "do in" Smith Jackson at the first opportunity.

Friends and relatives would relate these threats to Jackson, warning him to be cautious, and while the concern for his welfare was appreciated, the continuous flow of information was surely unnerving to Jackson and his family.

At the close of the Civil War, the prisoner was released, allowed to return home. According to a descendant of the Jackson family, the former prisoner quickly resumed his threats, telling people of his intention to kill Smith Jackson, thus keeping Jackson constantly alert and fearing for his life.

One day in early August 1867, Jackson was at the railroad depot in Sullivan when he spotted his would be assailant standing on the porch of the Clark store opposite the depot. Apparently, Jackson, tired of the ever present threats of being killed by this man, decided to settle the matter. An eyewitness described it: Smith Jackson walked from the depot directly toward the man standing on the porch, and within a distance of about thirty steps, drew his pistol and shot the man, killing him. He walked directly back to the depot to Squire Melvin and turned himself in. Upon investigation, a concealed weapon was found on the dead man.

A trial took place on August 7, 1867, and after testimony from about ten witnesses, Jackson was freed.

Slowly, Jackson began to regain some of the normalcy of the life he enjoyed before the tragedy. However, sorrow touched him

and his large family again in 1870 when his wife, Eada, died.

Six years later, Smith Jackson married Sarah Jane Mercer, daughter of Isaac and Olive Hill Mercer. They had seven children: Walter, Fanny, Rush, Bertha, Jessie, Albert and Elizabeth. The *Sentinel* carried numerous items concerning the Jackson family activities and social life.

In 1906, when Jackson became seriously ill, the editor wrote about his many friends making visits to Jackson's bedside, displaying their affection and concern about his illness.

Jackson and Sarah Jane were married thirty years when "Uncle Smith," as he was called by almost all who knew him, died on February 14, 1906. Sarah, his wife, died exactly seven-

teen years later, on February 14, 1923.

Smith Jackson's funeral was said to be one of the largest Sullivan had seen. Reverend J. R. Hamlin, a well-known pioneer preacher in the area, conducted the service.

Jackson belonged to the Masonic Lodge for many years and the lodge's final tribute to him, published in the *Sentinel* read: "A good and useful man has gone from us forever. He was devoted to his family, true to his friends, and he left a void not easily filled."

A number of Smith Jackson's descendants live in the Sullivan area today.