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2007 Winner:  
Family History Writing Contest

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A Family for Suzanne

By Ruth Randall

*As an enslaved person, Suzanne owned nothing, not her children nor her self. Regarded as personal property, she had no surname. When Missouri abolished slavery, her descendants were freed and able to unite their families and form their own households.*

The old Negro spiritual, “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child,” captures emotions of the enslaved. The words might apply to Suzanne, just three-and-a-half or four years old on 16 September 1801, when Alexander Baillie traded her to Samuel Randol for “one bay mare, two cows, and two pigs.”<sup>1</sup> The lyrics continue with the words “a long way from home.” Permanent removal from her biological family distanced Suzanne from her mother’s home—emotionally if not physically. The 1801 bill of sale provides no clue to her parents’ identities, but it says “the seller acquired [Suzanne] from Sieur [Mr.] Terence Dial, his beau-père,” meaning either father-in-law or stepfather.<sup>2</sup>

In the Louisiana Territory where Samuel Randol lived the *Code Noir* (black code) constituted part of the legal system. Rooted in a 1685 decree of Louis XIV, enacted in Louisiana in 1724, and expanded by the territorial legislature,

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1. Alexander Baillie to Samuel Randol, slave bill of sale, Bills of Sale, Missouri, Cape Girardeau County Records 1794–1842, Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia, University of Missouri, Columbia. Translated from French by Elizabeth Shown Mills.

2. *Merriam-Webster’s French-English Dictionary* (Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, 2000), s.v. “beau-père.” The standard translation is “father-in-law,” but the word could also have meant “stepfather.” Also, in this context “Sieur Terence Dial” could be translated as “the said Terence Dial.”

it regulated slaves and their conduct.<sup>3</sup> One provision prohibited separating children under age fourteen from their mothers.<sup>4</sup> Consequently, if the transfer of Suzanne from Dial to Baillie occurred in Louisiana, it may have been illegal.<sup>5</sup>

After the trade Suzanne lived with Samuel Randol, his wife Mary, daughters Melinda and Amanda, sons John and Jeremiah, and an enslaved child named Ralph.<sup>6</sup> Mary thus already had five children to care for, including one under age two.<sup>7</sup> Slaves too young to work were investments, and Randol may have invested in Suzanne and Ralph for breeding.<sup>8</sup> In any event, circumstances surrounding Suzanne's acquisition and the Randol family's situation suggest she may have received minimal care and nurturing.

On 14 October 1801, twenty-eight days after acquiring Suzanne, Samuel suffered six stab wounds in an altercation.<sup>9</sup> Acknowledging his imminent death, Samuel dictated his will on 22 October 1801. He desired "that a negro Girl named Susanna Serve my Dear & Loveing wife during the term of her natural Life and then to Revert to my Son Jirah [Jeremiah]." Samuel further declared "that a certain Negro boy named Ralph be given to my Son John Randol when

3. Shael Herman, David Combe, and Thomas Carbonneau, *The Louisiana Civil Code: A Humanistic Appraisal* (New Orleans: Tulane Law School, 1981), 47.

4. "Article XLI, XLII," in "Louisiana's Code Noir (1724)," *BlackPast.org: Remembered and Reclaimed* (<http://www.blackpast.org/?q=primary/louisianas-code-noir-1724>).

5. Annette Gordon-Reed, "Sacred Legacies," in Howard Dodson et al., *Jubilee: The Emergence of African American Culture* (Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2002), 114, says "Often slaves, especially children, were given as gifts from a slaveholder to members of his own family."

6. Mary Randol will (1814), Cape Girardeau Co. Will Book A:34, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, Jackson, Mo. The will names Samuel and Mary Randol's children. For Ralph, see Samuel Randol will, Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 55, bundle 1093, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center. For ages of Ralph and Suzanne, see "Mrs. Samuel Randol household, 1803 Cape Girardeau District, population schedule," in *History of Southeast Missouri* (1888; reprint, Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press Inc., 1990), 264. Mrs. Randol reportedly had two slaves, one male and one female, both listed under the heading "First Class," indicating they were children. See Ann Roberts (Reference Archivist, Missouri State Archives), e-mail to author, 18 September 2006.

7. The tombstone of Jeremiah Randol, Samuel's youngest son, shows his birth date as 16 December 1799. Jeremiah Randol gravestone, cemetery formerly owned by Samuel Randol, on property owned by John G. and Martha Muench, Cape Girardeau, Mo.; viewed by author on 20 March 2001.

8. Kenneth M. Stamp, in *The Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Ante-Bellum South* (New York: Vintage Books, 1956), 245–47 writes, "numerous shreds of evidence exist which indicate that slaves were reared with an eye to their marketability . . . Many masters counted the fecundity of Negro women as an economic asset . . . one of the early propagandists for Florida proclaimed: 'The climate is peculiarly adapted and fitted to the constitution of the Negro. It is an excellent and cheap climate to breed and raise them. The Offal of the Sugar House fattens them like young pigs.'"

9. Thomas Rodney deposition, 14 October 1801, and Samuel Randol deposition, 18 October 1801, miscellaneous documents, 1800–36, Missouri, Cape Girardeau County Records, 1794–1842, Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia. Translated from French by Claude Marie Senninger.

of the age twenty-one.”<sup>10</sup> Thus the widow Randol became responsible for six minors, including two who were enslaved.

#### THE FAMILY EMERGES

Apparently anticipating her impending death, Samuel Randol’s widow Mary had her will prepared on 3 April 1814.<sup>11</sup> Her estate on 17 May 1814 included “one mullattoe Boy named Ralph” and “a woman named Susy & her child a girl.”<sup>12</sup> With a daughter, motherless Suzanne, about seventeen years old, had a family, tenuous though it may have been.

On 19 July 1814 Robert English and Stephen Byrd became guardians for Samuel and Mary Randol’s minor orphan, Jeremiah. His property included Suzanne. Honoring his guardianship bond to improve “the estate of the said Jeremiah Randol . . . an orphan,”<sup>13</sup> English hired “Susan” out to work for an unidentified person “for twelve months commencing 30 July 1814.”<sup>14</sup> On 15 May 1815 English paid a “midwife . . . for tending on a negro woman”—Suzanne apparently delivered another baby around that date.<sup>15</sup> On 1 April 1818 she was Jeremiah Randol’s “negra with children.”<sup>16</sup> Both Suzanne’s family and Jeremiah’s estate had increased. “Susan” was hired out through August 1820, when Jeremiah turned twenty-one.<sup>17</sup>

#### THE FAMILY GROWS

In 1830 Jeremiah Randol owned four slaves:

- One male under ten
- Two males ten and under twenty-four
- One female ten and under twenty-four<sup>18</sup>

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10. Samuel Randol will (1801), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 55.

11. Mary Randol will (1814), Cape Girardeau Co. Will Book A:34.

12. “Appraisement of Three Slaves Belonging to the Estate of Samuel Randoll decd,” Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center.

13. Robert English and Stephen Bryd, bond, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

14. Receipt dated 15 March 1815 for hire of Susan for twelve months, commencing 30 July 1814, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

15. Jeremiah Randol to Robert English, receipt, 15 May 1815, “Midwife’s fee for tending a negro woman,” Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

16. Receipt, 1 April 1818, for payment to Jeremiah Randol’s estate, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

17. Robert English to Jeremiah Randol, payment receipt for lease of Susan, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

18. Jeremiah Randol household, 1830 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., p. 464; National Archives (NA) microfilm M19, roll 72. This is Missouri’s earliest surviving federal census.

The household does not include a slave of Suzanne's age, about thirty-three years. The female's age is compatible with her daughter born around 1814, and all but the youngest may have been Suzanne's children.

Jeremiah's slave holdings increased between 1850 and 1860 from four to twelve people.<sup>19</sup> Between 1860 and 1862 he acquired two additional slaves.<sup>20</sup> See table 1.

The ages and sexes of four people Jeremiah held in bondage are consistent from 1830 through 1862. All can be identified:

- Jeremiah's will directed that Betsy remain with his widow until her death. If Betsy outlived the widow, she was to choose one of Jeremiah's children to live with, rather than be sold. Jeremiah requested she "be cared for and made comfortable in her old days in account of her fidelity to me and her mistress and family."<sup>21</sup> Jeremiah's concern and chronology suggest Betsy was Suzanne's baby daughter born by 17 May 1814.<sup>22</sup> Consistent with an 1814 birth, her age reported on 23 June 1862 was forty-eight.<sup>23</sup>
- Alex, age forty-six in 1862, probably was Suzanne's baby born about 15 May 1815.<sup>24</sup>
- Dick, born 1818–19 was either Suzanne's son or a child Jeremiah Randol acquired between 1820 and 1830.<sup>25</sup> Dick's apparent residence on the Randol plantation with Suzanne's children between 1830 and 1862 is the only known evidence linking them.
- Bob, age thirty-two in 1862, headed a household in 1868 and 1870 including Betsy, also called Elizabeth.<sup>26</sup> Bob, apparently Betsy's son, likely was the male Randol slave under age ten in 1830.<sup>27</sup>

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19. Jeremiah Randol household, 1850 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., slave schedule, District 14, p. 284; NA microfilm M432, roll 422. Jeremiah Randol household, 1860 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., slave sch., Cape Girardeau and Randol Twp., p. 9; NA microfilm M653, roll 661.

20. Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (23 June 1862), probate file box 41, bundle 824, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center.

21. Jeremiah Randol will (1862), Cape Girardeau probate file box 41, bundle 824.

22. "Appraisement of Three Slaves Belonging to the Estate of Samuel Randoll decd," Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

23. Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824.

24. Jeremiah Randol to Robert English, receipt, 15 May 1815, "Midwife's fee for tending on [n]egro woman," Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co. For Alex's age in 1862, see Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824.

25. For Dick's age in 1862, see Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824.

26. Robert Randol entry, 1868 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Twp. 30, unpaginated, hand-counted p. 71, County Clerk, Jackson, Mo.; microfilm 1,006,668, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City. Robert Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwelling 79, family 75; NA microfilm M593, roll 765.

27. Jeremiah Randol household, 1830 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., p. 464.

Table 1  
**Jeremiah Randol's Slaves, 1830–62**

1830	1840	1850	1860	1862	COMMENTS
Female 10–24	Female 10–24	Female 40	Female 46	Betsy 48	Willed to Polly
Male 10–24	Male 10–24	Male 38	Male 44	Alex 46	
Male 10–24	Male 10–24	Male 36	Male 40	Dick 43	Willed to Polly
Male under 10	Male under 10	Male 20	Male 30	Bob 32	
			Female 22	Francis 26	Dick's wife
			Female 18	Clara 20	Willed to Polly
			Female 14	Mary 15	
			Female 10	Susan 13	
			Male 9	Edward 8	Dick's son
			Male 3	Henry 6	Dick's son
			Female 1	Ann 4	
			Female 1	Hannah 3	
				Matilda 1	Dick's daughter
				Douglas 6 mos.	Dick's son

*Notes:* Numerals are reported ages in years. Polly (aka Mary) was Jeremiah's wife. The 1870 and 1880 censuses, cited below, indicate the relationships mentioned in the right-hand column.

*Sources:* Jeremiah Randol will (30 May 1862) and estate inventory (23 June 1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center, Jackson, Mo. Jeramiah Randol household, 1830 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., p. 465; National Archives (NA) microfilm M19, roll 72. Jeremiah Randle household, 1840 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., Randol Twp., p. 281; NA microfilm M704, roll 221. Jeremiah Randol household, 1850 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., slave schedule, District 14, p. 284; NA microfilm M432, roll 422. Jeremiah Randol household, 1860 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., slave sch., Cape Girardeau and Randol Twp., p. 9; NA microfilm M653, roll 661. Richard Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., population sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 43, dwelling 349, family 345; NA microfilm M593, roll 765. Richard Randol household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Enumeration District 32, p. 14, dwell. 123, fam. 131; NA microfilm T9, roll 678.

A line-by-line search of the 1868 Cape Girardeau County census failed to produce candidates for Mary, Susan, Ann, and Hannah, whom Jeremiah Randol owned in 1862.<sup>28</sup> On 11 January 1865, a little more than two-and-a-half years after Jeremiah's death, Missouri abolished slavery.<sup>29</sup> The fourteen people whom Jeremiah's heirs owned became free and able to unite their families and form their own households.

## GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

### *Generation One*

1. **Suzanne**<sup>1</sup>—known also as **Susan** or **Susie**—was born about 1796, possibly in Maryland or North Carolina.<sup>30</sup> Her mother probably was owned by Terence Dial, who gave Suzanne to his son-in-law or stepson, Alexander Baillie. The latter sold Suzanne to Samuel Randol on 16 September 1801.<sup>31</sup> Randol's son Jeremiah inherited Suzanne from his widowed mother in 1814.<sup>32</sup>

Suzanne died probably in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri, before 1830. No evidence suggests Jeremiah sold her, and no female of Suzanne's age was enumerated among his slaves in 1830.<sup>33</sup> Her grave may be marked by one of twelve small blocks of Thebes sandstone possibly indicating slave graves in a cemetery on Jeremiah Randol's property.<sup>34</sup> See figure 1.

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28. Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824; and 1868 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Twp. 30, unpaginated.

29. "Ordinance Abolishing Slavery in Missouri," 11 January 1865; digital image, *Missouri Secretary of State* ([http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/africanamerican/guide/image005c\\_1.html](http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/africanamerican/guide/image005c_1.html)). For Robert's age in 1862, see Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824.

30. Alexander Baillie to Samuel Randol, slave bill of sale, Cape Girardeau Co., describes Suzanne as between three-and-a-half and four years old. The Terrence Dyall household, 1800 U.S. census, Allegany Co., Md., Georges Creek, p. 31; NA microfilm M32, roll 9, includes two slaves. If Dyall was the man named as Suzanne's owner before 1801, his slaves may have been Suzanne and her mother. An enumerator of Richard Randol, who may have been Suzanne's son, indicated Randol's mother was born in North Carolina. See Richard Randol household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, enumeration district (ED) 32, p. 14, dwell. 123, fam. 131; NA microfilm T9, roll 678. Also see Alex Bailey household, 1790 U.S. census, Burke Co., N.C., p. 105; NA microfilm M637, roll 7. Bailey's household included one slave, but this census predates Suzanne's birth.

31. Alexander Baillie to Samuel Randol, slave bill of sale, Cape Girardeau Co.

32. Mary Randol will (1814), Cape Girardeau Co. Will Book A:34.

33. Jeremiah Randol household, 1830 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., p. 464.

34. Edison Shrum, *The Slaves and Slave Owners of Cape Girardeau County* (Scott City, Mo.: privately printed, 1987), 40.

Figure 1

## Block of Thebes Sandstone Appearing to Mark a Slave's Grave



Notes: Pieces of Thebes sandstone, a particularly durable rock found near the upper Mississippi River valley and elsewhere, are believed to mark sites of slave burials on property once owned by Jeremiah Randol. See Edison Shrum, *The Slaves and Slave Owners of Cape Girardeau County* (Scott City, Mo.: privately printed 1987), 40. Photograph by author, 20 March 2001.

As an enslaved person, Suzanne owned nothing, not her children nor her self. Regarded as personal property, she had no surname. As chattel, she could not make contracts. Slave marriages, not legally binding, offered no protections.<sup>35</sup>

No document records a marriage for Suzanne.<sup>36</sup> Ralph, another Randol slave, may have fathered Suzanne's first child. Because Jeremiah Randol's parents died when he was a minor, an inventory identifies Suzanne's children.<sup>37</sup>

Suzanne had probably two or three children born in Cape Girardeau County:

35. Missouri Monthly Reports of Marriages, July 1865–August 1865, Marriage Records of the Office of the Commissioner: Washington Headquarters of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1861–1869; National Archives (NA) microfilm M1875, roll 3.

36. Stamp, *The Peculiar Institution*, 198.

37. "Appraisement of Three Slaves Belonging to the Estate of Samuel Randoll decd," Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

- + 2. i. ELIZABETH “BETSY”<sup>2</sup> RANDOL, born by 17 May 1814;<sup>38</sup> died in Cape Girardeau apparently 1870–76.<sup>39</sup>
- + 3. ii. ALEXANDER “ALEX” RANDOL, born on or about 15 May 1815;<sup>40</sup> died 4 January 1885;<sup>41</sup> married on 25 July 1865 Louise Marrs.<sup>42</sup> The 1880 census describes Alexander as “mullato.”<sup>43</sup> His father therefore may have been white, possibly the unnamed person renting Suzanne when Alexander was conceived.<sup>44</sup>
- + 4. RICHARD “DICK” RANDOL, born about 1818–19;<sup>45</sup> living in Cape Girardeau in 1880.<sup>46</sup> Apparently a Randol slave by 1830, Dick was in the right place at the right time to have been Suzanne’s son, but no evidence other than proximity links him to Suzanne’s descendants.

### *Generation Two*

**2. Elizabeth “Betsy”<sup>2</sup> Randol** (Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born by 17 May 1814 in Cape Girardeau County.<sup>47</sup> She died there 1870–76.<sup>48</sup> Her death predates Cape Girardeau and Missouri death records, and the exact date and place are unknown. In 1868 and 1870 Betsy lived in Cape Girardeau with her son and his family.<sup>49</sup>

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38. Jeremiah Randol to Robert English, receipt, 15 May 1815, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

39. Betsy was enumerated in 1870 but not in 1876. See Robert Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 79, fam. 75. Also, Robert Randol household, 1876 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Cape Girardeau Twp., p. 454, County Clerk, Jackson, Mo.; FHL microfilm 1,006,667.

40. Jeremiah Randol to Robert English, “Receipt for Midwife’s fee for tending on a [n]egro woman,” 15 May 1815, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

41. Alex Randol entry, City of Cape Girardeau Mortuary Records, no. 171, City Hall, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

42. Randol-Minton marriage record, 18 July 1865, Missouri Monthly Reports of Marriages, pp. 60–61, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

43. Alexander Randol household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 9, dwell. 75, fam. 79; NA microfilm T9, roll 678.

44. Receipt dated 15 March 1815 for hire of Susan for twelve months, commencing 30 July 1814, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

45. Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824.

46. Richard Randol household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 14, dwell. 123, fam. 131.

47. Jeremiah Randol to Robert English, receipt, 15 May 1815, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co.

48. Betsy was enumerated in 1870 but not in 1876. See Robert Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 79, fam. 75; and Robert Randol household, 1876 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Cape Girardeau Twp., p. 454.

49. Robert Randol household, 1868 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Twp. 30, unpaginated, hand-counted p. 71. Betsy is listed immediately below Robert’s wife and children. The document does not delineate families. Also, Robert Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 79, fam. 75. The latter enumeration identifies Betsy as “Elizabeth.”

While enslaved Betsy had no right to a surname. Provisions in Jeremiah Randol's will show he held her in high regard.<sup>50</sup> After slavery ended in Missouri Betsy, her brother Alexander, and her son adopted the surname of their owners.

Betsy probably had only one child:

- + 5. i. ROBERT "BOB"<sup>3</sup>RANDOL, born about 1830;<sup>51</sup> died 13 October 1882 in Cape Girardeau;<sup>52</sup> married 19 July 1865 Maria Thomas or Smarr.<sup>53</sup>

3. Alexander "Alex"<sup>2</sup> Randol (Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born on or about 15 May 1815, probably in Cape Girardeau County and died in Cape Girardeau 4 January 1885.<sup>54</sup> Rev. E. O'Brien, Chaplain of the 17th Illinois Cavalry in Cape Girardeau, solemnized Alexander's marriage to **Louise Minton**, also known as **Louisa**, on 25 July 1866.<sup>55</sup>

Alexander and Louise were enslaved until 11 January 1865, when Missouri abolished slavery. Living on separate farms, they might have had a "broad marriage."<sup>56</sup> Alexander was one of four million illiterate people freed in the United States and challenged to provide homes for their families.<sup>57</sup> Just three years after his emancipation, however, Alexander owned ten hogs, twenty-five bushels of wheat, two hundred bushels of corn, and twenty-five pounds of

50. Jeremiah Randol will, Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824.

51. Jeremiah Randol household, 1830 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., p. 464.

52. Robert Randol entry, Cape Girardeau Mortuary Records, no. 30.

53. Randol-Thomas marriage record, 17 July 1865, Missouri Monthly Reports of Marriages, pp. 60–61, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

54. Jeremiah Randol to Robert English, "Receipt for Midwife's fee for tending on a [n]egro woman," 15 May 1815, Jeremiah Randol guardianship file, box 11, bundle 305, Cape Girardeau Co. Alex Randol entry, Cape Girardeau Mortuary Records, no. 171.

55. Randol-Minton marriage record, 18 July 1865, Missouri Monthly Reports of Marriages, pp. 60–61, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

56. Reginald Washington, "Sealing the Sacred Bonds of Holy Matrimony: Freedmen's Bureau Marriage Records," *Prologue: Journal of the National Archives* 37 (Spring 2005): 58–65; electronic edition, "Prologue Magazine," *The National Archives* (<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2005/spring/freedman-marriage-recs.html>). Herbert G. Gutman, *The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom 1750–1925* (New York: Random House, 1976), 131. A former Missouri slave reported "The men all had wives at other homes in the vicinity and on Saturday nights they spruced up and visited their wives and some of them had children also." See Dela Handy, "I have Talked with Grandma Handy," in "American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936–1940," *Library of Congress: American Memory* (<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/wpa/15100203.html>). Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824, does not name Louise.

57. Willie E. Gray et al., "Making the Case for Racial Reparations," *Harper's Magazine* 301 (November 2000): 37–51. Alexander Randol entry, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 77, fam. 73. Alexander reportedly could not read or write.

58. Alexander Randol entry, 1868 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Twp. 31, unpaginated, hand-counted p. 67.

tobacco.<sup>58</sup> While enslaved, he probably had been allowed to farm and possibly to sell produce, as Missouri slaves could do, with their masters' written consent.<sup>59</sup>

Alexander and Louise Randol had two children born probably in Cape Girardeau County:

- 6. i. ALEXANDER BUTLER<sup>3</sup> RANDOL, called "Butler," born 14 December 1864; died 15 April 1917 in Cape Girardeau at his stepsister Rhoda Cravens's home.<sup>60</sup> A bachelor known for his culinary skills, Butler worked for several years as chief cook at St. Vincent's College in Cape Girardeau. He also was a cook at a Catholic college in Texas and other cities in the North and was the prosperous owner of real estate in Cape Girardeau and Canada.<sup>61</sup>
- + 7. ii. CHARLES LOUIS RANDOL, born 1867–68; died 27 December 1958 in Cape Girardeau.<sup>62</sup> He married (1), on 17 April 1892, Sarah Anna Johnson and (2), on 11 August 1923, Mabel Lucille Sides.<sup>63</sup>

Alexander Randol had a stepdaughter born reportedly to his wife Louise and Jim James:

- + 8. RHODA OR RODI JAMES, born 10 November 1851 in Cape Girardeau; died there 25 February 1919.<sup>64</sup> Rhoda bore children fathered by Jefferson Williams.<sup>65</sup> She subsequently married on 26 September 1892, in Cape Girardeau, William Cravens.<sup>66</sup>

59. Dodson, et al., *Jubilee*, 95.

60. Butler Randell death certificate, no. 14059 (1917); digital image, Missouri State Archives, "Missouri Death Certificates 1910–56," *Missouri Secretary of State* (<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>). Alexander Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 77, fam. 73. Butler's birth year is incomplete on his death certificate. The age given is consistent with his age in 1870. Alexander's middle name, Butler, prompted a search of Civil War enlistment records to determine if his parents' choice of that name was influenced by his father's Civil War service. The search produced negative results. See "U.S. Colored Troops Military Service Records 1861–1865," *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>); and Missouri State Archives, "Soldiers Database: War of 1812—World War I," *Missouri Secretary of State* (<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers/>).

61. Butler Randol obituary, *Daily Republican*, Cape Girardeau, 16 April 1917, page 4, col. 2.

62. Alexander Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 77, fam. 73. Charles Louis Randol death certificate, no. 58-043473 (1958), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Vital Records, Jefferson City.

63. Randol-Johnson marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book G:31; and Randol-Sides marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book N:585; both at Cape Girardeau County Archive Center.

64. Rhoda Cravens death certificate, no. 5020 (1919); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

65. Jefferson Williams household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 16, dwell. 138, fam. 147.

66. Cravens-James marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book G:36.

4. **Richard “Dick”<sup>2</sup> Randol** (possibly Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born 1818–19, probably in Cape Girardeau County<sup>67</sup> and died there 4 May 1895.<sup>68</sup> Apparently a Randol slave by 1830, Dick was in the right place at the right time to have been Suzanne’s son, but no known evidence identifies his parents or links him to Suzanne’s known descendants. His wife, **Mary Francis (née [—?—]) Randol**, was born 1835–36.<sup>69</sup>

Richard and his family lived probably in one of the two slave houses on the Randol property.<sup>70</sup> On 18 August 1862 “Dick” purchased a calf for sixty cents and a large stack of oats for \$14.55 from the estate of his deceased “master,” Jeremiah Randol. On 21 August 1862—what must have been a bleak day for Richard and his family—his wife and children were parceled out to two of Jeremiah’s descendants.<sup>71</sup> Richard, as Jeremiah’s will stipulated, remained property of Mary Randol (Jeremiah’s widow).

In 1876 Dick served as a trustee of St. James African Methodist Episcopal [AME] Church.<sup>72</sup> Founded in 1863, it is the oldest black church in Cape Girardeau County and a historical monument.<sup>73</sup>

Dick and Mary Francis Randol apparently had six children, born probably in Cape Girardeau County:<sup>74</sup>

9. i. EDWARD<sup>3</sup> RANDOL, born 1853–54; died probably between 1891 and the 1900 census. Edward married (1) Hannah Renfro 27 May, 1880 in Cape Girardeau. Hannah apparently died and Edward married (2) Rosa Carrol

67. Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824.

68. Richard Randol death notice, *Cape Girardeau Democrat*, Cape Girardeau, 5 May 1895, page 5, col. 3.

69. In Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824, she appears as “Francis.” In 1870 she was enumerated as “Mary F.” and in 1880 as “Mary A.” See Richard Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 43, dwell. 349, fam., 345; NA microfilm M593, roll 765. Also, Richard Randol household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 14, dwell. 123, fam., 131.

70. Jeremiah Randol household, 1860 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., slave sch., Cape Girardeau and Randol Twp., p. 11.

71. Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824.

72. “Mechanic’s lien” against Richard Randol and the seven other trustees of St. James AME Church, 17 April 1876, case 804, Court of Common Pleas, Cape Girardeau Archive Center. A contractor placed a lien against the church to cover payment for building materials.

73. “St. James African Methodist Church (Saved),” *Southeast Missourian* (<http://www.semmissourian.com/landmarks/st-james-ame>).

74. Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824; Richard Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 43, dwell. 349, fam. 345; and Richard Randol household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 14, dwell. 123, fam., 131.

on 4 April 1891.<sup>75</sup> In 1900 Edward and Hannah's children lived with Rosa.<sup>76</sup>

10. ii. HENRY RANDOL, born 1855–56; living in 1880.
11. iii. MATILDA RANDOL, born 1860–61; living in 1880.
12. iv. FREDERICK DOUGLAS RANDOL, born about January 1862; living in 1880.
13. v. JAMES MILTON TURNER RANDALL (née RANDOL), born in November 1866; living in 1930.<sup>77</sup> Turner married on 27 October 1892, in Grand Tower, Jackson County, Illinois, Mary J. Clark.<sup>78</sup>
14. vi. NELLIE RANDOL, born 1867–68.

### Generation Three

5. **Robert “Bob”<sup>3</sup> Randol** (Betsy<sup>2</sup>, Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born about 1830 in Cape Girardeau.<sup>79</sup> He died there on 13 October 1882.<sup>80</sup> Rev. E. O'Brien, Chaplain of the 17th Illinois Cavalry, garrisoned in Cape Girardeau, solemnized Bob's marriage to **Maria Thomas** or **Smarr** on 17 July 1865.<sup>81</sup>

Maria's surname on her marriage record is Thomas, but it is Smarr on her son Samuel's death certificate.<sup>82</sup> The difference suggests Maria chose to associate her name with a former owner or with her biological family.<sup>83</sup>

Maria belonged to the Union and Excelsior Courts, branches of a Masonic order, and St. James AME Church. Her funeral was held there after her death on 7 September 1906.<sup>84</sup>

75. Randol-Renfro marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Record of Marriage D:475, Recorder of Deeds, Jackson, Mo.; FHL microfilm 0,925,662. Randol-Carroll marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Record of Marriages F:501; FHL microfilm 0,925,663. No record of the dissolution of the marriage between Edward and Hannah has been found, which suggests Hannah died before Edward married Rosa.

76. Rosa Randal household, 1900 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 2, ED 26, sheet 11B, dwell. 246, fam. 265; NA microfilm T623, roll 845.

77. Turner Randalls household, 1930 U.S. census, Jackson Co. Ill., pop. sch., Grand Tower Township, ED 39-18, sheet 10A, dwell. 232, fam. 235; NA microfilm T626, roll 520.

78. Randall-Clark marriage record, Jackson Co. Marriage Register D, County Clerk, Murphysboro, Ill.; FHL microfilm 0,968,928.

79. Jeremiah Randol estate inventory (1862), Cape Girardeau Co. probate file box 41, bundle 824, shows Bob as thirty-two years old. Also, Jeremiah Randol household, 1860 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., slave sch., p. 11.

80. Robert Randol entry, Cape Girardeau Mortuary Records, no. 30.

81. Randol-Thomas marriage record, 19 July 1865, Missouri Monthly Reports of Marriages, pp. 60–61, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

82. Samuel Randol death certificate, no. 11653 (1921); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

83. For a discussion of slave surname-selection practices, see DeWitt S. Dykes Jr., “Slave Naming Practices,” in Paula K. Byers, ed., *African American Genealogical Sourcebook* (Detroit: Gale Research, 1995), 11–12.

84. Maria Randol obituary, *Daily Republican*, Cape Girardeau, 7 September 1906, page 2, col. 2.

Like his Uncle Alexander, Robert adjusted to freedom. On 31 March 1865 he purchased land.<sup>85</sup> Three years after emancipation, he raised wheat and corn to support his family, and he owned two horses, a mule, and two head of cattle.<sup>86</sup>

Robert and Maria Randol had eight children born in Cape Girardeau:

15. i. SARAH A.<sup>4</sup> RANDOL, born 1851–58; died probably by 1870.<sup>87</sup> Perhaps she died in the yellow fever epidemic that ravaged Cape Girardeau between 1870 and 1873.<sup>88</sup>
16. ii. LOUISIANA “ANNA” RANDOL, born about 1856; died probably 1870–80.<sup>89</sup> Louisiana may also have died of yellow fever.
- + 17. iii. SAMUEL RANDOL, born 2 April 1860; died 13 May 1921 in Cape Girardeau;<sup>90</sup> married on June 1880, in Cape Girardeau, Sidney Williams.<sup>91</sup>
18. iv. WILLIAM R. “WILLIE” RANDOL, born 1865–66;<sup>92</sup> married on 22 July 1896 Minnie Bell Penny.<sup>93</sup> In 1900 the couple shared their home with Minnie’s sisters, fourteen-year-old Margaret and twelve-year-old Julia.<sup>94</sup> Census and death records reveal no death dates or places for William or Minnie. No evidence suggests they moved to another state. They may have succumbed to the Cape Girardeau typhoid epidemic in October 1901.<sup>95</sup>
19. v. JAMES RANDOL, born 1867–68; died perhaps by 1880.<sup>96</sup>

85. Filburn-Randol deed, Cape Girardeau Co. Deed Book B:286, Recorder of Deeds, Jackson, Mo.

86. Robert Randol household, 1868 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Twp. 30, unpaginated, hand-counted p. 71.

87. Ibid. Sarah was reported between ages of ten and seventeen. She does not appear with her family on any subsequent census.

88. Felix Eugene Snider and Earl Augustus Collins, *Cape Girardeau: Biography of a City* (Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1956), 157.

89. Robert Randol household, 1868 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Twp. 30, unpaginated, hand-counted p. 71. Louisiana’s age is between ten and seventeen. Robert Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 79, fam. 75. Louisiana is listed as fourteen years old and called “Anna.” Louisiana “Anna” is not named in Robert Randall household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 9, dwell. 77, fam. 81.

90. Samuel Randol death certificate, no. 11653 (1921); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

91. Randol-Williams marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book D:478.

92. Robert Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 79, fam. 75. William is listed as four-year-old Willie.

93. Randol-Penny marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book G:475.

94. William Randol household, 1900 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 4, ED 26, sheet 223B, dwell. 442, fam. 515.

95. “Cape Girardeau County: County Board of Health,” in *Annual Report of State Board of Health, Missouri* (Jefferson City, Mo.: Tribune Publishing Co., 1901), 51.

96. Robert Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 79, fam. 75; and 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, sheet 266A, dwell. 77, fam. 81.

20. vi. MARIETTA RANDOL, born 1870–76; living in 1876; died perhaps by 1880.<sup>97</sup>
21. vii. MARTHA RANDOL, born 1870–71; living in 1876; died perhaps by 1880.<sup>98</sup>
22. viii. CLARA RANDOL, born circa 1878–79; living in 1880.<sup>99</sup>

7. **Charles Louis<sup>3</sup> Randol** (Alexander<sup>2</sup>, Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born 1867–68 in Cape Girardeau and died there on 27 December 1958.<sup>100</sup> He married (1) **Sarah Anna “Annie” Johnson** on 16 April 1892 at her parents’ home.<sup>101</sup> She deserted Charles Louis and their two sons on 29 March 1908.<sup>102</sup> She subsequently moved to St. Louis and lived in a rooming house, supporting herself as a maid.<sup>103</sup> Charles Louis raised his sons with his mother’s help.<sup>104</sup> On 10 November 1917, after his sons reached adulthood, Charles’s uncontested petition for divorce was granted.<sup>105</sup> He married (2) **Mabel Lucille Sides** on 11 August 1923.<sup>106</sup> She died in Sikeston, Missouri, on 20 April 1975.<sup>107</sup>

In 1887 Missouri required districts with more than fifteen “Negro” children to establish a school for them. Residents of districts with fewer than fifteen such children had to attend school elsewhere.<sup>108</sup> Similar “Jim Crow” laws that promoted segregation restricted Charles Louis and his family throughout their

97. Marietta Randol entry, 1876 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Cape Girardeau Twp., p. 454. Marietta reportedly was under ten years old. The document does not delineate families. She is not included on the 1868 Cape Girardeau Co. census. Nor is she included on the 1870 or 1880 federal censuses of Cape Girardeau Co. The possibility of her living with someone other than her parents was explored with negative results.

98. Martha Randol entry, 1876 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Cape Girardeau Twp., p. 454.

99. Robert Randoll household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 9, dwell. 77, fam. 81.

100. Alexander Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 77, fam. 73. Charles Louis Randol death certificate, no. 58-043473 (1958), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

101. Randol-Johnson marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book G:31.

102. Charles Randol petition for divorce, 10 November 1917, Randol v. Randol papers, Cape Girardeau Court of Common Pleas, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center.

103. Frank Marchbanks household, 1910 U.S. census, St. Louis (indep. city), Mo., pop. sch., ED 93, sheet 7A, dwell. 110, fam. 114; NA microfilm T624, roll 813.

104. Louise Randol household, 1910 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, ED 292, sheet 10B, dwell. 198, fam. 231; NA microfilm T624, roll 774. Charles Louis’s sons, Ernest and Oscar, are members of their paternal grandmother’s household. Charles Louis is in the same dwelling.

105. Charles Randol petition for divorce, 10 November 1917, Randol v. Randol papers, Cape Girardeau Co. Court of Common Pleas.

106. Randol-Sides marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book N:585.

107. Mabel Randol obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 21 April 1975, page 4, col. 2.

108. “Jim Crow Laws: Missouri,” *The History of Jim Crow* (<http://www.jimcrowhistory.org/scripts/jimcrow/insidesouth.cgi?state=Missouri>).

lives.<sup>109</sup> The term “Jim Crow” evolved from a character in a song and refers to laws and customs oppressing people of African descent.<sup>110</sup>

In 1930 Charles Louis and Mabel lived in Cape Girardeau next to the household of James Randol, his second cousin once removed, at 420 and 422 North Street, respectively, land that Robert<sup>3</sup> Randol had purchased in 1865.<sup>111</sup>

Charles Louis and Anna Randol had two children born in Cape Girardeau:

23. i. ERNEST<sup>4</sup> RANDOL, born 29 July 1892;<sup>112</sup> died January 1921 in St. Louis.<sup>113</sup> On 25 December 1916 he married Sarah J. Criddle, daughter of Bern and Harriet (née Elim) Criddle.<sup>114</sup> On 24 December Bern Criddle had signed a consent for his seventeen-year-old daughter to marry.<sup>115</sup> Sarah was the sister of Arie Bern Criddle, Ernest’s coworker at the American Steel Company in East St. Louis, Illinois, where the couple lived.<sup>116</sup>
- + 24. ii. OSCAR RANDOL, born 14 December 1894; died 11 May 1932 in Cape Girardeau.<sup>117</sup> Oscar fathered a child with Helen Johnson, but they apparently never married.<sup>118</sup>

Charles Louis Randol had a stepdaughter born to Mabel Lucille Sides and an unidentified man:

- + 25. EDITH MARTIN<sup>4</sup>, born 6 November 1909 in Allenville, Missouri; died 4 January 1979 in Carbondale, Illinois.<sup>119</sup>

109. Missouri State Archives, “Progress Amidst Prejudice: Portraits of African Americans in Missouri, 1880–1920; Introduction to the Collection,” *Missouri Secretary of State* (<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/education/aapc/intro.asp>).

110. Jan Biles, “The Original Jim Crow,” *Topeka Capital-Journal*, Topeka, Kans., 16 May 2004; *Topeka Capital-Journal, CJOnline* (<http://www.ferris.edu/jimcrow/links/newslst/original.htm>).

111. 1930 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, ED 16-9, sheet 7A, dwell. 131, fam. 140 (Charles L. Randol household) and sheet 7B, dwell. 132, fam. 142 (James E. Randol household); NA microfilm T626, roll 1180. For the land purchase, see Filburn-Randol deed, Cape Girardeau Co. Deed Book B:286, Recorder of Deeds, Jackson, Mo.

112. Ernest Randol World War I draft registration card, draft board 1, East St. Louis, St. Clair Co., Ill.; NA microfilm M1509, roll IL258; digital image, “World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918,” *Ancestry.com*.

113. Earnest A. Randell death certificate, no. 2717 (1921); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

114. Criddle-Elim marriage record, 26 August 1865, Missouri Monthly Reports of Marriages, pp. 62–63, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

115. Randol-Criddle marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book H:86.

116. Bern Criddle household, 1920 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Apple Creek Twp., ED 14, sheet 5B, dwell. 92, fam. 93; NA microfilm, T623, roll 845. For the American Steel Company, see Arie Bern Criddle and Ernest Randol World War I draft registration cards, draft board 1, East St. Louis, Ill.; NA microfilm M1509, rolls IL257–58.

117. For his birth date, see Oscar D. Randal World War I draft registration card, draft board 17, St. Louis Co., St. Louis, Mo.; NA microfilm M1509, roll MO104; digital image, *Ancestry.com*. Oscar D. Randol death certificate, no. 15496 (1932); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

118. William Randol death certificate, no. 30613 (1916); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

119. Edith Martin obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 5 January 1979, page 4, col. 4.

8. Rhoda “Rodi”<sup>3</sup> James (stepdaughter of Alexander<sup>2</sup> Randol, Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born in Cape Girardeau 10 November 1851 and died there 25 February 1919.<sup>120</sup> Enslaved until she was thirteen years old, Rhoda bore children fathered by Jefferson Williams.<sup>121</sup> She married William Cravens on 28 September 1892 in Cape Girardeau.<sup>122</sup>

The surname James appears on Rhoda’s marriage license. The father’s name on her death certificate is Jim James.<sup>123</sup> Except for 1900, censuses consistently report Rhoda’s race as mulatto.<sup>124</sup> (Instructions to enumerators for 1900 do not mention mulatto as a race designation.)<sup>125</sup> James M. James, a thirty-four-year-old white farmer, married with a one-month-old daughter in 1860, may have been her father.<sup>126</sup>

To the apparent offspring of a white man and a slave of African descent, an 1866 Missouri statute prohibiting marriage between whites and blacks might have seemed absurd. In 1879 the Missouri law prohibiting miscegenation was expanded to forbid marriage between persons with at least one eighth Negro blood and whites. Based on appearance, juries determined the amount of Negro blood.<sup>127</sup>

Rhoda James and Jefferson Williams had four children born probably in Cape Girardeau County:

26. i. ANNA<sup>3</sup> WILLIAMS, born about 1869. In 1870 one-year-old Anna and her mother lived in the household of Rhoda’s stepfather, Alexander Randol.<sup>128</sup>

120. Rhoda Cravens death certificate, no. 5020 (1919); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

121. Jefferson Williams household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 16, dwell. 138, fam. 147.

122. Craven-James marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book G:26.

123. Rhoda Cravens death certificate, no. 5020 (1919); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

124. William Cravens household, 1900 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 2, ED 12, sheet 7A, dwell. 138, fam. 149. William Jefferson household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 16, dwell. 138, fam. 14. Alexander Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 73, fam. 77.

125. Bureau of the Census, *Measuring America: The Decennial Censuses From 1790 to 2000*. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2002), 36.

126. James M. James household, 1860 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau Twp., p. 200, dwell. 568, fam. 568.

127. Ronald L. F. Davis, “Creating Jim Crow,” *The History of Jim Crow* (<http://www.jimcrowshistory.org/history/creating.htm>).

128. Alexander Randol household, 1870 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, p. 11, dwell. 73, fam. 77. Jefferson Williams is not listed with or near Alexander Randol.

- In 1876 Anna lived with her parents, Rhoda and Jefferson Williams.<sup>129</sup> In 1880 she was called Laura.<sup>130</sup>
27. ii. LEONA WILLIAMS, born 2 February 1869; died 10 August 1948.<sup>131</sup> She taught at John S. Cobb School and Lincoln School, both “colored” schools.<sup>132</sup> Never marrying, Leona lived her entire life in Cape Girardeau.<sup>133</sup> Until 1947 the St. Louis Board of Education did not allow married females to teach.<sup>134</sup> Perhaps a similar policy in Cape Girardeau precluded Leona’s marrying. Leona and her colleagues at John S. Cobb School earned monthly salaries of sixty to eighty-five dollars, while teachers at white schools received eighty-five to one hundred fourteen dollars per month.<sup>135</sup>
28. iii. FLORENCE WILLIAMS, born about 1876.<sup>136</sup>
29. iv. CHARLES A. WILLIAMS, born 9 December 1882; died of pulmonary tuberculosis on 29 November 1917; unmarried.<sup>137</sup> No known source suggests he married or had children.

#### Generation Four

**17. Samuel<sup>4</sup> Randol** (Robert<sup>3</sup>, Betsy<sup>2</sup>, Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born 2 April 1860 in Cape Girardeau and died there on 13 May 1921.<sup>138</sup> On 10 June 1880 he married **Sidney Williams**,<sup>139</sup> a daughter of Bartley Williams and Agnes Jane (née Miller) Williams.<sup>140</sup>

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129. Anna Williams entry, 1876 Cape Girardeau Co. census, pop. sch., Cape Girardeau Twp., p. 454. Anna is listed under her parents.

130. Jefferson Williams household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 16, dwell. 138, fam. 147.

131. Leona Williams death certificate, no. 25685 (1948); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

132. Leona Williams entry, list of teachers assigned to the John S. Cobb School, in List of Teachers’ Salaries, Minutes of Meeting on 29 May 1934, p. 85, Board of Education, Cape Girardeau. Rhoda’s daughter reportedly taught also at Lincoln School. See Rhoda Cravens obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 26 February 1919, page 7, col. 7.

133. Leona Williams death certificate, no. 25685 (1948); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

134. American Federation of Teachers, “Married Teachers, 1939–1940,” box 8, folder 32, Paul W. Preisler papers, collection SL 498, Western Historical Manuscript Collection, University of Missouri, St. Louis.

135. List of Teachers’ Salaries, Minutes of Meeting on 29 May 1934, p. 85, Board of Education, Cape Girardeau, Mo.

136. Jefferson Williams household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 16, dwell. 138, fam. 147.

137. Charles A. Williams death certificate, no. 40190 (1917); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

138. Samuel Randol death certificate, no. 11653 (1921); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

139. Randol-William marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book D:478.

140. Williams-Miller marriage record, 5 August 1865, Missouri Monthly Reports of Marriages, pp. 62–63, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. For Sidney’s parents, see Bartley Williams household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Dist. No. 23, Byrd Twp., ED 23, p. 11, dwell. 94, fam. 100.

Samuel and Sidney, both former slaves, lived their entire lives in Cape Girardeau. Samuel supported his family by delivering coal. He reportedly was a “well known ice dealer by both black and white residents throughout the city. Randol was among the better colored citizens of Cape Girardeau and stood high both among the people of his race as well as among white citizens.”<sup>141</sup> In June 1905 Samuel and Sidney celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. They renewed vows and held a party at their home, described as the season’s “biggest event in colored society.” “Fine presents” included those from “many of the honorees’ white friends.”<sup>142</sup>

Samuel belonged to St. James AME Church and the Colored Masonic Lodge.<sup>143</sup> Black fraternal organizations strongly advocated self-reliance.<sup>144</sup>

Sidney supplemented the family income by working as a cook in a cafe at a shoe factory.<sup>145</sup> She died on 8 January 1926 of heart failure.<sup>146</sup> Sidney belonged to St. Vincent’s Roman Catholic Church, where her funeral was held after a service at home on 13 January 1926.<sup>147</sup>

Samuel and Sidney Randol had four children born in Cape Girardeau:

30. i. WILLIAM MADISON<sup>5</sup> RANDOL, born 6 April 1881.<sup>148</sup> In 1920 his wife was Rose, but no marriage record has been found. The couple lived two doors from William’s sister, Ercie, and her husband, Walter Montjoy.<sup>149</sup> Walter may have employed William as a farm laborer as he did his brother James Ellsworth Randol.<sup>150</sup> Before 1920 William worked for the International Shoe Factory in Cape Girardeau.<sup>151</sup> By 1942 he was a “helpless invalid” living in Middleburg, Virginia.<sup>152</sup> Nothing further is known.

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141. Samuel Randol obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 13 May 1921, page 1, col. 3.

142. “Randol Silver Anniversary Celebration,” *Daily Republican*, Cape Girardeau, 13 June 1905, page 4, col. 3.

143. Samuel Randol obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 13 May 1921, page 1, col. 3.

144. Gary R. Kremer, *James Milton Turner and the Promise of America* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1991), 174.

145. Sidney Randol obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 8 January 1926, page 8, col. 2. Samuel Randol household, 1920 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, ED 12, sheet 10A, dwell. 190, fam. 240.

146. Sidney A. Randal death certificate, no. 400 (1926); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

147. Sidney Randol obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 8 January 1926, page 8, col. 2.

148. William Madison Randol, World War I draft registration card, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo.; NA microfilm 1509, roll MO11; digital image, *Ancestry.com*.

149. William Randol household, 1920 U.S. census, Mississippi Co., Mo., pop. sch., James Bayou Twp., ED 106, sheet 7B, dwell. 140, fam. 141; NA microfilm T625, roll 932.

150. James Ellsworth Randol World War I draft registration card, Mississippi Co., Mo.; NA microfilm M1509, roll MO62; digital image, *Ancestry.com*. The card identifies Walter Montjoy as William’s employer.

151. William Madison Randol World War I draft registration card, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo.

152. William Randol card, World War II Draft Cards (Fourth Registration) for the State of Virginia; FHL microfilm 2,370,463.

31. ii. JAMES ELLSWORTH RANDOL, born 11 June 1882;<sup>153</sup> died in Cape Girardeau 19 August 1950.<sup>154</sup> He married (1) 23 August 1912, in Cape Girardeau, Gertrude Fulenwider<sup>155</sup> and (2), 9 October 1920, in Charleston, Missouri, Mattie Gray.<sup>156</sup> A record of the dissolution of the first marriage has not been found. James was a farm hand for his brother-in-law Walter Montjoy in Medley, Missouri.<sup>157</sup> Between 1920 and 1930 James returned to Cape Girardeau where he worked at odd jobs including as porter for a bus company.<sup>158</sup> Montjoy's relocating to St. Louis may have prompted James's return to his hometown.
32. iii. ERCIE RANDOL, born 19 January 1884; died of pneumonia 20 March 1925 in St. Louis.<sup>159</sup> Erchie married (1), 14 April 1909, Sidney Rowan, a son of Henry Rowan Sr. and Annie Harrell.<sup>160</sup> The marriage ended tragically on 27 May 1910 when Sidney shot himself.<sup>161</sup> Before going upstairs at home where he fired the fatal shot Sidney asked Erchie to tell his employer he was ill and would not return to work after dinner. He reportedly was despondent for several weeks before the suicide. He carried a three-hundred-dollar insurance policy with the Knights of Pythias, a benevolent organization with several thousand Missouri Negro members.<sup>162</sup> Erchie married (2) Walter Montjoy on 23 November 1912 in Charleston, Missouri.<sup>163</sup> They shared their home with Erchie's maternal grandmother, Jane Williams, and maternal aunt, Marjorie Morgan.<sup>164</sup> Erchie's brother James worked for

153. James Ellsworth Randol World War I Draft Registration Card, Mississippi Co., Mo.

154. James Randol death certificate, no. 26247 (1950); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

155. Randol-Fulenwider marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book L:19.

156. Randol-Gray marriage record, Mississippi Co. Marriage Book 14:373, Courthouse, Charleston, Mo.; FHL microfilm 0,925,722.

157. James Ellsworth Randol World War I Draft Registration Card, Mississippi Co., Mo.

158. James E. Randol household, 1930 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, ED 19-9, sheet 7B, dwell. 132, fam. 142. Marjorie Morgan household, 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis (indep. city), Mo., pop. sch., Ward 20, ED 96-72, sheet 14B, dwell. 198, fam. 315; NA microfilm T626, roll 1238. Marjorie Morgan, aunt of Walter Montjoy's deceased wife, Erchie, shared her living quarters with Walter and his two teenaged children.

159. Erchie Montjoy death certificate, no. 9990 (1925); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

160. Randol-Rowen marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book J:385. For Sidney's parents, see Henry Rowan household, 1880 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, ED 32, p. 4, dwell./fam. 31. Also, Sidney Rowan death certificate, no. 12476 (1910); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

161. Sidney Rowan death certificate, no. 12476 (1910); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

162. Sidney Rowan obituary, *Daily Republican*, Cape Girardeau, 27 May 1910, page 1, col. 3. For Knights of Pythias, see Arthur Mastick Hyde Papers, Western Historical Manuscript Collection-Columbia.

163. Montjoy-Rowan marriage record, Mississippi Co. Marriage Book 11:73, Courthouse, Charleston, Mo.; FHL microfilm 0,925,722.

164. Walter L. Montjoy household, 1920 U.S. census, Mississippi Co., Mo., pop. sch., James Bayou Twp., ED 106, sheet 7B, dwell. 138, fam. 139.

- Walter, a self-employed farmer.<sup>165</sup> Between 1920 and 1925 Ercie, Walter, and their family moved to St. Louis, where Walter worked as a porter.<sup>166</sup>
33. iv. HERBERT SAMUEL RANDOL, born 27 June 1885;<sup>167</sup> died 11 July 1930 in Cape Girardeau.<sup>168</sup> On 17 November 1917 he married Eva Louise Gray, sister of his brother James's future wife Mattie Gray.<sup>169</sup> Herbert worked in a St. Louis laundry<sup>170</sup> and as a cook in Cairo, Illinois<sup>171</sup> and Cape Girardeau.<sup>172</sup> Cape Girardeau's racial climate during Herbert's lifetime shows in a newspaper advertisement for a Ku Klux Klan lecture by the "Hon. Zack Harris" at the city's Baptist Church Tabernacle. The notice includes the church's disclaimer of support for the lecture.<sup>173</sup>

**24. Oscar<sup>4</sup> Randol** (Charles Louis<sup>3</sup>, Alexander<sup>2</sup>, Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born 14 December 1893 in Cape Girardeau<sup>174</sup> and died there 11 May 1932.<sup>175</sup> He fathered a child with **Helen Johnson**, of Cape Girardeau.<sup>176</sup>

Oscar held various jobs including "chipper" in the American Steel Foundry in East St. Louis, Illinois.<sup>177</sup> In 1920 he was a farm laborer in Randol Township, in Cape Girardeau County.<sup>178</sup> In 1930 he lived in St. Louis with his mother, Anna, and his stepfather, Charles Hockett.<sup>179</sup> Perhaps he left Cape Girardeau for better employment opportunities. At his death Oscar worked in a Cape Girardeau laundry.<sup>180</sup>

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165. James Ellsworth Randol World War I Draft Registration Card, Mississippi Co., Mo.

166. Marjorie Morgan household, 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis (indep. city), Mo., pop. sch., Ward 20, ED 96-72, sheet 14B, dwell. 198, fam. 315.

167. Herbert Randol, World War I draft registration card, Alexander Co., Ill.

168. Herbert Randol death certificate, no. 22170 (1930); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

169. Randol-Gray marriage record, Mississippi Co. Marriage Book 13:104; FHL microfilm 1,977,444. For the Grays, see Van H. Gray household, 1910 U.S. census, Mississippi Co., Mo., pop. sch., James Bayou Twp., ED 95, sheet 6B, dwell./fam. 104; NA microfilm T624, roll 799. Eva and Mattie were daughters of Van Gray.

170. Samuel Thompson household, 1910 U.S. census, St. Louis (indep. city), Mo., pop. sch., Ward 19, ED 320, sheet 13B, dwell. 187, fam. 277; NA microfilm T624, roll 820. Herbert boarded in the Thompson household.

171. Herbert Randol, World War I draft registration card, Alexander Co., Ill.

172. Herbert Randol death certificate, no. 22170 (1930); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

173. Advertisement, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 18 June 1923, page 3, col. 3.

174. Oscar D. Randal World War I draft registration card, draft board 17, St. Louis, Mo.

175. Oscar Randol death certificate, no. 15496 (1932); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

176. William Randol death certificate, no. 30613 (1916); digital image, Missouri State Archives. William's mother, the informant, identified Oscar Randol as William's father.

177. Oscar D. Randal World War I draft registration card, draft board 17, St. Louis, Mo.

178. Fred Butterworth household, 1920 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Randol Twp., ED 33, sheet 5B, dwell. 101, fam. 102. Oscar boarded in the Butterworth household.

179. Charles Hockett household, 1930 U.S. census, St. Louis (indep. city), Mo., pop. sch., Ward 19, ED 531, sheet 11B, dwell. 126, fam. 203; NA microfilm T626, roll 1243.

180. Oscar Randol death certificate, no. 15496 (1932); digital image, Missouri State Archives.

Oscar Randol had only one known child:

34. i. WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> RANDOL, born 14 January 1916 in Cape Girardeau; died there at his mother's home on 21 September 1916 of colitis.<sup>181</sup>

**25. Edith<sup>4</sup>Martin** (stepchild of Charles Louis<sup>3</sup> Randol, Alexander<sup>2</sup>, Suzanne<sup>1</sup>) was born in Allenville, Missouri, about November 1910 to Mabel Lucille Sides. She died 5 January 1979 in a nursing home in Carbondale, Illinois. She belonged to St. James AME Church in Cape Girardeau.<sup>182</sup> Edith, for whom no evidence of marriage is known, bore two children:

35. i. VIRGINIA<sup>3</sup> MCGEE, born about 1925 in Missouri.<sup>183</sup> Marriage and death records provide no further information.
36. ii. LILLIAN MCGEE, born 22 June 1928 in Cape Girardeau;<sup>184</sup> died there 10 September 1981;<sup>185</sup> married, on 24 May 1956, John La Joie.<sup>186</sup>

#### CONCLUSION

Casting a wide net for records created by Jeremiah Randol and his forebears yielded a prize catch—a slave bill of sale and a record of facts surrounding his father's death. Those documents provided keys to the family of a young enslaved woman named Suzanne. Records reconstructed the life of the child sold to Samuel Randol in 1801.

Until their emancipation on 11 January 1865, enslaved persons in Missouri could be bought, sold, willed, inherited, hired out, and seized for debt.<sup>187</sup> “Despite the great difficulty that slave families had establishing and maintaining themselves in a system that neither respected nor valued their relationships with one another, enslaved Africans established the foundations of family life.”<sup>188</sup> Suzanne's descendants maintained a strong sense of family. For several decades they lived near one another in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and shared living quarters with extended family members. Some who found employment in neighboring towns and cities returned home to die among family members.

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181. William Randol death certificate, no. 30613 (1916); digital image, Missouri State Archives. William Randol obituary, *Daily Republican*, Cape Girardeau, 22 September 1916, page 3, col. 4.

182. Edith Martin obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, 5 January 1975, page 2, col. 5.

183. Charles L. Randol household, 1930 U.S. census, Cape Girardeau Co., Mo., pop. sch., Cape Girardeau, Ward 1, ED 16-9, sheet 7B, dwell. 132, fam. 142.

184. LaJoie-McGee marriage license application, 10 May 1956, Cape Girardeau County Archive Center.

185. Lillian La Joie obituary, *Southeast Missourian*, Cape Girardeau, page 4, col. 2.

186. LaJoie-McGee marriage record, Cape Girardeau Co. Marriage Book 32:629.

187. Missouri State Archives, “Black Marriage Records, 1865,” *Missouri Secretary of State* (<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/education/teaching/modocs41.asp> : accessed 20 August 2002.)

188. Howard Dodson et al., *Jubilee*, 114.