

Grandfather

Simon S. Saucerman II 1903-1951

A Biography Prepared by Stephen S. Saucerman 3-20-2019

A NOTE AND REQUEST BEFORE WE START: I need to address and at the same time admit to some shortcoming regarding this biography on Grandfather Simon S. Saucerman II. As you know, I've worked up bios on the Saucerman male line previously and I can say I've always been satisfied with the amount/quality of historical information available from which to work. It was also the case that as I went back further in time, the more difficult it became to find written and reliable data on my subjects. This was frustrating, but of course, made sense.

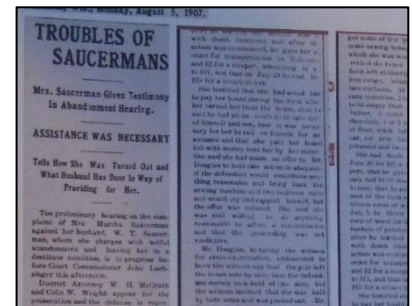
So, having saved Grandfather Simon for last, I'd been supposing all along that – being more recent history – there would be plentiful information chronicling his life. Surprisingly, this wasn't the case. Using all my resources (which were abundant), I only could manage less than 40 entries regarding Grandpa Simon (compared with the over-150 pieces I'd gathered for Simon Senior, circa 1845). I found this strange and even a little unsettling.

It also left me from a more pragmatic standpoint with questions about him that were never answered. For instance, in ALL the information gathered, I never did – not ONCE – come across 1) his exact date of birth ... only the year, 2) an actual obituary of his death (there were several newspaper articles about his crash itself, but no official obituary that I could find), 3) ANY photo of him at all, 4) a photo of his gravestone and lastly, 5) any information regarding the fate of his substantial inheritance (*see full story below).

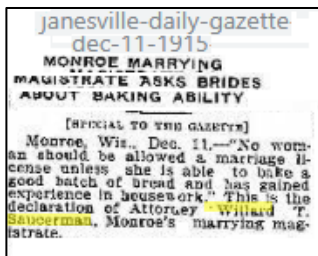
These are questions and omissions I would have liked to address. That not being the case, I'm left a little unsatisfied with this work. Still, I know there's a lot more out there, so I'd like to ask any of you reading this - whether you be family, friend or acquaintance – to please share with me any information you have regarding the life of Simon Sullivan Saucerman (1903-1951), so I might fill in the blanks and render as complete a biography as possible. My email address is stephensaucerman@gmail.com and thank you very

Simon Sullivan Saucerman II was born in 1903 to Willard T. and Jennie Sullivan Saucerman in Cadiz Township, Green County, WI. Tragically, only 3 years later, on April 6, 1906, Simon's mother Jennie died after attempting to give birth to a new brother for Simon. The baby boy died also. Just 8 months later, Simon's dad Willard (on December 8, 1906) married Martha G. House, a local dressmaker. Simon had a new mother.

Less than 7 months after the new marriage, on July 16, 1907, Simon's dad Willard (who is also an attorney and justice of the peace) is arrested and charged with the abandonment and non-support of Martha. Martha claimed in court that she was physically pushed out of the house by Simon's father and told not to return. She went on to tell the court that the event left her homeless, penniless and in a destitute situation (*Note: it never does specifically say which parent had possession of 4-year old Simon at the time, but through inference, it appears Simon was with his father Willard while all this was going on). From multiple witness testimonies, Simon's father Willard comes out of the trial looking quite bad (*see my biography on Willard T. Saucerman) and in the end was forced to pay damages to Martha. There was apparently no jail time attached.



Willard and Martha divorced a short time later [need exact date]. Simon remained with his father and all the while, Simon's father apparently still performing his regular duties as Justice/Judge (which must have been awkward). By the time Simon turns 8 years old, his father also gains further (some might say 'nefarious') notoriety, becoming known as the 'Marrying Magistrate' in that he began refusing to marry a couple until the lady could prove that she could make bread and keep a proper house (yeah, you read that right). Even in 1911, this point of view was considered



a bit much and – coupled with the trial over Martha – one can arguably wonder what effect the father’s image and infamy may have had on his young son, Simon. But life goes on.

In Simon’s 12 year, there is a large fire in their home and the family – blocked off from the stairway by flames – only escapes after a neighbor comes to their rescue by leaning a ladder up against a second story window. At 14, Simon wins \$5 for the best martin colony house in the local Woman’s Club birdhouse contest. In 1921, he graduates from high school and he next time we catch up with Simon in the historical records, it is reported in the Monroe Evening News that the now 25-year-old Simon has received 12 write-in votes for Justice of the Peace in Monroe. He was last place. His father Willard was second with 119 votes but was soundly beaten by the first-place candidate, who garnered 169 votes. This was in the year 1928.

On March 24th, 1929, Simon II marries Mildred Capparelli in New Rochelle, NY and a year and a half later, on October 25th, 1930, they have a son, Simon Saucerman II (my father) in Newburgh, NY. The next year, a directory listing describes Simon as ‘a salesman living in New Newburgh, NY, married to Mildred Saucerman’ and in this same year, 1931, Simon joins the National Guard, Battery E, 156th Artillery Unit, New York State. The following year, 1932, Simon’s dad Willard dies. He is buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Monroe, WI. And this is when things started to get really interesting ...

Simon Saucerman (Senior’s) Will

Here is the story exactly as it appeared in the March 11, 1933 Wisconsin State Journal:

IT TOOK 22 YEARS, BUT HE FINALLY GETS SHARE OF \$162,000 ESTATE

Monroe – Simon S. Saucerman (II), a Monroe electrician, is about to receive property that was willed to him in 1916, when his Grandfather Simon Saucerman (Senior), a wealthy retired farmer, died here. The story of how Saucerman had to wait 22 years before finally getting what was bequeathed to him by his grandfather came to light this week when a settlement was made out of court on a claim by SAUCERMAN against the estate of his and Mrs. Minnie Saucerman-Neusus of Freeport Illinois. Mrs. Neusus was bondsman for the administrator of the grandfather’s estate. The story of the settlement - learned in talks with Simon S SAUCERMAN and his Attorney Bruce M. Blom and during examination of court records disclosed the following:

One Third of \$162,000

The grandfather bequeathed Simon 1/3 of his \$162,000 estate after certain bequests had been made. Simon’s own father, Willard T. Saucerman (who was an attorney here in Monroe for 40 years) was cut out of the will. The rest of the estate was willed to Mrs. Minnie Neusus-Saucerman of Freeport, Illinois, sister of Willard T Saucerman and Charles Saucerman. Charles was the son of Simon (Senior) and died before he did. Simon was 14 when the grandfather died. Mrs. Neusus, who was bondsman for the administrator of the estate, invested the funds in a trust set up for Simon. The latter, according to records in this case, was paid some of the income from the estate and thus received \$7000. Not in immediate need of the rest of the money bequeathed to him, Saucerman let the matter rest. He started no court action to obtain the property until 1933, when both his Father Willard T Saucerman and Mrs. Neusus-Saucerman died.

A Seven Hour Job

When his father and aunt died, Saucerman soon made claim in the county court against Mrs. Neusus’ estate for \$34,000, the sum he said was owing him under the terms of his grandfathers will. He sued Mrs. Neusus’ estate because Mrs. Neusus was the bondsman for the administrator. The claim was in the county court for five years. This week, a settlement was reached out of court by the parties involved - Simon S Saucerman, his two half-brothers Willard H SAUCERMAN of Monroe and Robert

SAUCERMAN of Madison, together with the heirs of Mrs. Neusus-Saucerman. So complicated were the matters involved, and so many were they a number, that took the attorneys seven hours to write up the compromise settlement. The parties involved indicated they were satisfied with the settlement and did not want several years of litigation. The settlement gives Simon S. Saucerman an undisclosed cash payment and distributes real estate of the Mrs. Neusus-Saucerman estate and the original Simon SAUCERMAN estate between Simon and his two half-brothers.

And there you have it. This all happened in the Spring of 1933, when Simon was 30 years old. The only thing I'll add is that – a year before in August of 1932 – Marjorie Saucerman (a granddaughter of Simon Senior) formally contested the will, claiming that Minnie Neusus-Saucerman was not of right mind when executing the will's directives. Marjorie's claim was denied and in 1934, formally dismissed. In that same year, the city directory listed Simon II as being 'employed as an engineer, living in New Rochelle, NY and married to Mildred'.

The 1940 census has Simon back in Cadiz Township, WI, living with his wife Mildred, son Simon [II] (9), son Barton (9), daughter Patricia (6) and daughter Judith (4). In 1943, when Simon was 40 years old, daughter Patricia ran away from the schoolhouse one day and hiked toward Monroe. A neighbor recognized the girl and returned her to school that day. She was reprimanded.

Exactly where Simon is living at any given time grows murky at points (it's not clear exactly when he moved from New York to WI earlier), but in 1946, a new directory lists Simon as being 'employed as an R1 Machinist living at 227 E. Dayton in Madison, WI. That same year, however, the Monroe Evening news reports that 'Simon Saucerman, employed in Beloit, spent the weekend with his family in Browntown'. Again, in 1948, a directory lists him as being 'employed as a Time Studyman and living in Beloit with his wife, Mildred'.

On January 29th, 1951, Simon's step-mom (likely the mom he knew the best), Bertha Hunt Saucerman, died at 70 years old. A little over 6 months later, Simon dies at 49 years old, killed in an auto accident on Hwy 51 in Beloit, WI. Here is the actual text from a newspaper article about the crash:

Monroe Evening Times – August 15th, 1951

Simon Saucerman Killed in Accident

Monroe Native Dies After Beloit Crash

Beloit - Simon Saucerman, 49, of Beloit and a native of Monroe was pronounced dead on arrival at Beloit Municipal Hospital early today the shortly after his automobile crashed into the rear of a semi-trailer truck on highway 51 just inside the north city limits of Beloit. The accident occurred at 11:40 PM, shortly after Joseph C Gebert, 30, of Milladore, WI, had stopped his truck half-way off the pavement to investigate a previous accident involving that same truck, where he had struck the car in front of him as it was turning into a driveway. Minor damage resulted in the first accident. Saucerman was pinned in the front seat of his wrecked car. Both Gebert and Saucerman were traveling north out of Beloit at the time. Saucerman was the son of Willard T. Saucerman and Jennie F. Sullivan Saucerman. He graduated from Monroe high school and attended the University of Wisconsin. On March 24, 1929 he married Mildred Capparelli in new Rochelle New York. They lived in Monroe for several years and then in Beloit at 906 Second Street. He was employed at

***A NOTE ABOUT 'JUNIOR':** as we delve deeper into the multiple 'Simons' that make up our lineage, I feel some clarification is in order. As it was told to me by my father Simon, BOTH he and my grandfather Simon (the subject of this piece) were periodically referred to throughout their lives as 'JUNIOR', the upshot of which is that they both sometimes turn up in research with the 'JUNIOR' title attached to their name. Obviously, this can be confusing, so, in pursuit of clarity, I checked it out and it turns out there *is* a protocol governing this situation. It goes like this: because Grandpa Simon (1903-1951) was 'interrupted' in the lineage chain by Great GF Willard, he is technically a 'II' and not a JUNIOR. This makes my dad, Simon (1930-2006) a 'III' (although the rules still allow him the 'JUNIOR' moniker if one wishes, because he is Grandpa's actual son). So, just to keep this all orderly, I'll be referring to Great Grandpa Simon (1845-1916) as 'Senior', Grandpa as 'II' and our Dad Simon as 'III'. I hope this helps. Thanks.

Barber-Colman in Rockford, IL. His father was a well-known attorney who died January 30, 1932. His (biological) mother Jennie died April 13, 1906, with his stepmother, the former Bertha Hunt, passing away only last January. Saucerman was a member of the Smith Masonic lodge of Monroe, The Eastern Star and The Shrine Club of Beloit.

He is survived by his widow, two sons, Simon III and Barton, both currently in the armed services. He also leaves three daughters, Mrs. Beryl Darwin, Beloit, and Judith and Vivian, both still living at home. He also has two half-brothers, Willard H. Saucerman of Santa Ana California and Robert C. Saucerman, living in Madison. Funeral services are pending word from the son, Simon II* who is stationed at Ft. Worden, Washington. Barton is stationed with the air force in Germany. Burial rites will be held at Greenwood cemetery in Monroe.*

GENERAL FACTS & INFORMATION – SIMON SAUCERMAN (1903-1951)

RELATIONSHIP	Grandfather
WHO	Simon Sullivan Saucerman II
BIRTH DATE	1903
DEATH DATE	8/15/1951
OCCUPATION:	Electrician/Engineer @ Barber Colman, Rkfd/*heir
BIRTH WHERE	Cadiz Township, Green County, WI
DEATH WHERE	Beloit, WI (Hwy 51 north of town)
BURIAL LOC:	Greenwood Cemetery, Monroe (*some say Beloit)
BIO SPOUSE TO:	Mildred (Capparelli) Saucerman *Bio
BIO MARRIED DATE:	3/24/1929 (in New Rochelle, NY)
BIO DIVORCED DATE:	n/a (Simon Died in 1951)
BIO BIRTH DATE	1909
BIO DEATH DATE	7/27/1971 (age 62)
BIO BIRTH WHERE	n/a
BIO DEATH WHERE	South Beloit
BIO BURIAL LOC:	n/a
CHILDREN #1:	Simon Sullivan Saucerman *Jr 1930-2006
CHILDREN #2:	Barton Saucerman
CHILDREN #3:	Patricia (Beryl Darwin) Saucerman
CHILDREN #4:	Judith (Merrill Pepper) Saucerman
CHILDREN #5:	Vivian (Randy Palombi) Saucerman
MOTHER:	Jennie Sullivan (bio) and later Bertha (Hunt) Saucerman
SIBLING #1:	Willard Hunt Saucerman (via Bertha) 1916?-
SIBLING #2:	Robert Charles Saucerman (via Bertha)

CHRONOLOGY

Date:	Age:	Description:
1903	-	Simon Saucerman II is born to Willard T. & Jennie Sullivan Saucerman.
<i>1903</i>	-	<i>The first two-way wireless communication between Europe and the United States is performed.</i>
August 8, 1906	3	Simon and father Willard T. Saucerman spend Sunday with Simon's grandparents, Simon Saucerman Senior.

April 12, 2006	3	Simon's mother, Jennie Sullivan Saucerman dies from childbirth complications suffered 5 weeks earlier, wherein a baby boy was also stillborn or died shortly after birth.
Dec 20, 1906	3	In December of the year that mother Jennie dies, Simon's dad Willard marries Martha G. House.
July 16, 1907	4	Simon's father Willard arrested on a warrant charging him with the abandonment and non-support of wife Martha.
August 5, 1907	4	The willful abandonment hearing against Simon's dad Willard begins. Willard is judged guilty and must pay damages.
<i>1905</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>First the first production Model T is built at the Ford plant in Detroit, Michigan.</i>
January 6, 1911	8	Simon's dad Willard Saucerman becomes known as 'the marrying magistrate', refusing to marry women who cannot bake bread. The practice is widely scorned by locals.
January 18, 1915	12	Simon and family escape from their home by ladder (provided by neighbors) when flames cut off the stairway.
<i>1917</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>President Woodrow Wilson and the US Congress declare war on Germany and join the allies in World War I.</i>
March 31, 1917	14	Simon wins \$5 for the best martin colony house in the Woman's Club birdhouse contest.
<i>1923</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>First sound on film motion picture Phonofilm is show in the Rivoli Theatre in New York City.</i>
April 3, 1928	25	Simon receives 12 write-in votes for justice of the peace in the spring election (he was last place; his dad, WTS was 2nd with 119 votes.)
<i>1929</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Stock Market crash lasting from 1929 and 1931 considered the worst American depression in the nation's history.</i>
March 24, 1929	26	Simon marries Mildred Capparelli in New Rochelle, NY
October 25, 1930	27	Simon Sullivan Saucerman III (*our father) is born in Newburgh, NY.
1931	28	Directory listing: <i>Simon is a Salesman living in Newburgh, New York, married to Mildred Saucerman.</i>
January 19, 1931	28	Simon joins the National Guard, Battery E, 156th Field Artillery unit, New York.
January 30, 1932	29	Simon's dad Willard T. Saucerman dies.
August 29, 1932	29	Marjorie Saucerman contests Simon II regarding the will of Simon Saucerman Senior, charging that Minnie (Neusus) Saucerman (Willard's sister; Simon's Aunt), who executed the will, was not of sound mind at the time. The final verdict is returned 9/1/1934 and Marjorie loses. Simon's dad, Willard, was already cut out of the will completely by his father, Simon Senior.
March 11, 1933	30	After 22 years, Simon II receives settlement from a share of \$162,000 that was willed to him by his grandpa, Simon Saucerman Senior in 1916. At the time, Simon is described in the newspaper as being 'an electrician from Monroe'.
1934	31	Directory listing: <i>"Simon is employed as an engineer, living in New Rochelle, NY and married to Mildred Saucerman".</i>
1940	37	1940 Census: Simon married to Mildred with four children: Simon (9), Barton (9), Patricia (6) and Judith (4) (*Vivian would be added later), all living at RR1, Winslow Ill, Cadiz, Wisconsin.
May 3, 1943	40	Simon's daughter, 9 year-old Patricia Saucerman (Aunt Pat), runs away from schoolhouse hiking toward Monroe, but is returned that same day.
1946	43	Directory listing: <i>"Simon is employed as an R1 machinist and living at 227 E. Dayton, Madison, WI".</i>
Sep 23, 1946	43	Monroe Evening Times: <i>"Simon Saucerman, employed in Beloit, spent the weekend with his family in Browntown".</i>
October 16, 1946	43	Monroe Evening Times: <i>"Mrs. Simon Saucerman visited her husband who is employed in Beloit"</i>
1848	45	Directory listing: <i>Simon is employed as 'Time Studyman', living in Beloit, WI and married to Mildred.</i>

Nov 9, 1949	46	Simon Saucerman transfers land to a Ralph Carwell in Section 3, Cadiz Township.
January 29, 1951	48	Funeral for Bertha Saucerman (Simon's stepmother and likely the mother he remembers most). She was 70 years old.
August 15, 1951	49	Simon Saucerman II is killed in an auto accident where he crashed into the rear of a semi-truck. He was 49 years old. At the time of his death, Simon is listed as an Industrial Engineer at Barber-Colman in Rockford, IL. Later on, a doctor would state that Simon died of a heart attack before striking the semi-truck. Simon's wife, Mildred Capparelli, would go on to marry Leo Stephens, where they lived in South Beloit, IL. Mildred died July 27, 1971.

[Author's Note: I've tried to keep the essence of original wording/phrasing as it appeared from my research materials, although I have altered areas where items needed to be melded together from different sources and/or where I felt a passage required further clarity or comment.]