

Great Grandfather

Willard T. Saucerman 1869-1932

A Biography Prepared by Stephen S. Saucerman 3-15-2019

Willard T. Saucerman was born in 1869, four years after his father - Simon S. Saucerman Senior of Cadiz Township - was honorably discharged from H company of the 16th Wisconsin Infantry, fighting for the Union side in the Civil War. Simon Senior (born in 1845) was already an established, successful farmer, justice of the peace and influential man in the territory. He married Sarah E. Crago (*sometimes spelled 'Craigo' or 'Crego') in 1866, who gave birth to Willard 3 years later. Sarah's father was Fordyco Crago, who'd come from Pennsylvania (as did many of our Saucerman/Sassaman ancestors) to pioneer Green County in 1849.



Depending on the success of a current enterprises and the availability of educational opportunities for his children, Willard's dad, Simon Senior, would move the family back and forth from country to city (Monroe, WI) throughout Willard's childhood. With solid local schooling in hand, in 1890 Willard went on to complete his upper education at UW Madison and return to the Monroe area where he practiced law and (eventually) became Justice of the Peace. By 1901, Willard was gaining local popularity and even delivered the Memorial Day Oration to (as the local paper reports) a "throng" of local revelers.

A Series of Sad – and Questionable – Events

This was about the time Willard met and married Jennie Sullivan Saucerman and in 1903, she gave birth to Simon Sullivan Saucerman (Jr). Tragically, 3 years later, on April 6, 1906, Jennie Saucerman (our biological grandmother) dies five weeks after giving birth to a second baby boy. The baby boy itself also died shortly after birth (or may have been stillborn). As horrifying as all this was, it was only 8 months after the death of his wife and child - on December 8th of that same year – that Willard went on to marry Martha G.



House, a local dressmaker. And less than 7 months after *that* - on July 16, 1907 (roughly a week after he returned from being deployed for 1-week duty to Camp Douglas as part of First Regiment, Company H), Willard - the Justice of the Peace - is arrested and charged with the abandonment and non-support of Martha!



The Abandonment Case of Martha Saucerman Versus Willard T. Saucerman

The event - where she claims she was physically pushed out of the house and told not to return - happened on June 24, 1907. In court (in Willard's very own courtroom?) on August 16, 1907 Martha Saucerman gave her first testimony in her abandonment hearing against the defendant, her husband Willard T. Saucerman, who she claims turned her out of house and home and left her in a destitute situation.

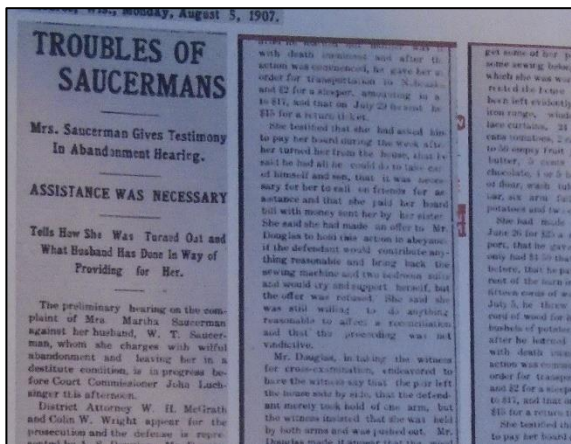
She was to explain exactly how it was she came to be turned out and what her husband had done after the event in way of providing for her. She testified that she had known the defendant five or six years and that they were married in December 1906, living together until June 24, 1907, when he put her out of the house and told her never to return. She said he did this without cause or provocation that she was ready and willing to live with him if he would treat her properly.

She stated that she was put out around 7:45 PM in the evening with no money and nothing but the house clothes she wore. She then said he retained in his possession her furniture and other belongings for the next week until the scheduled surrender of the house to its owner(?). She added that she went back to the house on June 26 with the

sheriff to get some personal clothing and sewing that belonged to someone else that she was working on. When she entered the house, she states that she found an old cart, iron range, window shades, one pair of lace curtains, 24 cans of canned apples, 24 cans of tomatoes, two cans of plum butter, 25 to 50 empty jars, ½ pound of butter, 5¢ worth of rice, 5 bars of soap, 12 pounds of flour, a wash board, 6 cords of wood, 6 cartons of potatoes, and some blankets. ¹

After she'd retrieved her property, she made a demand on Willard on June 26 for \$25.00 a month for support. He gave for \$3.00 saying he only had made \$4.50 the whole day before. He then paid \$2.00 for a month's rent of the barn in which he had 10 or 15 cords of wood blocked. She added that on July 22, after he learned her mother was ill with death eminent, he gave her \$2.00 for sleeper transportation to Nebraska and also subsequently sent her fare for the return trip home, the whole expense totaling \$17.00 in all. She testified she had asked him to pay her board during the week after he had turned her from the house, but he returned that it was all he could do to take care of himself and his son, Simon.

She then asked that he – at least – return her sewing machine and the two bedrooms suits which he'd taken from the home after setting her out. She then added that she's still willing to do anything reasonable to a factor reconciliation and that the action she was taking was not vindictive. Mr. Douglas - Willard's attorney - in cross examination endeavored to get her to say that the pair left the house side by side and that the defendant (Willard) had only took hold of one arm in a non-aggressive manner, but forthcoming witnesses insisted to the court that she was held by both arms and was forcefully pushed from the home.



Likely because they sensed they were losing, Mr. Douglas, Willard's lawyer, then took a different tact, attempting to downplay the value of Willard's assets in order to (I'm guessing) establish a lower wealth basis for the penalty phase that was looming ominously in Willard's future. Mr. Douglas told the court the defendant's income from last year had been so poor as to make it difficult for him to meet his obligations. He then went on to claim that the wood in the barn was owned by Simon Saucerman, Willard's father, and wasn't Willard's property (and therefore, shouldn't be counted among Willard's assets). Martha rebutted both claims, saying though he complained over cost of living and inadequate income, she found it fell within most person's common lamentations.

She then stated that the household was efficiently managed and - when Willard would complain about expenses being heavy – she more than once offered to assist him by taking in sewing for hire - but he would not consent to it. She then added that she'd only ever known Willard to be the owner of the firewood and that, in addition, Willard owned

¹ Author's Note: it's about this point in time – and backed by a collection of other questionable WTS events I came across in my research – that I'm beginning to suspiciously form an opinion that it's entirely possible that my very own Great Grandfather Willard T. Saucerman may just be ... let me see, how can I put this ... a dick. The picture as painted shows a wealthy, powerful daddy handing him money and entitlement in his younger years, then law school that is surely paid for, and then pretty much handed the local Justice of the Peace job after only being an attorney for a short time. I don't know about you, but that looks like it's got 'big deal dad' written over a lot of it. Then, factor in that at **23** (1892), Willard donates **\$800** (a MASSIVE amount of money at the time) to the rowing club at UW ... yet by 1907 – 15 years later - he claims he doesn't have money to support a wife? Hmmmmmm. If one were to surmise, I'd say his antics and reputation caught up with enough to embarrass dear old dad stopped helping. This would ALSO go a long way to explain why Willard was entirely cut out of SSS Sr's will in 1916. Just sayin' ... ☺.]

\$3000 worth of Commercial and Savings Bank Stock (given to him by his father), an expensive law library, a building lot in the city, and other household affects that he'd taken away with him.

It's at this point where the true level of subterfuge and dishonest dealing by both the defendant Willard T and his lawyer Douglas begin to shine further apparent. A witness for the plaintiff, City clerk M. T. Gettings, testified that Mr. Saucerman had on June 10th – only a month prior – had filed with him a chattel mortgage (officially dated June 8th) in favor of his Father Simon SAUCERMAN, on his law library. Willard presented the clerk with a letter from Simon Senior directing that the paper be filed. The clerk made a point in court that the letter from the elder Simon was type written². The mortgages, Willard claimed, were taken out to secure the father for advances he'd made to Willard over the past 8-10 years.

Though Martha was indeed his legal wife at the time, the mortgage was secured without her signature, therefore her attorney - a Mr. Wright - argued the mortgage should be voided on that account. And this wasn't all. C. W. Twining, the president of the Commercial and Savings Bank, came up for witness and was examined in regard to the 20 shares of stock in the bank held by the defendant. It so happened (imagine the coincidence!) that the stock was put up EARLIER THAT DAY BY WILLARD as collateral on yet *another* loan of \$500 - which the bank proffered. AGAIN, Martha was not consulted or asked to sign the mortgage.³

The records say that – other than subject of Willard's assets - Attorney Douglas offered up little defense or cross-examination regarding Martha's assertions. Instead, he chose to stand on the position that the case cannot proceed against Willard because Mrs. Saucerman IS able to support herself through her sewing and that the defendant is not criminally liable in neglecting to support her. He went on to further reinforce his position that Mr. Saucerman provided for Martha "to the extent of his ability".

Finally, although Willard and Lawyer Douglass avoided bringing up or commenting on WHO was at fault concerning the couple's reason for the separation, but over the course of the afternoon, witness upon witness corroborated Martha's account of the events and some even directly placed the blame for separation on Willard. Now that that case was laid out before him, it was now up to the judge, the honorable Court Commissioner John Luchsinger, to decide if the case should be elevated to the circuit courts.



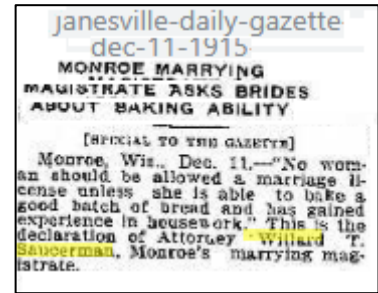
Postscript: Author's Note: I hate to leave on a cliff-hanger, but with all my research, I never did find anything concerning the final official outcome of the case, although it was clear it was not going well for our Great Grandfather. I also couldn't find ANY reference to a divorce between the two, although it must have happened because Willard re-married later on. I'll keep looking. If any of you out there can help me with this information, you can contact me at stephensaucerman@gmail.com. Thanks.

² It took me awhile to understand this reference, but – through deeper research and some Bayesian inference - the implication seems to be that because the letter was NOT in SSS Sr's own handwriting (which was very rare at the time), there was reason by clerk M. T. Gettings to suspect a possible forgery. This was never followed up on or proven, however, and I could find no further information on the matter.

³ [Author's Note: now, let's think this through. Say, Willard received \$100 for his law books (we're not sure of the exact amount, but this seems reasonable). Since he likely didn't want the money in the bank for fear of it being accessed by the courts, there was a reasonably good chance that – between both mortgages - Willard was sitting in court with \$600 (\$16,000 by today's standard) cash in his pocket.]

Back to ... er ... normal(?)

While all this is going on, Willard was still performing his regular duties as Justice/Judge (must have been awkward) residing over and deciding the fates of thieves, vagrants, adulterers and murderers. On January 6, 1911, he invents a totally new way to ingratiate himself to the masses by refusing to marry a couple until the lady can prove that she can make bread (you read that right). Even in 1911, this viewpoint is considered a bit much and – after other area/regional newspapers pick up the story – Willard becomes known as the 'The Marrying Magistrate', the judge who refuses to marry women who cannot bake bread and/or otherwise prove they are skilled in both keeping a household *and* meeting the needs of their husband (*think his experience with Martha had anything to do with this? 😊). One regional paper, in an obvious lampoon of Willard’s views, ended their article in ‘Attorney Saucerman is not a baker himself’. For his remaining career, Willard held true to his beliefs and remained a somewhat nefarious local celebrity regarding his provincial stance on women’s rights and marriage. He went on to be re-elected as Justice of the Peace (although he lost in 1929). Willard T. Saucerman died January 30, 1932.



FACTS & GENERAL INFORMATION

RELATIONSHIP	<i>Great Grandfather</i>
WHO	Willard T. Saucerman
BIRTH DATE	1869
DEATH DATE	Saturday, January 30, 1932
OCCUPATION:	Attorney/judge (for 40 years)
BIRTH WHERE	Monroe, Wi
DEATH WHERE	Monroe, Wi
BURIAL LOC:	Greenwood Cemetary, Monroe, WI
BIO SPOUSE TO:	Jennie F. Sullivan (Saucerman?) *Biological; she bore Simon in 1903
BIO MARRIED DATE:	+/- 1900
BIO DIVORCED DATE:	*Jennie dies April 6, 1906, 5 weeks after childbirth
BIO BIRTH DATE	n/a
BIO DEATH DATE	13-Apr-06
BIO BIRTH WHERE	n/a
BIO DEATH WHERE	Monroe, Wi
BIO BURIAL LOC:	Greenwood Cemetary, Monroe, WI
#2 SPOUSE TO:	2nd wife - Martha G. (House) Saucerman
#2 MARRIED DATE:	Thursday, December 20, 1906
#2 DIVORCED DATE:	Abandoned by WTS 6-24-1907 *see archive story
#2 BIRTH DATE	n/a
#2 DEATH DATE	n/a
#2 BIRTH WHERE	n/a
#2 DEATH WHERE	n/a
#2 BURIAL LOC:	n/a
#3 SPOUSE TO:	3rd wife - Bertha (Hunt) Saucerman (step-mother to GF)
#3 MARRIED DATE:	Monday, January 3, 1910
#3 DIVORCED DATE:	n/a
#3 BIRTH DATE	1881

#3 DEATH DATE	1/15/1951 (age 70)
#3 BIRTH WHERE	Iowa
#3 DEATH WHERE	Madison, WI
#3 BURIAL LOC:	Forest Hill Cemetary, Madison, WI
CHILDREN #1:	Simon Sullivan Saucerman (via Jennie) 1903-1951
CHILDREN #2:	Willard Hunt Saucerman (via Bertha) 1916
CHILDREN #3:	Robert Charles Saucerman (via Bertha)
MOTHER:	Sarah E. (Crago) Saucerman
SIBLING #1:	Minnie (Neusus) Saucerman 1872-
SIBLING #2:	Charles Saucerman 1879 (Cadiz)-1912

CHRONOLOGY

Date:	Age:	Item:
1863-1865	-4	Willard's dad, SSS Senior volunteers/enlists in Co H, 16th Wisconsin Infantry (Civil War Union)
7-4-1866	-3	Willard's dad, SSS Sr marries Sarah E. Crago (*father Fordyco Crago; PA to pioneer Green County in 1849, settling Cadiz Township)
8-10-1866	-3	After a year on the farm, Willard's dad, SSS Sr relocates to Monroe; he spends next 5 years in real estate and mining/selling granite
1869	-	Willard T. Saucerman is born in Cadiz Township, WI
1869	-	<i>The final golden spike of the transcontinental railroad is driven into the ground at Promontory, Utah.</i>
1872	3	Willard's dad, SSS Sr disposes of his interests in the city and moves to farm he purchases in Cadiz Township; does very well in farming
1872	3	<i>Susan B. Anthony, women's suffragette, illegally casts a ballot at Rochester, New York in the presidential election to publicize the cause of a woman's right to vote.</i>
1880	11	<i>James A. Garfield, Republican is elected president over Winfield S. Hancock.</i>
1885	16	Willard's dad, SSS Sr returns back to the city of Monroe to offer his children better schools than rural could supply
1886	17	<i>Geronimo and his band of Apaches surrender to Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles at Fort Bowie in southeastern Arizona.</i>
6-15-1889	20	Willard's dad, SSS Sr is listed as one of the founders/first stockholders in the new Milk-Condensing Company of Monroe
9-4-1889	20	Willard's dad, SSS Sr takes train to Des Moines, IA to meet Willard and family (who had gone last week) for the Iowa State Fair
1891	22	<i>Alternating current is transmitted for the first time at Ames power plant near Telluride, Colorado.</i>
6-1-1892	23	Attorney Willard T Saucerman donates \$800 to UW Rowing Dept for a new boathouse. Willard T. Saucerman called the 'Father of UW Rowing'
1893	24	Willard's dad, SSS Sr moves BACK to the farm, where he engaged in agriculture and stock-raising
5-15-1893	24	"Willard Saucerman of Madison is with his parents today"
6-19-1893	24	Willard's dad, SSS Sr buys tickets to the Worlds Fair for entire family from W. S. Logan, agent.
1896	27	<i>April 6-15, 1896 - The first modern Olympic Games is held in Athens, Greece. Thirteen nations participated, including the United States of America. It was held in Panathinaiko Stadium and had originated from an 1894 congress organized by Pierre de Coubertin who established the International Olympic Committee.</i>

1-Feb-00	31	Willard's dad, SSS Sr is very sick, but slightly better than that of last week
1900	31	<i>November 6, 1900 - President William McKinley wins his second term as president, this time with Theodore Roosevelt in the second spot on the ticket, again defeating William J. Bryan by an Electoral Margin of 292 to 155.</i>
1-Mar-01	32	Willard T. Saucerman & William H. McGrath enter into a law partnership in Monroe.
31-May-01	32	Willard T. Saucerman delivers Memorial Day oration at Greenwood Cemetary for a reported 'throng' of people
1-Jan-03	34	Jennie Sullivan Saucerman gives birth to (*our Grandfather) Simon Saucerman Jr
1903	34	<i>January 18, 1903 - The first two-way wireless communication between Europe and the United States is accomplished by Guglielmo Marconi when he transmits a message from President Theodore Roosevelt to the King of England from a telegraph station in South Wellfleet, Massachusetts.</i>
1905	36	<i>The city of Las Vegas, Nevada is established with the sale of 110 acres in the downtown area.</i>
8-Aug-06	37	Willard T. Saucerman and son Simon (grandpa) spent Sunday with Mr. Saucerman's parents (Simon Saucerman Senior)
12-Apr-06	37	Jennie Sullivan Saucerman gives birth to a stillborn son (*or perhaps the child lives only a short time after birth) and Jennie is stricken gravely ill from the delivery.
12-Apr-06	37	Jennie Sullivan Saucerman (*our biological great grandmother) dies at Loofborrow Hospital after a 5-week illness brought on by childbirth.
20-Dec-06	37	Willard T. Saucerman (a young attorney) marries Martha G. House (a dressmaker)
31-Dec-06	37	Willard T. Saucerman convicts James Hyle of vagrancy; later takes his sons to Winslow for New Years party
18-Mar-07	38	Charles H. Saucerman - Willard's brother - returned to Vesta, MN (from Monroe) to find he'd been unanimously elected Mayor
17-Jun-07	38	Willard's dad, SSS Sr has a 10' h, 4-pc (1 pc weighs 9 tons) monument towed by horses up to Greenwood Cemetary for his future demise
8-Jul-07	38	Willard T. Saucerman is deployed for 1-week duty to Camp Douglas as part of First Regiment, Company H
16-Jul-07	38	Willard arrested on a warrant charging him with abandonment
16-Jul-07	38	Blurb:"Police Justice Willard T. Saucerman is arrested on a warrant charging him with abandonment"
25-Jul-07	38	Warrant served on Justice Saucerman for abandonment and non-support (event occurred June 24, 1907)
25-Jul-07	38	Blurb: "Green County officials have warrant for W. T. Saucerman of Monroe"; abandonment and non-support
5-Aug-07	38	The wilful abandonment preliminary hearing against Willard T. Saucerman by his wife, Martha Saucerman begins.
8-Aug-07	38	Another article about Jennie's abandonment case against Willard T. Saucerman. She was pushed out of house and told not to return.
29-Jul-08	39	Willard T Saucerman announces he is a Republican candidate for clerk of court.
1908	39	<i>May 14, 1908 - Technology moves forward as the first passenger flight on a plane occurs when Wilbur Wright escorts Charles W. Furnas in the Wright Flyer III at Huffman Prairie Flying Field in Dayton, Ohio. On September 27, the first production Model T is built at the Ford plant in Detroit, Michigan.</i>
6-Jan-11	42	Willard T Saucerman becomes known as 'the marrying magistrate', refusing to marry women who cannot bake bread.

4-Feb-12	43	Willard's half-brother, Charles H. Saucerman (born to Bertha) dies of typhoid in Minneapolis.
1913	44	<i>February 3, 1913 - The 16th Amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified, allowing the Federal government treasury to impose an income tax. The 17th Amendment would be passed on April 8, which set the policy for direct election of U.S. Senators.</i>
1914	45	<i>January 5, 1914 - Basic wage rates are increased by Ford Motor Company. Workers now would receive \$5 per day for eight hours of work versus \$2.40 per day for nine hours previously.</i>
18-Jan-15	46	Willard T. Saucerman & family escape from their home by ladder (provided by neighbors) when flames cut off the stairway
16-Jul-15	46	Another piece about Willard T. Saucerman and his "no bake, no marry" policy with potential brides.
11-Dec-15	46	Piece about Willard's "no-bake, no-marry" policy. The end the article with "Attorney Saucerman is not a baker himself"
1915	46	<i>The British ship Lusitania is sunk by a German U-boat. 128 American passengers lost.</i>
1917	48	<i>President Woodrow Wilson and the United States Congress declare war on Germany and join the allies in World War I.</i>
1917	48	<i>The 18th Amendment prohibiting alcoholic beverages throughout US is sent to the states for passage by the United States Congress.</i>
16-Jul-19	50	Judge Willard T. Saucerman hears case of 2 Evansville youths charged with burglary
1919	50	<i>The Treaty of Versailles is signed, ending World War I.</i>
1920	51	<i>Women are given the right to vote with the passing of the 19th Amendment.</i>
13-Apr-23	54	Judge Willard T. Saucerman is included on list of most successful Ex-Cardinal (Daily) Executives
1923	54	<i>First sound on film motion picture Phonofilm is show in the Rivoli Theatre in New York City.</i>
20-Jul-25	56	Judge Willard T. Saucerman oversees the trial of the man accused of shooting and wounding Fred Broege, a farmer in Monroe.
1927	58	<i>Charles Lindbergh leaves Roosevelt Field, NY in the Spirit of St. Louis for first non-stop transatlantic flight, reaching Paris 33 1/2 hours later.</i>
3-Apr-28	59	Willard T. Saucerman receives 119 write-in votes for justice of the peace in the spring election (he was 2nd; 1st place 163 votes); son Simon gets 12
19-Mar-29	60	Willard T. Saucerman is nominated for upcoming April 2nd Justice of the Peace Election
19-Mar-29	60	Willard T. Saucerman is listed as running for Justice of the Peace (Green County) for upcoming April 2nd election
16-Jun-29	60	Willard T. Saucerman is named 'Sentinel' at Monroe Templars Lodge
1929	60	<i>Postwar prosperity ends with a Stock Market crash lasting from 1929 and 1931 with losses estimated at \$50 billion and considered the worst American depression in the nation's history.</i>
24-Mar-30	61	Judge Willard T. Saucerman hears case of Gostfreid Gottier Jr. 17 of Footville for the murder of Fred Jordon, a Monticello Marshall.
25-Oct-30	61	Willard's grandson, Simon Sullivan Saucerman III is born in Newburgh, NY
1931	62	<i>The Star-Spangled Banner, by Francis Scott Key, is approved by President Hoover as the national anthem.</i>
30-Jan-32	63	Willard T. Saucerman dies.

29-Aug-32	-	Marjorie Saucerman contests Willard T's son, Simon, regarding the will of SSS Senior (*Willard T was completely written out of the will by what was likely a fed-up dad) from 1916. She loses.
11-Mar-33	-	After 22 years, Willard's son, SSS Jr receives settlement from a share of \$162,000 that was willed to him by Willard's dad, SSS Sr in 1916
7-May-48	-	Ref to Willard's PAST "act of heroism" in stopping a runaway train filled with patients; shortly after Spanish-American War
1-Sep-49	-	Willard T. & family are listed as (posthumous) plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit against the Bank of Albany.
29-Jan-51	-	Funeral for Bertha Saucerman, 70 years old (*GF's step-mom/Willard's second wife and all-around pretty cool dude)
3-Oct-53	-	Willard T. is remembered as one of the original stockholders of the Commercial and Savings Bank in their Golden Anniversary

[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 - or sarcasm. ☺]