

## 5. Grandparents of James Harding Jones

Very little is known about my paternal grandparents and less about paternal great grandparents. Research paid for by my father was not able to determine the names of his paternal grandparents. Following is the information available to me.

My father's mother's parents were John D. West and Margaret Ann Evans Kersh. Although John West's date of birth is not known (by me), from the picture below it can be seen that he must have been about the same age as his son-in-law James Armstrong Jones. They lived in Goshen Springs, Rankin County, Mississippi where my grandmother, Eula West Jones was born.



l. to r.: James Armstrong Jones, John D. West and an unknown person on the right.

**Nell Permenter Smith.** Nell Permenter Smith (my second cousin once-removed) from Jackson, Mississippi, gave me a fountain of information about our common ancestors in the Kersh family.



Nell Permenter Smith standing between the tombstones of her great, great grandparents, Jacob Kersh and Rachael Easterling Kersh in Shiloh United Methodist Church cemetery out from Brandon, MS. From Highway 18 take Shiloh Road for about 10 miles. They were with the first Kersh families coming to Mississippi from Orangeburg, South Carolina. Jacob Kersh was born on May 15, 1789 in Orangeburg, SC and died in Rankin County on August 1, 1853. He married Rachael Easterling in Orangeburg on November 4, 1812. She was born in Orangeburg on April 22, 1797 and died in Rankin, MS on May 29, 1888.



Shiloh Cemetery Marker

In 1828 members of the Kersh, Rhodes and Myers families were traveling through Rankin County, Mississippi on their way from Orangeburg, SC to Texas when a child of one of the families died. As a result the three families all decided to settle in this area where the child was buried.

**John Kersh and Mary Ann Rhodes.** Among the children of Jacob Kersh and his wife, Rachael Easterling, was John Kersh born on January 24, 1814 in Orangeburg, SC. On September 24, 1835 he married a daughter of the Rhodes family, Mary Ann Rhodes born on November 25, 1818 in Orangeburg, SC. This couple can be seen in an old photo below given to me by Nell Permenter Smith.



John Kersh and wife Mary Ann Rhodes Kersh

John and Mary Kersh raised their family in Rankin County and their bodies rest in the Oakdale Cemetery, Oakdale, MS out from Brandon, MS. Their tombstones are shown below. The children of this marriage were William Wesley Kersh (Nell Smith's grandfather) and Margaret Ann Evans Kersh (great grandmother of William Branham Jones). Nell Smith provided pictures of her grandfather, William Wesley Kersh but, unfortunately, no picture of Margaret Ann Evans Kersh who became the wife of John D. West.



Tombs for John Kersh and Mary Ann Rhodes Kersh at the Oakdale Cemetery in Oakdale, MS.



The Shiloh Methodist Campground and Shiloh United Methodist Church are named for the Methodist church in Shiloh, South Carolina where the Kersh family had come from.

**William Wesley Kersh** became a Methodist minister and also a Masonic chaplain. He married Justiva Elizabeth Butler and raised a family of four children in Rankin County, Mississippi: Ethelbert Barksdale Kersh, Butler Kersh, Aura Helen Kersh and Sudie Auroraleigh Kersh, the latter being the mother of Nell

Permenter Smith. A few of the family pictures are shown below.



Rev. William Wesley Kersh



Children of William Wesley Kersh and Elizabeth Kersh.: Aura Helen Kersh, Ethelbert Barksdale Kersh, Sudie Auroleigh Kersh, mother of Nell Permenter Smith.



William Wesley Kirsh shown in his uniform as a Masonic chaplain.



Sudie Auroleigh Kersh Permenter  
Sudie Auroleigh Kersh became a Sunday School teacher in Brandon, MS and she married a Baptist minister, Walter M. Permenter. Rev.

Permenter and Sudie became the parents of four children: David, Nell, Zoe and Walter.



**Jackson Cousins.** Two of the Permenter daughters are shown here: Zoe Permenter Hall is second from the left and her sister Nell Permenter Smith is on the far right. Myra Hume Jones is second from the right. On the left is a distant cousin, Katherine Lucille Bean, a daughter of George Pomeroy Wallace and Elle Katherine Kersh. Lucille married William Hall Hoover in Yazoo City, MS and was later divorced. They had no children.

When James H. Jones and Myra Hume Jones moved to Jackson, MS they soon enjoyed the company of the Permenter and Bean cousins, gathering at each others' home for special occasions. They are shown above in the home of Jimmy and Myra Jones probably at Christmas. Nell and Zoe lived next door to each other on the King's Highway, not far from Mom and Dad.



This picture shows Nell's husband, Arthur Smith, leaning back on the left side. Nell Smith is in the center right. Margaret Jones is left front and Martha Jones is in back on the left. On the right Alfred Hume Jones is up close and William Branham Jones is in the back. I think we were having dinner in a Jackson restaurant, probably around 1988.

Following is a little bit of Kersh family history derived from a pamphlet entitled: "The Kersh Family 1710 - 1979" by Myrtle Kersh (Mrs. Lyle H.) Rogers (copyright 1979). This was given to me by Nell Permenter Smith. I also used some notes made by my cousin Sarah Warren Alvarez.

Hans George Kersh (Kersch) came from Germany to Holland and sailed from Rotterdam on February 16, 1744 on a ship called St. Andrew. He had six sons: Andrew, David, George, Conrad, William and Jacob. (Four sons born in Germany and two in America.)

Andrew Kersh (son of Hans George Kersh) came from Germany to America with his family. He married Eva Margretta Geysler on March 25, 1788, She was a daughter of Jacob Geysler and Maria Katheryn. Andrew Kersh served in the Revolutionary War in the 6<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Regiment, enlisting on June 23, 1777. He must have stayed during the whole war since he was still on the payroll in 1781 according to War Department documents.

Jacob Kersh (son of Andrew Kersh) was born on May 15, 1789 in Orangeburg, SC and died in Rankin County, MS on August 1, 1853. He married Rachel Easterling on November 4, 1812 in Orangeburg, SC and she died on May 29, 1888 in Rankin County, MS. She was a daughter of Enos Easterling (d. April 4, 1827) and Jean Bradwell (d. June 29, 1810).

John Kersh (son of Jacob Kersh) was born on January 24, 1814 in Orangeburg, SC and died on March 8, 1901 in Rankin County, MS. He married Mary Ann Rhodes on September 24, 1835. She was born November 25, 1818 and died on November 11, 1911 in Rankin County, MS. Both are buried in Oakdale, MS