

Recollections of the Jordans

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Introduction

As follows are recollections of Herbert A. Jordan, his wife the former Elizabeth Marie Page, his father James Oscar Jordan, his grandfather Knut Oscar Scholdberg, his mother Margaret Jane Knowles, and his grandfather William Knowles.

For ease of use, the above [Table of Contents](#) includes active links along with a simplified genealogy chart to assist in selecting items of interest. Merely touch the line or page number to move to a section of interest.

In order to help preserve our Jordan family history and to make that history more widely available, [Our Jordan Family Web Pages](#) was created in the early years of the 21st century.

While quite successful in its goals, it became clear with the passage of time, that a web site with many hundreds of pages was not easy to print or to electronically download. Thus in the later part of the first decade of the 21st century, I began to compile various categories of information such as *Jordan Family Address Lists*, *Jordan Family Census Records*, *Jordan Genealogy Source Records*, *Oscar Scholdberg's Voyages*, *Recollections of the Jordans* and *the Jordan Stories* into pdf documents.

Such pdf files will make it easier to download files for preservation on our many computers and they will also allow much easier printing of pages and for studied analysis as desired. As part of this effort, a [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) web page was created. From this page, all currently available pdf's from [Our Jordan Family Web Pages](#) can be accessed.

You are encouraged to download the various Jordan, Scholdberg, and Steward pdf files, not only for your own study but to also help preserve for future generations hard to obtain data and information about our common Jordan, Scholdberg and Steward origins and history. Files are updated every once in a while, and checking about once a year is a reasonable frequency. Version dates are shown at the beginning of the [Table of Contents](#).

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Contact

If you wish to comment, add information or just say hello, please contact [Dave Jordan](#) at djgenealogy@me.com.

What's New

Going forward it is intended to briefly describe what major items were added since the last version of this document.

1. 10/11/2017: Miscellaneous format updates..
2. 12/7/12: Primarily formatting changes and fixes of a few typo's along with some reorganization.
3. 1/3/2012: Primarily formatting changes and fixes of a few typo's.

Recollections File Connections

As follows are other files that connect with *Recollections of the Jordans*. All are available at [Jordan PDF Downloads](#) as individual pdf documents with titles and file names as listed below.

1. *The Jordan Story*
File: Stories_Jordan.pdf
Summary: *The Jordan Story* provides a written history of the origins of our Jordan family. As part of this story there are many appendices and sections.
2. *Recollections of the Jordans*
File: Recollections_Jordan.pdf
Summary: *Recollections of the Jordans* provides a collection of short anecdotes and memories of our Jordan family.

Recollections of Herbert A. Jordan

As follows are recollections of Herbert A. Jordan, known to me as Grandpa Jordan and to his friends as Herb. Contributions to these recollections were made by: Elizabeth Jordan, his wife; his three sons, Harold, Herbert (Herb), and Edward (Ed); Herb's wife Dorothy; Ed's wife, Jeanne; and his grandson, Dave.

The Early Years

1. Herbert O. Jordan was born July 24, 1898 at 1453 Fillmore Street in Chicago. The middle initial "O" probably stood for Oscar, which was his father's middle name. By 1917, Herbert was using the middle initial "A" for Arthur, one of his brother's names. Possibly the reason he changed was that in 1911 his mother left his father and it was up to Herbert and his mother to take care of the young Jordan family. So perhaps Herbert just wanted to disassociate his name from his father's.
2. My dad, Edward C. Jordan relished in telling a story about his father, Herbert as a young boy traveling a long way with his family to Wisconsin. The Jordans were returning to Chicago in an old Model T and there were seven flat tires. They had to stop every few hours to jack up the car and put on another patch. My grandmother, Elizabeth M. Jordan remembered that her husband Herbert told her that he once visited his great-grandmother Elizabeth Steward in an old people's home. He remembered it being a long trip and it was near a big river. It is possible these were the same trip. Elizabeth Steward died in her 80s at Dane County Poor House in Wisconsin on 12 April 1908. It is possible James Oscar Jordan took Herbert up to visit at the old people's home in Verona in 1907-08. Young Herbert would have been 9 years old. My parents visited Verona, Wisconsin in the late 1970's and took a picture of an old nursing home by a river that seemed to my dad to be reminiscent of the old people's home he remembered from the story. So it is possible all of this just might connect into a single story.
3. After his mother filed the complaint against her husband in November 1911, young Herbert had to quit school to work to help support his mother, Margaret and the other Jordan children, Francis, Ed, Charles, and Art. Assuming this was in 1912, Herbert would have been about 13 years old and had just finished grade school. Young Herbert learned to play the drums and accompanied his mom, while she played the piano at vaudeville and the local silent movie theaters, called nickelodeons.
4. When he was an older teen, Herbert participated in the Chicago Golden Gloves Tournament. The Golden Gloves were amateur boxing matches sponsored by the Chicago meat companies in the stockyards. Herbert worked for Morris Meat Company in 1916 and 1917. My dad recalled that he boxed with "Terrible Terry McGovern," the Lightweight Champ of 1915. Herbert was about 17. Years later, in the 1950s, my cousin, Ray Ulrich and I attended the Golden Gloves

Tournament with Ray's dad who worked at the Armour Meat Company.

5. Herbert Jordan met Elizabeth Page at the Morris Meat Company where she was a cashier. The Morris Company was a huge company in the Chicago Stockyards.
6. Herbert and Elizabeth were married on August 21, 1918 at St. Raphael's in Chicago during a leave from the Army.
7. After the marriage Herbert was to go overseas with his unit, but he got very sick from the flu and almost died. The flu that year was the "Great Influenza Epidemic" of 1918, which killed millions of people. I recall hearing that he was sick for six weeks and by then the war was over. He was then discharged, so he never had to go overseas.

The 1920s and 30s

1. Throughout his life, Herbert had many jobs from bookkeeper to streetcar motorman to mailman to hamburger restaurant owner to builder.
2. My dad, Ed recalled that when he was a kid the family would buy a live turkey at Thanksgiving. When the day arrived, his dad would chop off the turkey's head in the basement. That's the way it was done in the old days.
3. Herbert was a streetcar operator during the 1920s. One day he hit an unruly passenger with the big iron pole the operators used to control the car.
4. John Page brought his son-in-law, Herbert Jordan, into his construction business for short time. They called it J/P Construction for Jordan/Page Construction. One of their specialties was putting basements under existing houses. This involved jacking up the house, using teams of horses to drag the dirt out, and then building a foundation under the lifted house. This was probably a part time effort for Herbert as he always had other jobs such as a streetcar driver or mailman. Herbert learned his carpentry skills through working with his father-in-law. Later in life, Herbert went into the home contracting business in California.
5. My dad recalled that his father started a couple of hamburger stands in the late 1920s or early 1930s. One was at 69th and Halsted and the other was at 63rd and Ashland. Son Harold recalled that his father ran a bookie business in the back of the restaurant where there were numerous telephone lines to make the bets. Harold also recalled that the 63rd and Ashland hamburger restaurant was jointly operated with his dad's brother Eddie. Herbert claimed Eddie "robbed him blind" in the operation of the business. Later after his divorce, Eddie took his kids to California.
6. Harold, my uncle and the oldest child recalled he would accompany his dad in his drives around Chicago. Herbert liked to talk and be around people. He was interested in politics and Harold would help him decorate the car for the campaigns. My dad recalled that his

father would take his paycheck to the bar and buy everyone a round of drinks and then come home without enough money for the week.

7. My dad always said his family moved 17 times when he was a kid. He would say, "We were always one step ahead of the bill collectors." The Jordans were poor and it was tough times during the "Depression." Grandpa Jordan couldn't or wouldn't pay the bills. Instead he used what money they had to get a new place, pay for a while, then hold back until they got "kicked out." The family used to move a piano each time but finally got tired of moving it so often and left it behind.

The California Years

1. By the early 1940s, the boys (Harold, Herb, and Ed) were out of high school and working. Times were still tough so Herbert Jordan and his brother Chuck left Chicago for California to seek work. Grandma Elizabeth stayed behind in Chicago with the three boys. Herbert's mother, Margaret Graham lived in the Los Angeles as did his sister Frances, and brother's Ed, and Art. He got a job in a Defense Plant and there is a picture showing him and his brother, Art in front of 6324 Klomp in North Hollywood in December 1942. Herbert completed his Social Security Application in Chicago on October 10, 1942 and stated his address as 6834 S. Throop. Thus he must have left for California between October and December 1942.
2. My dad recalled that while his dad was in California during 1942-43, he would call home collect and then talk endlessly, leaving a big bill for the three boys to pay. Telephone rates at the time were extremely high compared to wages so I'm sure it was a big burden, especially if the talk was about nothing much.
3. My mom, Jeanne believed that Herbert was not only looking for work in California but planned to start a new life for himself there with our without Elizabeth. He may have decided the boys were old enough to be on their own and that he had fulfilled his responsibilities. It is also likely there was a struggle between him and his wife as to where to live, with his relatives being in California and hers in Chicago and maybe he just needed to get away for a while to sort things out.
4. Over the winter of 1942-1943, though Grandma Jordan slipped and fell and broke her leg on the Chicago ice. Grandpa Jordan blamed the boys for not taking care of her but with his son Herb in Officer's Candidate School and with Ed's pending enlistment, he realized he needed to come back to Chicago to take care of her. Jeanne heard that when he came in on the train it was so crowded because of the war and all the soldiers that he had to sit on his suitcase the whole way.
5. In April 1943, Grandpa Jordan, Harold and my mom took my dad to the bus station for his trip to San Antonio to start Army Air Cadet training.

6. Sometime in the next few months, as my mom tells it Herbert and Elizabeth reconciled and she reluctantly agreed to move to California with him. Her relatives including her parents, brothers and sisters were all in the Chicago area and I'm sure she wanted to stay. Perhaps though she had no real choice as two of her boys were in the Armed Forces and Harold was engaged to be married. Herbert was a difficult man to be with as he was loud, gruff, and controlling. Elizabeth was quiet, pleasant and easy to be with and it must have been a difficult decision for her to leave behind her parents, brothers and sisters and sons and go off to California. Later though two of her three children settled in California. And between having her children and grandchildren around and the excellent weather she did come to like it there. She went on to live a long life and died there at age 91 in 1987.
7. As best as can be determined, Herbert and Elizabeth left for California in the late summer or fall of 1943. Herb and Ed were away and Jeanne recalls that her fiancé, Ed had her go over to the Jordan's home at 6934 S. Throop to save a few prized possessions before his family threw them out as it was too expensive to take a lot of things across the country. Jeanne recalls retrieving Ed's guitar, a leather jacket and few mementos.
8. About 1945, Harold and his fiancée called off their engagement and Harold moved to California to be with his folks. He later married and raised a family there.
9. After Ed joined United Airlines in 1945, he was able to obtain yearly free passes for his parents. Herbert and Elizabeth used to fly to Chicago from Los Angeles on the old prop planes to visit several weeks every year. They visited us at 83rd Street in Chicago and later in Evergreen Park. This way they were able to visit their sons Ed and Herb and their families and also Grandma's brothers and sisters. I can still remember when Grandpa visited in Evergreen Park. He would stay in the back bedroom with me. Could he ever snore! The walls would rattle.
10. Even in the 1950s, Grandpa Jordan was still trying to keep one step ahead of the bill collectors. When you called them on the phone, it was necessary to let the phone ring twice, then redial. One time when I was with my dad in California, we wanted to call to get together. Unfortunately we were in a motel room without direct dial phones. I remember how my dad patiently explained and re-explained to the operator how she had to call twice.
11. In the mid-1950s son Herb and his family moved to California.
12. Grandpa Jordan built houses in California in the 1950s and 60s. For a while, he built them one at a time and did reasonably well. He did all the carpentry including making the kitchen cabinets. However, sometime in the late 1950s, he decided to build several houses at once. Unfortunately when he couldn't sell them quickly, he lost his working capital and couldn't meet expenses. To try to avoid bankruptcy, he flew to Chicago, using his annual airline pass to ask

for loans from the banks and from the relatives. He tried to borrow five hundred or thousand from everyone he knew. I recall that he needed about \$20,000 to get out the jam. I believe dad lent him \$1000 and we never saw it again and I think he lost most of the houses on foreclosure to the bank.

Recollections of Elizabeth M. Jordan (nee Pajewski)

As follows are recollections of Elizabeth Marie Jordan, known to us as Grandma Jordan and to her friends as Betty. Elizabeth was born as Elizabeth M. Pajewski and was later called Elizabeth M. Page. Contributions to these recollections were made by: her three sons, Harold, Herbert (Herb), and Edward (Ed); Herb's wife Dorothy; Ed's wife, Jeanne; and her grandson, Dave.

The Early Years

1. Elizabeth Marie Pajewski was born on December 8, 1895 at home at 1540 W. 49th Street in Chicago. It is believed she was born in the home of her grandparent's where her parents resided after their marriage. Elizabeth always claimed she was born in 1898 but I believe that she was trying to make herself younger than her husband who claimed he was born in 1897 instead of the actual 1898. Her parent's family changed their named formally to Page in 1926 and when I asked her about it she insisted her name was Page, even though she was married in 1918. I actually think they started using Page for years in everyday transactions before but never formalized it until 1926, which would help explain her recollections.
2. It is believed that Grandma Elizabeth Jordan completed the eighth grade, which was typical for girls of the time. After that she went to work.
3. Grandma's sister Anna recalled that Elizabeth used to work in a department store in downtown Chicago. There she would sit in a cage in the middle of the floor to take money for purchases.
4. Herbert Jordan met Elizabeth Page at the Morris Meat Company where she was a cashier. The Morris Company was a huge company in the Chicago Stockyards.
5. My mom Jeanne told me that Elizabeth was going with another guy who was steady and conservative. But Herbert was taller, better looking, more fun and had a gift of gab that wooed her. Her parents liked the other guy and were concerned that Herbert was not a Catholic.
6. Herbert and Elizabeth were married on August 21, 1918 at St. Raphael's in Chicago during a leave from the Army.
7. Grandma Elizabeth Jordan told me she received many penny dolls at her wedding, which was a tradition of the times.

The 1920s and 30s

1. Grandma Elizabeth Jordan recalled that when her son Harold was born, she was able to have a mid-wife for 7-8 days after the baby was born and take care of them both for \$9.00. For her son Harold it was \$11.00 and for Edward it was \$15.00. When her grandson Dave was born, it was 8 days in the hospital for \$84 plus \$125 for the doctor.

2. During the winter of 1942-43, Grandma broke her leg on the ice in Chicago. Grandpa Jordan came back to take care of her from California as a result. There is more to this story in the *Recollections of Herbert Jordan*.

The California Years

1. I visited Grandma Jordan several times in California over the years. There was a visit during June 1957 with my family and another a few years later in April 1959. In addition, Beez and I visited in September 1979 after a drive down from San Francisco and the last time I saw her was after a business -trip to Pasadena during the summer of 1983. She was always in good spirits, got around great for her years, and liked to visit with us.
2. In the summer of 1983 I recalled seeing her in Wheaton where she played an Atari video game called Space Invaders with my 3-year son Michael. I'll never forget the sight of the two of them, an 87-year old with her control panel playing against her 3-year old great-grandchild, each determined to win.

Recollections of James Oscar Jordan

As follows are recollections of James Oscar Jordan:

1. Joseph Canute Oscar Scholdberg was born on February 18, 1868 at 15 Oriental Street, Poplar, County of Middlesex, England. Before 1890 he changed his name to James Oscar Jordan. He was the half brother of James Jordan of Madison Wisconsin.
2. James Oscar Jordan married Margaret Jane Knowles on December 30, 1896 in Chicago. Their children were Herbert Arthur Jordan, Francis F., Edward A., Charles J. and Arthur S. Jordan.
3. My father, Ed Jordan recalled that his Grandfather James Oscar Jordan left home once or twice leaving his wife and children in Chicago on their own. One of those times probably was in 1907. In that year I found James O. under an alias living with his brothers at 1150 Jenifer in the Madison, Wisconsin.
4. Edward C. Jordan, my dad relished in telling a story about his dad Herbert traveling a long way to Wisconsin and back with his family as a young boy. They were in an old Model T and they had seven flat tires on the trip back and had to stop every few hours to fix one. My best guess as to the purpose of this travel is that it was to attend the funeral of Herbert's g-grandmother and James Oscar's grandmother, Elizabeth Steward. Elizabeth Steward died in her 80s at Dane County Poor House in Wisconsin on April 12, 1908. She was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison Wisconsin on April 14. Young Herbert was almost ten. My dad and mom traveled to Verona, Wisconsin in the late 1970's and took a picture of an old nursing home by a river that seemed to my dad to be reminiscent of the old people's home he remembered from the story.
5. Both the Margaret Jordan's Bill of Complaint and several pictures in the James and Margaret Jordan Photo Collection suggest that James Oscar Jordan was involved in the Spiritualism religious movement that swept the country around 1910.
6. Janet Kommers, daughter of James Henry Jordan of Madison had a number of recollections of her Uncle Oscar (James Oscar Jordan). She wrote "He was a very dapper gentleman and carried a cane. He also had a mustache. The Jordans had such class! I have never seen a picture of him but if I should find one among mother's things I'll send it to you. I doubt if I'll find one because she hated him so much." Janet never did find a picture of him.
7. Janet Kommers also wrote that her "Uncle Oscar was interested in astrology and the stock market, getting her father to invest just before the crash in 1929."
8. Janet also wrote that "Uncle Oscar visited them in Madison but he and my mother didn't get along so the visits stopped. My father sent Uncle Oscar ten dollars a month until his death. In fact, it was Dad (James Henry Jordan) that got the call about Uncle Oscar's death sometime in the 50's and Dad went to Chicago to bury him. I believe

Uncle Oscar was a Mason and would be buried in a Masonic Cemetery." I later found that James Oscar Jordan died in 1947 and that he was cremated at Acacia Park Cemetery. (DSJ).

9. In 1932 James Henry Jordan from Madison Wisconsin and his family traveled to Chicago to see the Worlds' Fair and their Jordan relatives. The James Henry Jordan family stayed with my grandfather Herbert A. Jordan and his family while in Chicago. James Henry Jordan also visited his half brother James Oscar Jordan.
10. My Uncle Harold Jordan recalled that James Oscar was the chief electrician at the Conway Building and that he had a big office. Large users could purchase electricity from various providers companies to get a better rate. For example, the Conway Building supplied electricity to the Marshall Fields Department Store in those days. The Conway Building was located at 111 W. Washington in Chicago; it is now the Chicago Title and Trust Building. James Oscar Jordan worked there for many years and retired about 1935 with a pension.
11. Edward C. Jordan, my dad recalled that his Grandfather Jordan (James Oscar Jordan) lived upstairs in an addition to their home at 6934 S. Throop for a short while. James O. Jordan paid for the addition or promised to pay and his son Herbert built it. The cost was about \$1500. Herbert lived at 6934 S. Throop from about 1934 to 1943. James O. Jordan had retired about 1935 at about age 67 and had some money put away and no place to stay. My dad said there were newspapers all over the place was a mess. My grandmother Elizabeth was unhappy because James Oscar Jordan expected her to cleanup, make his meals and take care of him. About 1936, my Grandfather Herbert asked his father James Oscar Jordan to leave over money owed and the household tensions with my Grandmother Elizabeth Jordan. James Oscar was not seen again for years. About 1940, Herbert F. Jordan, my dad's brother saw his Grandfather Jordan on a street corner in Chicago, but that is the last known contact with the family. James died in March 1947.

Recollections of Knut Oscar Scholdberg

As follows are recollections of Knut Oscar Scholdberg:

1. Knut Oscar Scholdberg was born about 1837 in Sweden. Later in life he used the name Oscar.
2. He married Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway Steward on May 24, 1867 at St. Mary's Stratford Bow, Bow, England.
3. Ship log data indicates Oscar Scholdberg was left in New York City with smallpox in the late 1860s. During a Circle Line Tour in 2000 of New York the guide pointed out and described Welfare Island, an island in the East River with institutional buildings from the 1800s and early 1900 used to house the poor, the insane, and those with contagious diseases from the times. One building was dedicated to smallpox cases. It is likely all cases in the city were quarantined there. Thus it is likely that our Knut Oscar Scholdberg was cared for at the Small Pox building on Welfare Island in New York in the late 1860s. Our tour guide indicated that the city was planning to restore the smallpox building as a museum.
4. Knut was a merchant seaman and had many adventures and went to many ports around Europe and North Africa. These are chronicled elsewhere.
5. Knut Oscar Scholdberg died of a heart attack in Alexandria, Egypt on November 15, 1875 at about age 37.

Recollections of Elizabeth P. Holloway Steward Scholdberg Jordan

As follows are recollections of Elizabeth Priscilla Scholdberg/ Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan (nee Steward).

1. Elizabeth Priscilla was born as Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway, then became Elizabeth Priscilla Steward with her mother's subsequent marriage to Joseph Steward. Later she became Elizabeth Priscilla Scholdberg when she married Knut Scholdberg and Elizabeth Priscilla Jordan when she married James Jordan. Recent family members knew her as Elizabeth Jordan, but Elizabeth P. Jordan has been used because there are several Elizabeth Jordans in the family line.
2. Elizabeth Priscilla Holloway was born 28 Feb 1847 at the Poplar Union Workhouse, Poplar, England. When her mother married Joseph Steward in June 1848 she became Elizabeth Priscilla Steward. Joseph is presumed to be her father.
3. Elizabeth married Knut Oscar Scholdberg on 24 May 1867 at St. Mary's Stratford Bow in Bow, England.
4. After Knut Oscar Scholdberg died, she married James Jordan on 16 Nov 1876 at St. Mary's Stratford Bow in Bow, England.
5. Elizabeth immigrated to America on 18 Aug 1893 and then settled in Chicago.
6. My uncle Harold recalled that his great-grandmother Elizabeth Jordan was very nice and that she made a very good fruit cake which she kept it in the closet in some kind of a cloth bag.
7. Elizabeth died on 22 Apr 1931 in Chicago. My father had a vague recollection of getting all dressed up to attend her funeral. Dad would have been 8 years old.

Recollections of Margaret Jane Knowles Jordan Graham

As follows are recollections of Margaret J. Jordan/ Margaret J. Graham (nee Knowles). Margaret was born as Margaret Jane Knowles. She became Margaret J. Jordan with her marriage to James Oscar Jordan and Margaret J. Graham with her marriage to Robert Graham. Recent family members knew her as Margaret Graham or Grandma Graham.

1. Margaret Jane Knowles was born on April 18, 1878 at 445 Wellington, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The April 18th date came from her baptismal certificate. However, other records indicate that she used March 19th as her date of birth.
2. James Oscar Jordan married Margaret Jane Knowles on December 30, 1896 in Chicago. Their children were Herbert Arthur Jordan, Francis F., Edward A., Charles J. and Arthur S. Jordan
3. I remember a conversation about Margaret between my dad and my grandfather when we were out in California in 1959. My dad (Ed) inquired about Grandma Graham (Ed's grandma) and my Grandpa Jordan said she wasn't doing so well. This information got filed away in my mind. I never gave it much thought, until years later I discovered that Grandma Graham was Margaret Jane Knowles Jordan Graham. Margaret Graham died on August 20, 1959 in Glendale, California. Later I learned that Herbert and Elizabeth Jordan took her into their home at the end to care for her.

Recollections of William Wallace Knowles

As follows are recollections of William Wallace Knowles.

1. William Wallace Knowles born 27 Dec 1848 at Kildrumferton, Cavan County, Ireland.
2. William emigrated from Cavan County to Montreal about 1872.
3. He joined the NorthWest Mounted Police from 1873 to 1876, returning to Montreal in 1876.
4. William married Isabella Black on 25 Jan 1877 at St. John Evangelist, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
5. He moved to Chicago in late 1888 or 1889
6. William married Sara White about 1895 after Isabella died.
7. William died 24 Mar 1897 in Chicago.