

Ken Spurgeon's Ancestors
Joseph Madison Spurgeon 9th Kansas, Company E
and
Santford Spurgeon 9th Kansas, Company D

Joseph Madison Spurgeon was born near Freetown, Jackson County Indiana in October, 1842. He was the third child of William and Sarah (Motsinger) Spurgeon. His father died in 1845 at the age of 34. The following year his mother remarried a man named Eli Lorance, a widower with six children. Together Eli and Sarah had three more children. In 1857, Eli and Sarah decided to come to Kansas Territory. The family settled near Iola, in Allen County Kansas. In October, 1861, Joseph Madison and his brother Santford (Sant) enlisted in the 9th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry. Sant was mustered into Company D and Joseph Madison into Company E. Two half brothers also joined the regiment. The regiment primarily rode the Kansas-Missouri border between 1861-1863. They fought at Newtonia, Missouri, Prairie Grove, Arkansas as well as other smaller skirmishes. In September, 1863, they helped give chase after William Quantrill following the sack of Lawrence. Some of Quantrill's men were found by the 9th and given the Black Flag. In 1864, the regiment was primarily in Missouri and engaged some of Price's Army near Westport in the fall of that year. Members of Company D were bushwhacked near Westport at about that time. In January of 1865, Joseph M. and Sant were mustered out near Duvall's Bluff, Arkansas. Joseph's military records state that he suffered pneumonia twice, conjunctivitis of the eyes, and a broken leg from a fallen horse in battle. He was put in the brig on one occasion when he did not return to his regiment by the proscribed date.

After the war, Joseph settled in northeast Elk County. He married Sarah Jane Knox on January 5, 1868, and they were the first couple married in Elk County near the banks of Indian Creek. The first church (Missionary Baptist) met in the house of Sarah's father George W. Knox, a veteran of the 48th Missouri Infantry, USA. J.M. and Sarah had six children, three that survived infancy-John, 1869; Charles Theodore, 1874; and Joseph Ridgeway, 1876. Joseph Madison died on April 15, 1877 at the age of 34. Sarah died in April of 1888 having remarried and born 5 more children. She died in childbirth at the age of 39. They are buried in the Jackson Cemetery, Elk Co., Kansas near the town of New Albany.

As for Sant, he survived three wives and had six children. He lived his entire life after the Civil War, near the town of Montana in Labette County, Kansas. Sant bought an automobile in 1913 and proudly wrote to his nephew, my great-grandfather John about his new "otoemobile." Sant died on January 9, 1923. He was a member of the GAR and attended the 50th anniversary of the surrender celebration held at Oswego, Kansas in April, 1915.

In memory of
Santford Spurgeon (1840-1923) and Joseph Madison Spurgeon (1842-1877),
servants of God and "Guardians of the Republic."

