

Josiah P. Marvel [6166211]

{The following sketch was developed from an article on Josiah Marvel [6166117] from pages 107 & 108 of the "M" marvel history, an obituary for Andrew Marvel [6166116], a memo written by Agnes (Richardson) Marvel, wife of Andrew, and data assembled by Ella (Armstrong) Yeakel [613346(10)] using "Virkus - Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy, p 154" and Donald Virden's "Some Pioneer Delaware Families." Family details are recorded in the Family Volume}

Josiah P. Marvel resided in Nanticoke Hundred, Sussex County, near Georgetown, Delaware. This land was originally taken up by John Marvell [6] in 1639 {sic} under a grant from Lord Baltimore. His ancestors acknowledged allegiance to Maryland until the running of the Mason-Dixon line which placed the land in Delaware. The "line" was developed in 1760 to resolve boundary disputes between Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. Later on it became a symbolic division between the free and slave states. The first five generations of Marvels were farmers and none held public office until Josiah P. became Sheriff and then Prothonotary (the principal clerk in a court of law) of Sussex County.

Josiah P. Marvel married Harriet Ann Pepper and they had eight children. Three, David Thomas Marvel [6166111], Andrew Marvel [6166116], and Josiah Marvel [6166117] became lawyers.

David Thomas Marvel was born on the homestead on November 2, 1851. He graduated from Princeton College in 1873 and that fall registered as a law student under the direction of Honorable Thomas F. Bayard. During the school years of 1873 and 1874 he taught higher mathematics at Reynold's Academy, Wilmington. He enrolled in a two year course at Harvard Law School and was for a time a private secretary for Mr. Bayard in Washington, DC. He was admitted to the bar in Sussex County and established his practice in Georgetown. In 1881 he became a clerk in the House of Representatives. On February 17, 1885 he married Mary Robinson Wootten, daughter of the Attorney-General Wootten and granddaughter of Judge Wootten and Governor Burton. From 1883 until 1889 he was Attorney for the Levy Court of Sussex County. On January 20, 1891 Governor Reynolds appointed him Secretary of State and the Legislature directed him to codify the laws of the state. In 1896, he became associated with his brother, Josiah, in the Wilmington law firm which in 1912 became Marvel, Marvel, Layton & Hughes. He died prior to 1937.

Andrew Marvel was born on the homestead July 3, 1877. He attended Earlham College, at Richmond, Indiana and graduated from the University of Virginia Law School. He was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1907. He married Agnes Richardson, daughter of Sarah (Speakman) Richardson. They had three children. He practiced law for only a few years and then returned to farming. He owned and operated the Marvel Poultry Farm located near Georgetown and was one of the largest facilities in the state. He was appointed Postmaster of Georgetown on March 17, 1936. Andrew became ill in November of 1936 and died at the Beebe Hospital from a heart condition on April 9, 1937. Surviving were his wife Agnes, children Andrew Jr, and Sarah, and sisters, Harriet, Jennie and Anna.

Josiah Marvel was born at the homestead on January 18, 1866, the last of seven children. He attended the Sussex County Schools until he was sixteen then he taught school of five years. He registered as a law student in the office of George Gay of Wilmington. He was admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1894 and started his practice in Wilmington. He was joined by his brother David in 1896. He married Mary Bell Jackson in 1898 and they had eight children. Like his brothers he was a Democrat and was active in political and civic affairs. He served as president of the Delaware

Chamber of Commerce, the Associates Charities and Boy Scouts Council, the Men's Club of Trinity Church, and the Lincoln Club of Philadelphia. He was dedicated to advancing education serving as a Trustee of the Tower Hill School, establishing a loan fund for students of Delaware College, and through the Rotary Club raised a large fund to help boys continue their high school education. He drafted a plan for a road system in Delaware that became a state law and was then appointed a member of the State Highway Department to help implement the system. He prepared the original draft for the Delaware Child Labor Law, the Delaware Income Tax Law and the Delaware Inheritance Law. During World War I he gave addresses and directed meetings to develop the necessary war spirit. He was appointed Temporary Food Administrator under President Hoover and became Chairman of the Red Cross and Victory loan drives. In 1922 he was elected the first president to the American Bar Association and was re-elected two years later. His recreation included farming and stock raising at his Nanticoke country place. He also enjoyed fox hunting, horseback riding, golf, and book collecting. He died October 11, 1930 as was recorded in the 1930 reunion minutes as read in 1931.