

## Rachel Marvel [616917]

and spouse James Chamberlain

{Copied, essentially verbatim, from pages 205 and 206 of the M history}

Rachel Marvel [616917] was the second daughter of William and Sarah (Story) Marvel [61691]. She was born in Franklin County, Ohio on October 3, 1840. When a child she came to Fulton County, Illinois with her parents. She was married to James Chamberlain, the son of James and Sarah (Peterson) Chamberlain on February 10, 1859. James was born in Ashland County, Ohio on December 18, 1836. After their marriage they resided in Illinois for several years where they engaged in farming. One son, John William, was born to them while they were living in Illinois. In the spring of 1860, they moved to Washington County, Iowa, by wagon, crossing the Mississippi River on the ice. Here a second son, Francis Henry, and one daughter, Myrtle Ophelia, was born.

While living in Iowa, Rachel's health failed and the doctor prescribed a southern climate. As her only sister, Hettie (Marvel) Bales lived in Alvarado, Johnson County, Texas, they started for there in the fall of 1867 by wagon, accompanied by several other families. Cold weather overtook them at a small village which is now known as Kansas City. Several of the families became discouraged here and turned back, among them was one, Van Story, a cousin of Rachel. During their stay here, James had the chance to trade his fine team of Morgan horses for what is now Swopes Park. The trade did not appeal to him because he thought the land was too hilly and rough for any use, but he little knew that some day in the future this site would be covered by one of the most prospering cities in the middle-west, Kansas City, Kansas.

They continued their journey on down to Iola, Kansas, where they wintered in 1867. As there was no railroad south of Fort Scott, James freighted by team all that winter. This was a very severe winter, there were many blizzards and deep snows that were hard on the teamsters. Rachel had a boarding house while here and often Indians would come for food. In the summer of 1868 they resumed their travel to Texas. They had many obstacles to overcome meeting with several Indian tribes on their way through the Indian territory. They had a hard time fording the Simmorn and Arkansas rivers on account of quicksand. After they arrived in Texas, they run a combination boarding house and postoffice {sic}. This was soon after the Civil War and hatred was still alive against the Northern man, so James was christened the Blue Bellied Yankee. They stayed there for two years, until the fall of 1870, when they started north for Kansas. It was too rough in Texas for them, as it was common occurrence to see a man shot down at any time of the day or night. This worked on the nerves of Rachel until she could stand it no longer.

They reached Independence, Kansas, the county seat of Montgomery County in 1871. James bought a claim northwest of Independence. While living here another daughter was born, Gertrude May Chamberlain [6169174]. Rachel's health failed in the fall of 1892 and they sold the farm and moved to Peru, Chautauqua County, Kansas, an oil town forty-five miles west of Independence, where James conducted a dry goods and grocery store. On August 7, 1893, Rachel (Marvel) Chamberlain passed away. After her death the youngest daughter, Gertrude May, kept house for her father. James Chamberlain died December 9, 1919 from an accident which he experienced while he was going by train to visit his eldest daughter. James and Rachel Chamberlain were buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, Independence, Kansas. They were both members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and were always ready and willing to help their fellow workers in any way they could. It might be said here that while they lived in Iowa, Rachel Chamberlain's brothers, Samuel and Francis Marvel, enlisted in the Northern

Army. Francis was a great lover of horses; while in the South he sent James a fine stallion and Rachel one set of fine wine goblets. Both of these prizes were taken from an old plantation near Tampa Bay, Florida. The goblet is still in the family.