

Zillah's father, Joseph Theodore Worsley (1832-1894.)



Zillah's mother, Jane Jennie Bonnamy Worsley (1837-1914.)



Zillah's grandmother, Teresa Thirza Bean Worsley (1812-1905.)

“The burglar did drop them, but seized her by the arm.”

“At this moment she discovered another man at the window outside and fired at him. The fellow threw up his hands and exclaimed, ‘My God,’ immediately taking to his heels, followed by the burglar in the house.”

“Nothing daunted, the brave woman gave chase, and drew a bead on the retreated figure, out of her

extreme chagrin the revolver failed to go off, so the burglars did. There is reason to believe the shot fired took effect for the burglar uttered the above exclamation as if in pain. It is to be hoped such is the case, then, maybe, he will hereafter not molest unprotected woman.”

“An inventory show that no booty was obtained. A number of silver knives and other valuable articles had been handed through the window to the pal below, but in their precipitate retreat they forgot to leave directions for their disposal. Entrance was gained though the woodshed door, and then into the house. All honor to a brave women! The **Argus** admiringly doffs it hat.”

And so that is how Shakopee knows about Zillah Worsley Jackson. Before too long, Zillah and James, along with their three children, Renie Zillah Jackson Smith (1879-1929), Katherine A. Jackson Anderson (1886-1864), and Mary Jane Madie Jackson Utz (1892-1940) were living in Illinois.

James R. Jackson died on January 14, 1918 in Chicago, Illinois. Zillah Worsley Jackson died on April 21, 1937 in Oak Park, Illinois. But thanks to the **Shakopee Argus**, all of us know about Zillah, a brave woman who lived in downtown Shakopee.



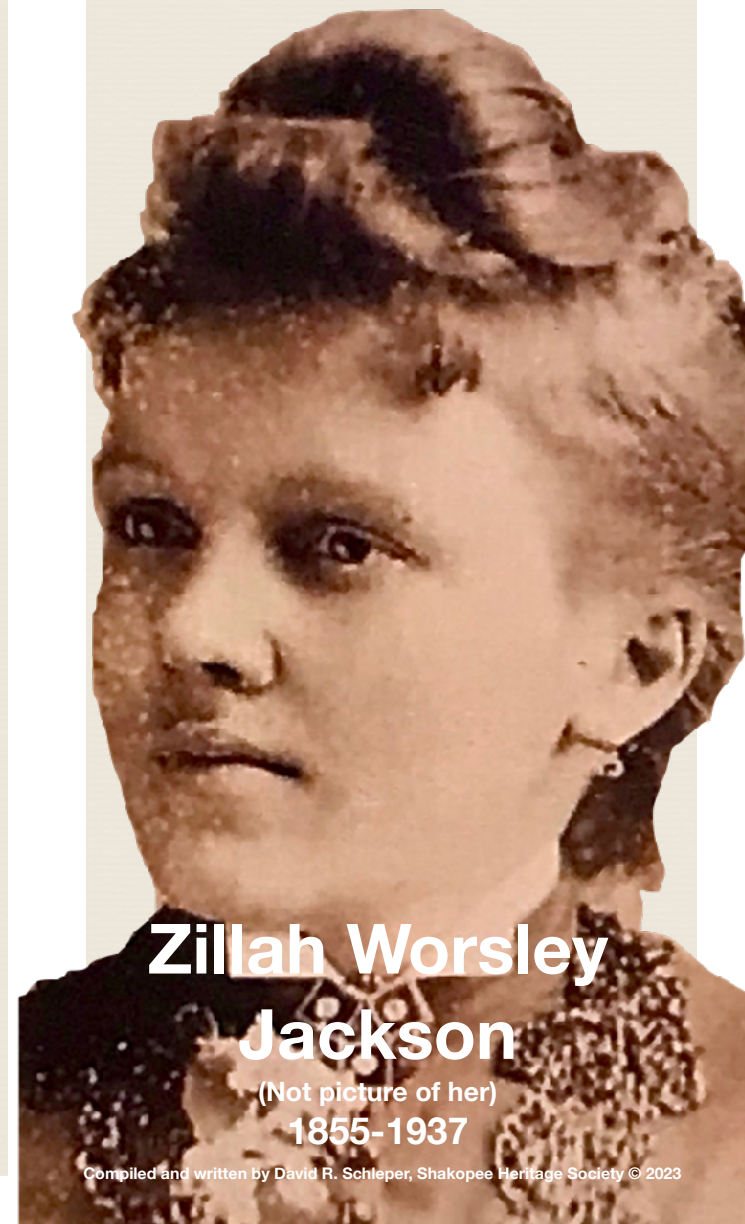
SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY
2109 Boulder Pointe, Shakopee, MN 55379

952-693-3865

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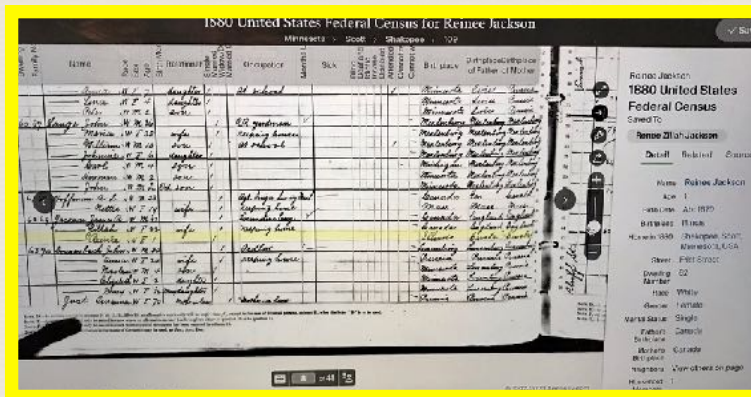
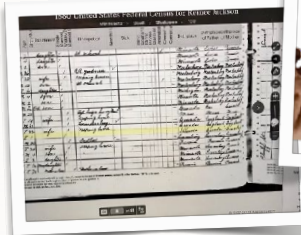
SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



Zillah Worsley
Jackson

(Not picture of her)

1855-1937



A 1880 United States Federal Census for Shakopee include the Jackson family: James R. Jackson, Zillah Jackson, and their one year old daughter, Renie Zillah Jackson. James and Zillah were both born in in Canada, while Renie was born in Illinois. The family moved to Shakopee in 1879 or 1880, and by 1890 they were back to Illinois.

Zillah Worsley was born on March 31, 1855 in Paris, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of Joseph Theodore Worsley (1832-1894) and Jane Jennie Bonnamy Worsley (1837-1914.). Zillah's grandparents were Joseph Worsley (1810-1895) and Teresa Thirza Bean (1812-1905) and James Bonnamy (1795-1895) and Jane Joan Easterbrook (1796-1861), according to *Shakopee Jackson Family Tree* at ancestry.com.

When Zillah was 15, she and her family moved from Canada to Illinois. Zillah then married James R. Jackson, who was also from Canada. James was born on June 26, 1855, and died on January 14, 1918 in Chicago. His parents were George Jackson (1832-1896) and Mary Bonnamy (1830-1915.)

Zillah Worsley Jackson and James R. Jackson, both 25, lived in Shakopee, Minnesota in the U.S. Census in 1880, along with their one year old daughter, Renie Zillah Jackson (1879-1929.). By 1890, the family moved to Oak Park, Illinois.

That would be all that the Shakopee Heritage Society knows about Zillah, except for an article in *Shakopee Argus* in 1880. The article was titled, *A Brave Woman and a Baffled Burglar*.

“The city contains one lady—nothing disrespectful to the other ladies is intended—that she may feel proud to claim as a citizen.”

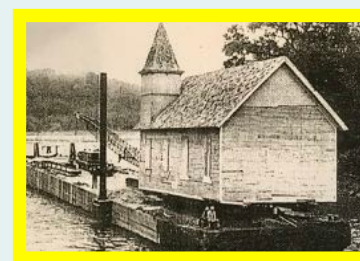
“It is pretty generally supposed that a woman is afraid of three things—a snake, a cow, and a burglar. This is not true as regards one woman, Mrs. Zilla Jackson. The lady lives on Third street in the block immediately West of the Methodist church. Her husband is absent to Winnipeg.”

“Lately Mrs. Jackson has noticed two men prowling around her premises.”

Several times she has seen them in the yard, and finally becoming suspicious as to their good intentions, she purchased a revolver to defend herself and the property if need were.”

“Monday night she laid the revolver, ready cocked, upon a stand within reach of the bed. During the night she was awakened by a slight noise, and to her extreme surprise saw a man in an adjoining room.”

“Grasping her trusty weapon, the plucky little woman quietly arose and stealthy approached the burglar. As she stepped into the next room she saw the man examining articles of value, and in firm tones commanded him to drop them.”



The Jackson family lived on Third Street (now Avenue) immediately West of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The church was built-in the southside of Third Street, between Sommerville and Spencer Street. In 1899, the church was given to the Bloomington Ferry Methodist Church. It was brought down the Minnesota River and set up in West Bloomington. It took ten or twelve teams of horses to pull the building down the road on rollers. Then it moved over the River on a barge.

In June 1970, the church was moved back to Shakopee. The 20 X 50 foot church stands 50 feet tall and weighed 50 tons. A crane moved the church onto a 190 foot barge and then moved down the River to the Landing in Shakopee. Since then, the church has been restored to resemble what it was like in the late 1800s. But it now serves a modern purpose as a year-round non-denominational Christian church with services at 10 a.m. each Sunday, according to Shakopee Valley News, Aug. 27, 1992.