

**Correct Birth Date
of
Augusta Jane "Jennie" (Payne) Fansler**

by

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Despite the fact that Jennie's grave stone at the Sanger Cemetery located at Sanger in Fresno County, California, is inscribed with a birth date of **March 20, 1860**, an accompanying text to the picture of her grave stone, at *findagrave.com* on the internet, cites her birth date as **March 20, 1862**. Which date is correct?

With two exceptions, all available census records relative to this issue for both the Adam Vinson Fansler and James (W.) Payne families, as well as all available family trees found on both *ancestry.com* and the *Rootsweb World Connect Project* for these two families, support the 1862 date rather than the 1860 date.

Census Records

1860 - U.S. Federal Census, dated 1 June 1860., for Warren County, Indiana.

Jennie is **not** present in her parent's household on the 1860 U.S. Federal Census record of her parents, **James W. and Sarah C. (Wagoner) Payne**. If born in March, 1860, she would be two months old at the time this census was taken and should be listed in their household. Conclusion: She has not yet been born.

1870 - U.S. Federal Census, dated 7 June 1870, for Warren County, Indiana:

Daughter **Jennie Payne**, age **8**, is present in the household of her parents, **James and Sarah Payne**. Her age on this census is in exact agreement with a March **1862** birth date.

Note: On this census her name is indexed as "Lennie" Payne; however, this is an indexing error as the census page very clearly shows her name correctly as "Jennie".

In addition, a note on a *RootsWeb's WorldConnect Project* family tree record entitled "*The Payne Family*" states that James Payne moved his family to Sumner County, Kansas, on October 23, 1879.

1880 - U.S. Federal Census, dated 21 June 1880, for Caldwell, Sumner County, Kansas:

Daughter **Jane Payne**, age **18**, is present in the household of her parents, **James** and **Sarah Payne** and not yet married. Her age on this census is, again, in exact agreement with a March 1862 birth date.

Note: Augusta Jane "Jennie" Payne married Adam Vinson Fansler, 28 March 1882, in Sumner County, Kansas, as recorded in the Sumner County, Kansas, probate office Marriage Book B-134 at Wellington, the county seat of Sumner County. She will be enumerated in her husband's household on future census records.

The above marriage information is as reported on an Adam Vinson Fansler family tree record entitled "*My Family and More*" found at *RootsWeb's WorldConnect Project* on the internet.

Not having personally viewed the above official marriage record, I cannot confirm its correctness. However, there is no reason to believe that it may have been incorrectly abstracted and I, for one, except it as fact until such time that confirmed, conflicting information might be established.

1885 - Kansas State Census, dated 1 March 1885 for Caldwell, Sumner County, Kansas:

Wife, **Jennie Fansler**, age **23**, is present in the household of her husband who is inexplicably enumerated as "**Robert**" **Fansler**. Again, her age agrees exactly with a birth date in March 1862.

1890 - Oklahoma State Census, dated 12 June 1890, for Kingfisher County, Oklahoma:

Wife, **Jennie Fansler**, age 28, is present in the household of her husband who is correctly enumerated as **Adam V. Fansler**. Her age still agrees exactly with a birth date in March 1862.

1900 - U/ S/ Federal Cemsus, dated 18 June 1900, for Banner, Kingfisher County, Oklahoma:

Wife, **Jennie Fansler**, age 38, is present in the household of her husband who is once again inexplicably enumerated as **Robert Fansler**. Her age

continues to agree exactly with a birth date in March 1862 and she is reported on this census to have been born in March 1862.

1910 - U.S. Federal Census, dated 3-4-5 May, 1910, for Forest, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma:

Wife, **Jennie Fansler**, age 50, is present in the household of her husband who is now enumerated correctly as **Adam Fansler**. This is one the two exceptions in the records where her age does not agree with an 1862 birth date and, instead, would extrapolate to a birth date in 1860.

1920 - U.S. Federal Census, dated 21st of January, 1910, for Brinton, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma:

Wife **Jennie Fansler**, age 57, is present in the household of her husband who is again correctly enumerated as **Adam V. Fansler**.

Note that her age on this census reverts to being in agreement with a birth date in March 1862. Since the date of the census is in January of 1920, she will not reach age 58 until two months later in March, 1920.

1930 - U.S. Federal Census, dated 30 April, 1930, for Township 7, Fresno County, California:

Wife **Jennie Fansler**, age 70, is present in the household of her husband **Adam V. Fansler**. This is the second census record where her age is not in agreement with a birth date in 1862 but, instead, would extrapolate to a birth date in 1860.

Conclusion: In view of the agreement of all but two of the above records, there appears to be no doubt that her correct birth date is March 20, 1862.

Marriage Date Information

As noted above, a Payne Family Tree Record found on *RootsWeb World/Connect Project* on the internet, specifies that the date of Jennie's marriage to Adam Fansler was March 28, 1882, and cites the source of this information as Page 134 of Marriage Book B for Sumner County, Kansas. This is also the date of their marriage included in the text accompanying the picture of Jennie's grave stone found at *findagrave.com* on the internet.

Unless this date of March 28, 1882, from the official records of Sumner County, Kansas, is assumed to be an abstracting error, there can be no doubt as to its authenticity.

This marriage date (March 28, 1882) is in agreement with information included on the 1930 U.S. Federal Census for the Adam V. Fansler family where it is reported that Jennie was age 20 and Adam age 34 at the time of their first marriage. An age of 20 for Jennie at the time of their marriage would agree with her birth date, established above, as March 20, 1862.

However, assuming that the reported marriage date (above) is correct and is not an abstracting error, it would not agree with her age of 70 shown on this same 1930 census. If her current age of 70 and her age of 20 at the time of her marriage, as reported on this census, were both correct, it would place their marriage in 1880 rather than 1882.

It must also be noted that an 1880 marriage date is supported by an entry on the 1900 census record where it is reported that both she and her husband have been married for 20 years and is further supported by the entry on the 1910 census record that they have been married for 30 years.

Nevertheless, notwithstanding the above, these two items of information do not agree with either the preponderance of evidence concerning her date of birth (as outlined in this document) or the marriage date stated as found in the Sumner County, Kansas, marriage records.

In this instance, and assuming that the marriage date cited above is not an abstracting error, the only conclusion possible is that her age of 70 as reported on this 1930 census and also her age of 50 reported on the 1910 census are both in error. This would also be true for the years of marriage reported on both the 1900 and 1910 census records which should be 18 (not 20) in 1900 and 28 (not 30) in 1910.

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