

Harry Truman
mother
& Young

The Young's Adventures West

or

Go West . . . Young Man

This is a brief story about the remarkable Young family, reviewing just one period in our Young history. Some believe the Youngs came from Essex City in England, initially settling in North Carolina before migrating to Virginia. In the 1800's, Issac John Young and Jacob Young were important men of their times, but Solomon Young was particularly interesting.

Now, this is not necessarily about our first or second cousins but they were in the same time period as our Grandpa Henry A. Young. In fact, we have reason to believe some of our distant cousins were on this crusade, but later returned to their local farms, here in Virginia.

Solomon Young was born in 1815 in Shelby City, Kentucky. His father was a North Carolina Revolutionary War veteran named Jacob, who was married to Rachel, who died when Solomon was only twelve. Solomon was one of eleven children and was married to Lousia in 1838. She had eleven brothers & sisters. Solomon and his wife were from fairly affluent families.

They were Presbyterian and Baptist Democrats, just hard working true Americans and honest people with Bibles in hand, along with farm tools, rifles, and corn whiskey.

At age 26, in 1841, he was a Kentucky farmer, near the Virginia state line and heard a well-founded rumor that the flat land of Missouri was good and would grow better crops than Virginia or Kentucky. It was fashionable in those days to "Go West, Young Man" and Solomon Young did just that. Other families joined in. One of the families that joined the Young family was the Truman family. They traveled by horse and by wagon.

The Truman family was led by Anderson Shipp Truman. His father was William Truman, also from Virginia. There was some friction within the family groups. Salomon Young had 5 or 6 slaves with them and were therefore relatively wealthy. The Trumans had no slaves and were therefore relatively poor.

The winter of 1844 was very, very cold in Missouri. Big floods came and sometimes, tornados. This caused some of the farmers to return to their mountain lands in Kentucky and Virginia. But, Salomon and his wife stayed and started farming in a big way, buying land for \$1.25 an acre. As time passed, Salomon and Louisa had six more children. One lovely daughter was named Martha Ellen or "Mattie" Truman, who played an important role in our nation, as you will discover shortly.

By 1860, Solomon had become a wealthy man and decided to again migrate west, all the way to California, with a herd of 1,500 cattle. Unfortunately, he lost a third along the way. In all kinds of weather, that journey took a full year. Finally reaching Sacramento, he traded the remaining herd for 40 thousand acres of land. But, he was eventually forced to sell it, to cover the debts of a partner, proving he stood by his friends.

Meanwhile, back in Missouri in 1874, a plague of grasshoppers came in black clouds, shutting out the sun. When they left, the land was as bare as if scorched by fire. Continuing his bad luck, a servant girl accidentally burned his house to the ground when lighting to coal oil lamp.

Through all of this the Trumans had always admired the Youngs for their leadership and determination.

In due time, Solomon's youngest daughter, Mattie, married John Anderson Truman. The Youngs were very much against the wedding at first, as Mattie was marrying "down, not up". But, as time passed, they became friends and farmed together, as partners. Years before, John had owned 140 acres in Virginia but was forced to sell, to settle a debt, but still became partners with Solomon Young, who had earlier stood by his partners in California.

Mattie's first child was a stillborn boy but, a year & a half later, she had a healthy son on May 8th, 1884, who was named Harry Truman, after his uncle Harrison. As they studied many names for their new son, they toyed with naming him after her father, Solomon Young, or after his father, Anderson Shipp Truman. Harry's middle initial is "S", meaning whichever way you wish to apply it.

Years later, Harry Truman would say the happiest days of his life were riding around the farm and countryside with his Grandpa Young, a wonderful man with a long, white beard and big strong hands. When his Grandpa Young lay sick in bed, Harry stayed close with him, to stay in touch and offer assistance. Shortly before his death, the old pioneer told Harry that . . . "you are the one I am worried about".

Grandma Louisa Young was also admired and much loved by Harry, who remembers her as being a wonderful cook, always showering him with cookies and special treats. She was a good mother and loved to dance, as well as play the piano and strongly encouraged Harry to also play the piano.

In 1892, when Solomon Young died at age 77, Harry was only 9 years old, badly hurt, and left with only the memories. Two years later, Harry become very ill with diphtheria. His arms and legs became paralyzed. His mother, Mattie Young Truman, spent months wheeling Harry around in a baby carriage. But, she enjoyed a full life, living 91 years before dying in 1909. Harry said the first Christmas without her was the saddest of his life.

As you guessed, Harry eventually became our 33rd President and made the tough decisions to end World War II and to make the peace. The Young family can take pride in nurturing a U.S. President but, just as important, they have earned a reputation for leadership, decisive thinking, deep caring, and brotherly love. There is much to being a Young and there is much to be proud of.



Harriet Louisa Gregg Young and Solomon Young.

Mary Jane Holmes Truman and Anderson Shipp Truman.



*Her parents - Top
His " - Ctr
their child is
Harry S Truman*

Martha Ellen Young Truman and John Anderson Truman at the time of their marriage, December 1881.