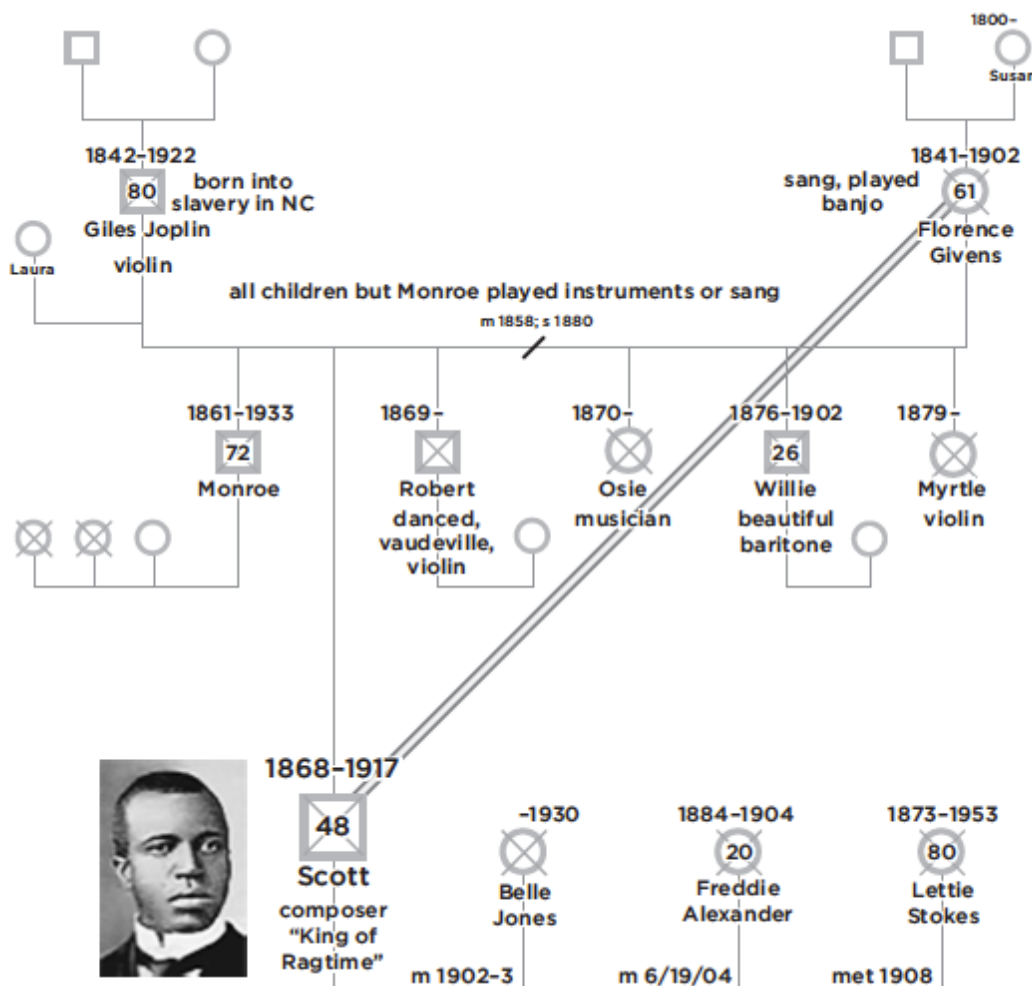


Genogram Story of Scott Joplin

By Monica McGoldrick

Scott Joplin, (**Genogram 4.7**), the first African American composer to fully develop his compositions into an American idiom was the first of his family's



children to be born after the end of slavery (1868). If we look at the Joplin genogram we may wonder why Scott Joplin of all his musical siblings became the famous composer, whose music is still so widely listened to. Both parents and all of the siblings appear to have been very musical. He was extremely talented, but perhaps there were also family patterns that contributed to his special development.

If we look at the genogram, we can see that he was born 7 years after the oldest son, followed in quick succession (one year apart) by 2 more siblings, and then the younger children were born at 6 and 3 year intervals. His older brother, Monroe, born in 1861 was the only one of the 6 Joplin children who did not have any

1870 Census for Joplin Family

ancestry.com 1870 United States Federal Census Record for Scott Joplin

Return to Record Texas > Davis > Precinct 1 > 14

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1	-	Charles	10	5	M	10					
2	-	Randa	3	10	B						Texas
3	-	George	2	10	B						Texas
4	-	William	7/2	10	B						Texas
5	10/10	James Milton	35	10	B						Kentucky
6	-	Susan	70	10	B						Virginia
7	10/10	Joplin Giles	28	10	B						North Carolina
8	-	Renee	29	10	B						Kentucky
9	-	James	7	10	B						Texas
10	→	Scott	2	10	B						Texas
11	-	Robert	1	10	B						Texas

schooling and the only one who did not learn music and become a musician.

1870 Census for Joplin Family

ancestry.com 1880 United States Federal Census Record for Scott Joplin

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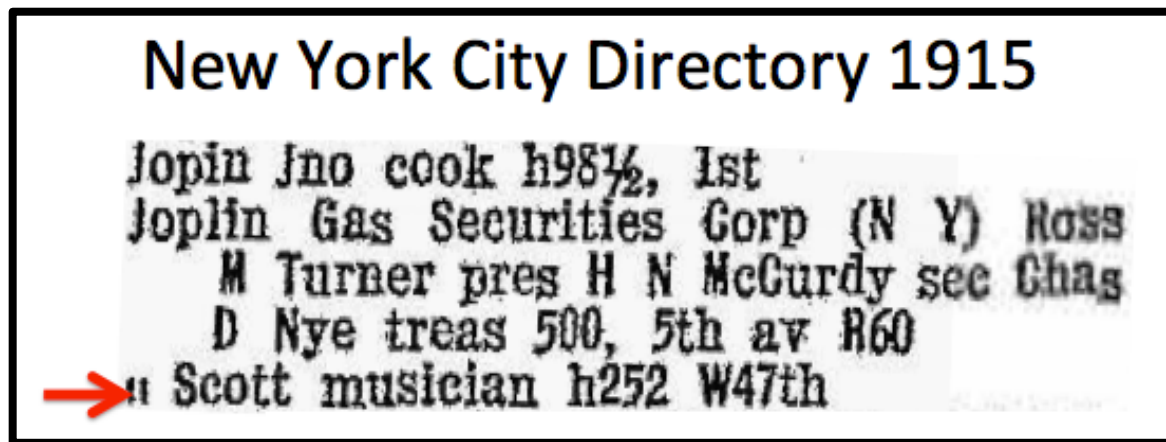
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Joplin	Isler	B	M	38		1		Common laborer
—	Dorlene	B	F	39	Wife	1		Wash & Sew
—	Monroe	B	M	19	Son	1		Porter in Store
→	Scott	B	M	12	Son	1		going to school
—	Robt.	B	M	11	Son	1		do do
—	Jose	B	F	10	Daughter	1		
—	Willie	B	M	4	Son	1		
—	Johnny	B	M	3/4	Son	1		

The years between Monroe and Scott's births were the years of the Civil War, so

Scott was the first child born after the Civil War, which could have made his birth special for the family (even though Texas, where they lived, did not acknowledge the end of slavery until 1870). But it is also possible that there were other pregnancies in between the 2 first brothers, which we don't know about, because we lack complete sources of information.

If Joplin's mother, Florence Givens, had lost children between Monroe and Scott, it could help to explain Scott's apparent special position in her heart. She not only found a way for him to play the piano as a small child in the home of a family she worked for, but she managed to buy a piano for him at the very time when her husband was leaving her for another woman. It has been suggested that Scott was triangled into his parents' relationship through his father's resentment of his mother's "overencouraging" him and that this contributed to their eventual separation (Haskins, 1978, p. 54).



In any case, Joplin had a sense of his "specialness" from early on, received considerable education, where his older brother Monroe apparently never went to school, though he did study music as did all the Joplin children. By the age of 16 Joplin organized a music group and before he was 25 he was "The King of Ragtime."

Scott Joplin seems to have been able to see light years beyond his time. He became the most famous African American composer of his time. But his dream was to move beyond "Black music" the category in which ragtime was located. He fought for years to publish and produce his opera Treemonisha, and another opera, now lost, which appears to have been about Theodore Roosevelt

Joplin Chronology

- 1860 Scott's parents, Jiles Joplin and Florence Givens married
- 1861 Monroe, 1st child born
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation.
- 1866 Ku Klux Klan (white supremacist organization) organized in Pulaski, Tenn. As social club.

- 1867 Congress passed Reconstruction act. 200,000 Union soldiers sent to south to enforce freedom granted to former slaves.
- 1868 probably much before the celebrated date Nov 24. (date unsure). Scott born (2nd of 6 children).
- 1868 400 freedmen were killed by whites in Texas.
- 1869 3rd son, Robert born
- 1870 15th Amendment passed giving all males right to vote.
- 1870 Osie (Jose), 1st daughter born. (1870 census says Milton Givens age 50 or 60 or 68? (unclear), and Susan, age 70, are living with family)
- 1875 Congress passed landmark Civil Rights Act prohibiting racial discrimination. African Americans were guaranteed equal access to everything.
- 1875 13th Amendment abolished Slavery.
- 1875 Scott begins to play piano. M got him lessons from local mixed-race man J. C. Johnson. Then from German immigrant, Julius Weiss.
- 1876 4th son, Willie, born.
- 1877 Union soldiers withdraw and civil rights begin to diminish.
- 1879 2nd daughter, Myrtle born
- 1880 Father left home to live with another woman but remained in contact.
- 1880 About this time mother got Scott a piano
- 1882 Giles told Scott about job at rr yard where he wkd and he didn't take it- from then on SJ stopped listening to F but stayed close to M who always believed in him.
- 1883 Civil Rights act declared unconstitutional.
- 1884 Scott forms Texas Medley Quartet which included bro Will & 2 neighbors. Soon added bro Robert.
- 1890~ To St Louis. To Silver Dollar Saloon- club owned by African American John Turpin. Turpin put him up as well and he then connected w Turpin's son Tom, talented pianist who dreamed of being composer.
- 1890s Jim Crow laws passed which restricted African American freedom-
- 1893 Columbian World Exposition in Chicago, which Joplin surely attended.**
- 1893 Stock market crashed and plunged US into major depression.
- 1894 to 1895. Texas Medley Quartette- 8 members. Willie Joplin-lead voice, Robt Joplin-baritone
- 1897 Scott moved to Sedalia- back to St Louis in 1901.
- 1896 Probably attended George B Smith college to study music probably with Arthur Marshall (b 1882).
- 1897 Texas Medley Quartets last tour
- 1898 ?Moved to St Louis after 4 yrs in Sedalia- had he finished college there? He had studied there at college that later burned down. They Joplin house people think he finished college and left.
- 1899 Maple Leaf Rag, his 1st publication gave him 1 cent royalty per copy. (from then on never went out of publication).
- 1899 bro Willie was lead (narrator) in ballet The Ragtime Dance in St. Louis. Willie had been singing baritone w Kty Rosebud Quartette in Omaha (Berlin, p. 77)

- 1899 Nov. 24. Maple Leaf Club held 1st dance. Premier of The Ragtime Dance- Joplin's 1st effort in serious musical theater (was this coincidence or did Lottie confuse this impt date for Joplin w his birthday? (Berlin, p. 78)
- 1900 Joplin married Belle Jones Hayden, who had son Alonzo by 1st marriage, b 1897, who was living with husband's parents Marion and Louise Hayden. Belle had previously married Joe Hayden, the brother of Scot's friend Scott Hayden. (Joplin house people think she was responsibility of Scott Hayden after her husb Joe died and that he passed her off to Scott. Maybe she never loved him.
- 1900 Stark refused to publish Ragtime Dance
- 1901 Moved with Belle to St Louis** where her brother Scott joined them as well as Joplin's brothers Robert & Will
- 1901 brother Robert divorced Cora and joined brothers in St. Louis
- 1902 Stark relented and published Ragtime Dance
- 1902 Very prolific year- wrote Entertainer, Elite Syncopations and many other pieces.
- 1902 July. Nora Hayden gave birth to a girl.
- 1902 Aug. Nora died.
- 1902 The Joplins purchased 13 room house at 2117 Lucas and left Morgan St.
- 1902 About the year mother Florence died.**
- 1903 SJ & Belle, the Haydens & Will Joplin moved into same building- rented rooms to other musicians.**
- 1903 early in year. Belle had baby with Scott.** Scott Hayden and his wife, Nora, had baby girl and then Nora the wife died. Shortly after they had moved back to Sedalia. (They think maybe it was Nora's baby Arthur got confused about- no birth cert, no death cert etc.)
- 1903 Will died. (1904 Directory lists Sopharina Joplin, widow of William.)
- 1903 finished 1st opera- Guest of Honor
- 1903 Separated from Belle
- 1903 After separation took his troupe on road with his Opera Guest of Honor
- 1904 returned to Sedalia.
- 1904 To St Louis Fair. Cascades was a hit. (Joplin house people say he wasn't at the fair which had race issues- maybe would have separate days for blacks.
- 1904 June 14. SJ mar Freddie Alexander.**
- 1904 September 10 Freddie died, age 20.**
- 1904 Bro Willie d.** (Joplin house people say).
- 1905 Joplin visited Chicago stayin 1st w Marshall and then w bro Robt B, who is listed at 2635 Armitage in 1905 Directory (Berlin, p. 154).
- 1906 Robt appearing in press- extremely active in several areas of black theater- led company of 16 performers in "extravaganza called "Cuban Belle."
- 1907 Robert stage dir at Lincoln Theatre in Knoxville (White owned, black oriented).
- 1907 Listed self as "laborer"
- 1907 Visited home which lifted his spirits
- 1907 To NY- very productive year

- 1907 Robt celebrated vaudevillian by this x- directed and narrated a performance of The Ragtime dance (Berlin, p. 77)
- 1908 Robt had audience howling and became stage dir of Clark's Theatre in Columbus Ohio. (Berlin, 177).
- 1908 Joplin met Lottie, was in vaudeville earlier.**
- 1910 U.S. Census lists Joplin as lodger at Manhattan Ward 20, West 29th St.
- 1911 Settled in NY late this year or early the next.
- 1911 Struggling to publish Tremonisha.
- 1912 brother Willie's wife died and he returned to Texarkana for about a year and then left again
- 1912 brother **Robert** became mgr Ruby Theater in Louisville in April but was dismissed after 2 mos. Then returned to traveling life of vaudville singer and dancer. Took prize in town in Pa in cakewalk contest (Berlin, p. 218)
- 1912 Only l publication- Scott Joplin's New Rag (Berlin, p. 218).
- 1915 New York City Directories lists Scott Joplin, musician at 225 West 47th St.
- 1917 Joplin died "insane" in Manhattan State Hospital.

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- Haskins, J. (1978). Scott Joplin: The man who made Ragtime. Briarcliff Manor, NY: Scarborough.
- Preston, K. (1988). Scott Joplin: Composer. New York: Chelsea House.
- Curtis, S. (2004). Dancing to a black man's tune: The life of Scott Joplin. Columbia, MO: University of Missouri Press. (original edition of 1994 seems to have quite a few discrepancies from Berlin- e.g. that bro Ocie (Osie) was a sis Jose,

Websites:

- www.personal.psu.edu/users/j/n/jnm144/scott%20joplin.htm.
- www.scottjoplin.org/biography.htm.