

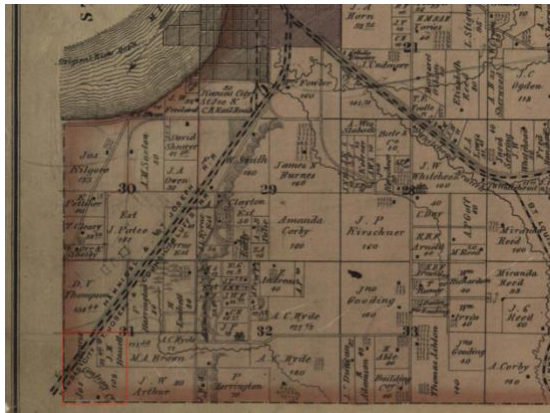
Joseph Hiram Devorss Platte Purchase Minister



"Uncle Joe" DeVorss
Photo courtesy of Bob Turpin, 2015
Find A Grave Memorial #58579877

Joseph Hiram Devorss (1816-1902) was the oldest child of John D. and Mary Davis Devorss. He was born December 29, 1816, in Pickaway County, Ohio. According to a biographical sketch from a Buchanan County, Missouri, history book, Joseph was permitted to attend school for only two months out of the year. He moved to Missouri with his family circa 1841. As a young man living in Circleville, Ohio, Devorss learned the trade of cabinet making, and he would fall back on this trade throughout his life. On April 9, 1837, Joseph married **Rebecca English (1818-1887)**.

The Devorss family was among the first settlers of the Platte Purchase. Joseph Devorss' land purchase was the second entry in the Platte Purchase; it was in the southwest ¼ of Township 57, Range 35, Section 31. **John J. Devorss (1816-1877)**, son of **Joseph Devorss, Sr. (1788-1845)**, and brother of John D. Devorss, homesteaded an adjoining piece of property in the southwest ¼ of Township 57, Range 35, Section 30. John J. died on August 8, 1877, on his



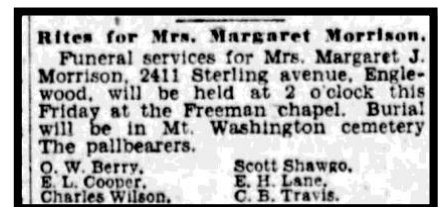
farm. John J. is buried in the Feuquay Cemetery. However, John J. and his wife, **Susan Roderick**, have three children buried at King Hill Cemetery near other Devorss family members in the "old section" of the cemetery. The tombstone was repaired and restored in September 2024. The children were: G.B., aged 9 yrs; M.E., aged four mos. And J. W., aged 2 yrs. The last name is misspelled on their stone.



Susan died between 1850 and 1855; her place of burial is unknown. She could have been buried at King Hill Cemetery.

Joseph Hiram Devorss and Rebecca English Devorss were the parents of seven children:

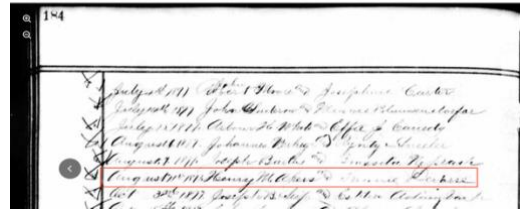
- **Susan Devorss Sparks** (January 4, 1852-March 26, 1940); husband, **John T. Sparks**; buried in King Hill Cemetery
- **Margaret "Maggie" Jane Devorss Morrison** (July 11, 1854-December 17, 1929); buried Mt Washington, KC, MO; married **J. Robert Morrison**, 1871
- **Rebecca Devorss Woodall** (Oct 1, 1856-May 20, 1922); buried Sugar Creek Cemetery, Rushville, MO; married **John Woodall**, 1879



Source: Kansas City Times, KC, MO, Dec 20, 1929, p.3

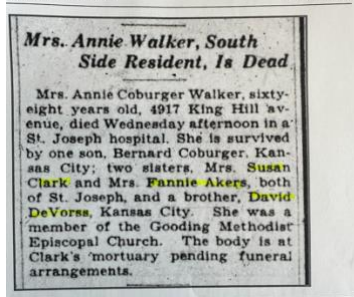


Source: Find-A-Grave,
Memorial #40878751



- **Frances "Fannie" Devorss Akers** (March 16, 1859-February 5, 1950), buried King Hill Cemetery, west section near parents, husband, **Henry Akers**, married 1877
- **E. Roann "Nannie" Devorss Coburger Walker** (April 3, 1862-October 8, 1930), buried King Hill Cemetery, old section; h#1-**Charles Coburger** married 1887; h#2-**Charles Walker** married 1927

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reprints.com/image/500724568 St. Joseph Gazette (St. Joseph, Missouri) - Thu, Oct 9, 1930 - Page 1
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- **David Devorss** (April 28, 1848-September 21, 1932) wife, **Sarah Elizabeth Gabbert Devorss** (1858-1912); buried at King Hill Cemetery

1870 United States Federal Census for Rebecca Devorss

	Dwell	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Real Estate	Personal Estate	Birthplace	Father F	Mother	Birth	Married	Attended	Condition	Wage	Denied
26	27	Rebecca Devorss	32	W	Housewife	200	100	Missouri			Mont	Mont				
27	28	Martha	25	W				Missouri								
28	29	John	61	M	Carpenter	2000	500	Ohio								
29	30	David	32	M	Carpenter			Ohio								
30	31	William	30	M				Missouri								
31	32	William	19	M				Missouri								
32	33	William	16	M				Missouri								
33	34	William	14	M				Missouri								
34	35	William	11	M				Missouri								
35	36	William	7	M				Missouri								
36	37	William	4	M				Missouri								

The Gabbert family was living on a neighboring property in 1870. David and Elizabeth are listed in the Joseph Devorss household; thus, they married before December 9, 1870, the date of the census. No marriage record located yet.

BURNS KILL HER.

Mrs. Sarah E. Devorss Died From Injuries Thursday.

Mrs. Sarah E. Devorss, who was so badly burned at the home of her sister, Mrs. America Chapple, northwest of Troy, last Thursday morning, died about noon of the same day. The facts were about as related in The Chief last week. Mrs. Devorss got out of bed about two o'clock and struck a match which ignited her clothing. She probably became very much excited and ran out of the house, to the yard. Mrs. Chapple heard her go out and looking from the window saw her sister enveloped in flames, and ran to her assistance. Her husband, who was asleep, at the time, was awakened and also went to her assistance. The clothing was torn from the unfortunate woman, but her body was so badly burned that death resulted a few hours later. Her face escaped the flames almost entirely, but her body from her knees to her shoulders was burned almost to a crisp. Where she stood, outside of the house, the burning garments fell to the walk and set it on fire. The body was taken to St. Joseph where the funeral took place Saturday. She was buried in King Hill cemetery. Mrs. Devorss was aged 55 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Devorss had been living in South St. Joseph with Dr. and Mrs. E. H. Bullock, who is a daughter of the couple, but when the Bullocks removed to Excelsior Springs, Mr. and Mrs. Devorss came to Troy to visit with Mrs. A. E. Chapple. Besides her husband Mrs. Devorss is survived by two daughters, Mrs. E. H. Bullock, Excelsior Springs, and Mrs. O. W. Berry, of Oklahoma City, Okla., and one son, J. W. Devorss, of the produce department at Swift & Company's St. Joseph plant.

Left: Sarah Devorss' obituary. Source: The Kansas Chief, May 30, 1912, p.1

Below: David Devorss & grandson, Oliver George Washington Berry, Jr., Source: theerbsl at Ancestry.com



- **Hiram Devorss** (1850-29 May 1909), wife, **Ida Belle Robertson** (1872-1960); Hiram was initially buried at King Hill Cemetery, as was their daughter, **Naomi Devorss** (1898-1898) and son, **Joseph Franklin Devorss** (1891-1918) then on December 14, 1949, Ida authorized their disinterment Hiram, Naomi and Joseph, and their re-interment at Memorial Park Cemetery, St Joseph, MO. Ida's father and mother, **Benjamin Franklin Robertson** (1844-1934) and **Lucy Belle Rice Robertson** (1845-1920), were also relocated to Memorial Park on December 14, 1949. The reason for the move was the sad state of King Hill Cemetery/poor maintenance.

Ida and Hiram were also the parents of **Elmer H. Devorss** (1897-1960) and **John W. Devorss** (1902-1947), both of whom are buried at Memorial Park Cemetery. The Devorss family has been farming in Buchanan County since the Platte Purchase, and their descendants still farm.



Rev. Joseph Devorss holding his grandsons, Elmer and Joe, with their father, Hiram Devorss, holding a hat.



Hiram and Ida Robertson Devorss with sons Elmer and Joe Devorss. Joseph (Joe) Devorss died in 1918 from the flu epidemic.