

Am I related to Jim? (James Cathcart)

This is in response to an email asking if I was related to “Jim.” At first, I didn’t know who she was talking about... time to start an investigation.

The person sending the email was named Rachel Ball. I found an interesting candidate in Vera Cathcart (1915-1999), who married Heaman Roland Ball (1921-1983). Vera had a brother named James Paul... so perhaps this was “Jim.” A subsequent email confirmed that I had the correct family.

But now I need to trace back and see if there was a connection.

My database stopped at James Paul and Vera’s parents: [James and Annie Woodward Cathcart](#).

Time to break down a brick wall.

Given the location of the census records I had matched with James:

- 1920: Glen Springs, Spartanburg County, SC age 25
- 1930: Cross Anchor, Spartanburg County, SC age 35

It would appear that James is a “Spartanburg Cathcart.” But where does he fit in?

To further nail down James’ date of birth, I found this likely World War I draft registration card (June of 1917):

Form 1 204 REGISTRATION CARD No. 2

1 Name as full James Cathcart Subst 22

2 Home address Pauline Pauline S.C.

3 Date of birth Dec. 22 1894

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural Born

5 Where were you born? Pacolet S.C. U.S.A.

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Farmer, 1

8 By whom employed? H. W. Cathcart - Pauline, S.C. U.S.A.

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 18, or a sister or brother under 18, under the age of 18, residing with you for support (specify which)? Wife and two children

10 Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank None Branch

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No

I affirm that I have certified above accurately and that they are true.

James Cathcart

The date of birth looks good, and his present address of Pauline, SC is within five miles of Glenn Springs... so that matches. James states that he had a wife and two children (Vera and Frank H) on that date, and that also matches my data fairly closely.

James gives his birth location as Pacolet, which is much further to the north... more on that later.

Next, who are James’ parents? I started looking for James Cathcarts in the Glenn Springs area of SC.

The best match was [William Hampton & Della Cathcart](#). Jim is six in 1900 and 15 in 1910, which matches quite well.

The 1910 Census has BS and WH Cathcart living right next door to each other.

Figure 1 James World War 1 draft card

By the 1920 census, we see Boyd is 41 and his wife Pauline is 38. The Smith step children indicate that Pauline was married before.

Jan	169	195	Walthart Boyd	Head	1 R	74	W	41	74
✓			= Pauline	Wife		74	W	38	74
✓			= Irm	Daughter		74	W	16	5
✓			= Norrell	Daughter		74	W	14	5
✓			= Robert E. L.	Son		74	W	9	5
✓			Smith Eugene	step son		74	W	10	5
✓			= Cole, L.	step son		74	W	5	5
✓			= Walker B.	step son		74	W	21 ¹⁰ ₁₁	5
✓			Sister Ida	Sister in law		74	W	29	5

Having a daughter named “Tiny” makes searching easier!

132	135	Lister, Ida	Heat - X	Fe W 20.8		South Carolina
		Burling	Lister	Fe W 15.8		North Carolina
133	136	Bishop Lewis C	Heat	Fe W 33.1	13	South Carolina

By 1930 Pauline's two boys' last name has been changed to Cathcart.

6/18/71	77	Cathcart	Pauline	Male	R 510	70	71	51	71	41	70	70	8	th. Caroline
			Pauline	Male			7	71	47	71	37	70	70	North Caroline
			Cale	Male			30	71	15	6	74	74	6	th. Caroline
			W Boyd	Male			3	71	12	6	73	70	6	th. Caroline

² <https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=FLAeAAAAIBAJ&sjid=ec4EAAAAIBAJ&pg=2857%2C3334537>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzer,_South_Carolina