

## **Marquis James Chronological Biography**

**compiled by Gary Brown**

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- 1891 Born on August 29, 1891, in Springfield, MO, to Houstin and Rachel Marquis James.
- 1893 Marquis James' father Houstin made the Cherokee Strip Land Run from the line north of Hennessey and staked a claim southeast of Enid in the SE Quarter of Section 17 Township 22 N, R6W. Marquis and his mother joined Houstin on the claim later that year.
- 1897 Young Marquis attended first through third grades at East Hill School (now Garfield) and fourth through eighth grades at Central School (300 Block East Cherokee)
- 1909 His senior year Marquis served as editor and chief of The Quill.  
Marquis took a job with the Wave Democrat. He later took a 2p.m. to midnight job on the Morning News. Near the end of his senior year in 1910, he switched to the Enid Daily Eagle. During this period of time, he also served as a correspondent for the Wichita Eagle and The Oklahoman in Oklahoma City. He served as their correspondent sending them Enid area news items.
- 1910 Marquis graduated from Enid High School and began college at Oklahoma Christian University (later Phillips University) in Enid. He only attended one year of college.
- 1911 Left Enid to become a reporter. For next five years, James worked for twenty odd newspapers in places like Kansas City, St. Louis, New Orleans, and Chicago, coming to rest eventually at the rewrite desk of the New York Tribune.  
Historian William Savage credits more than a million words to James which were published in various of the nation's "pulp" magazines prior to him going off to World War I.
- 1914 Met and married Bessie Rowland while working on the *New Orleans Item*.
- 1916 Marquis was rewrite editor for the New York Tribune.
- 1918 Marquis served in the American Expeditionary Force in France during World War I and was wounded in the front lines.

- ©1919 When James returned from the war, his pure newspaper days were over. He took a job as National Director of Publicity for the newly formed American Legion.
- 1923 Published first book, "*A History of the American Legion*".  
Served on Editorial staff of *The American Legion Monthly Magazine* serving from 1923-1932.
- 1924 Daughter Cynthia was born to Marquis and Bessie.
- 1925 Marquis covered Scopes Monkey Trial in Dayton, TN, for *New Yorker Magazine*. Sparked renewed interest in Sam Houston.  
Embarked on career as freelance writer.
- 1929 Published "*The Raven, A Biography of Sam Houston.*"
- 1930 Won Pulitzer Prize for *The Raven*.
- 1931 Published *Six Feet Six* with his wife Bessie Rowland James, a children's book about Sam Houston.
- 1933 Published *Andrew Jackson: The Border Captain*, the first of a two book biography of Andrew Jackson.
- 1934 Draft of *The Cherokee Strip* completed, but not published.  
James' fourth book *They Had Their Hour*, a collection of short stories previously published in the *American Legion* journal was published.  
Together with his wife Bessie Rowland, James authored "*The Courageous Heart*": A life of Andrew Jackson for young readers.
- 1937 Published *Andrew Jackson: Portrait of a President* completing his two volume work on the life of Andrew Jackson.
- 1938 Won second Pulitzer Prize for the two volume work, *The Border Captain* and *Portrait of a President*, both works published as a single volume in 1938 "*The Life of Andrew Jackson.*"
- 1939 James' book "*Mr. Garner of Texas*", was published. A biography of John Nance Garner, who served as vice president during Franklin Roosevelt's first two terms.
- 1941 Published "*Alfred I. Dupont, The Family Rebel*" which was a story of drama within an important family dynasty.
- 1942 Published "*Biography of Business, 1791-1942: A History of the Insurance Company of North America*".

- 1943 Made trips back to Enid to research final draft of *The Cherokee Strip*. While in Enid, he stayed at the Cromwell home.
- 1944 Signed Contract with W. R. Grace & Co. for a biography of William Russell Grace. Bessie James researched book from 1945-1946. The Book was completed in 1948 and scheduled for released in October 1948. Suddenly W.R. Grace decided to not publish it. The book would finally get published in 1993 some 45 years later.
- 1945 James', "*Cherokee Strip*" was published.
- 1947 Published *The Metropolitan Life Insurance Co: A Study in Business Growth*.
- 1952 Marquis and Bessie divorced.
- 1953 Published "*The Texaco Story: The First Fifty Years, 1902-1952.*"
- 1954 James book "*Biography of a Bank: The Story of Bank of America N.T. & S.A.*" (the history of California's Bank of America), written with his first wife Bessie, was published.  
Married Jacqueline Parsons in Rye, NY.
- 1955 Died suddenly at the age of sixty-four of a cerebral hemorrhage on November 19, 1955. James was working on a biography of Booker T. Washington at the time of his death.
- 1964 Marquis James Room at Enid-Garfield County Public Library was dedicated.
- 1993 James' final book "*Merchant Adventurer: The Story of W. R. Grace*" was finally published 38 years after his death.

## **BOOKS BY MARQUIS JAMES**