

The Dennis Family History Part 4- The Undertaker

James Walter's brother Enoch is the next child of Peter and Margaret Dennis. He married Syble R. Lenox. We were able to locate Enoch and Syble's (sometimes spelt Sybel) marriage record from the State of Michigan, County of Calhoun which says "I certify that on the sixth day of August AD 1867 at the City of Battle Creek in the County aforesaid I M.B. Russell a Justice of the Peace joined in marriage Enoch Dennis of Calekester [Colchester] in Canada West aged Twenty one years a farmer by occupation and born in the State of Kentucky and Sybel R. Lenox from the same place aged twenty six years and born in Watertown State of Massachusetts that before said marriage both of them were sworn by me and proceed to me that there was no legal objection to their marriage in the presence of Erastus Clark and Josiah Tolund as attending witnesses. Dated at the City of Battle Creek this sixth day of August AD 1867 – M B Russell Justice of the Peace – Recorded August 12, 1867."

An article from the *Amherstburg Echo* reveals Enoch's occupation and says "Wanted – Men wanted to work in the woods. For further particulars apply to Enoch Dennis or J.H. Dennis, joint contractors, Harrow P.O., Ontario." The only other document that we found that is connected to Enoch is a Detroit Manifest for his wife Sybel Dennis from June 25, 1918. It states that she was 72 years old, born in Watertown, Massachusetts and lists her friend J.H. Hyatt as her contact. It also records that she stayed in Detroit with "Dr. Don M. Campbell, Smith Bldg."

Now that we have discussed John William, Mary Eliza, James Walter, and Enoch, we will move forward to discuss Margaret. She married John A. Crosby. The 1881 Census lists John A. Crosby, along with Margarite (Margaret) and their children Robert W., Alexander T., Orange E., Elizabeth, and Corah C. Robert Crosby married Carrie May, the daughter of Henry May, on December 5, 1889 in Detroit. According to his death record, Robert passed away on December

13, 1936 in Detroit at the age of 60. A write up for Robert appeared in the *Amherstburg Echo* on December 25, 1936, titled “Had Relatives Here” and says “Robert Crosby, colored undertaker of Detroit, who recently died, was related to two old families well known here, namely John and Margaret (Dennis) Crosby, the latter of Pleasant Valley. He was about 68 years old and was successful in business. Besides his wife he leaves to mourn their loss three children, Donald, Harold and Bernice; one brother, Theodore, and sister Ida. Another sister (Leslie) is deceased.”

This write up mentions Robert’s brother Theron. According to the death record for Margaret or Marjorie Telier, she is the daughter of Theron Crosby and Malissa Richardson. We also found a marriage record for a Theodore Crosby, son of Maggie Dennis and John Crosby, and Carrie Hill, the daughter of George Hill. They were married on December 31, 1891, in Detroit. It is unclear whether Theodore and Theron are the same person.

Peter and Margaret Dennis’ daughter Margaret Dennis Crosby passed away on May 7, 1882 but the only additional information from her brief obituary is “Deceased leaves a large family and many friends to mourn her loss.”

What we publish is not a complete history of any family and is based on the documents that are available. We welcome photos and information to fill in the gaps. See you next week for part 5.