

The Stephens Family History Part 4 – US Connections

So far, I have discussed three children of Major Stevens and Mary Harris (William, Ezekiel, and Joseph), but I was also able to find information for Sarah and Martha. Sarah married James Underwood. I located Sarah and James W. Underwood and their daughter Ella in the 1880 Census for Menasha, Wisconsin which lists Sarah as a laundress and James as a Barber. I was unable to find the marriage record for Sarah and James, but I found their daughter Ella's marriage record. L. Luella Underwood married George W. Brady, the son of M.C. Brady and Frances Steton, on October 2, 1890 in Adrian, Michigan. I was also able to find a marriage record for Ella's brothers Jerold, and Joseph Douglass. Jerrold married Emma Louisa Hook, the daughter of Arnold Hook and Matilda J. Mergen, on June 10, 1897 in Appleton, Wisconsin. Jerrold's brother Jos. Douglas Underwood, married Ida Glenn Wilson, the daughter of Robert Wilson and Anne Glenn, on April 19, 1888. I also found two marriage records for Joseph B. Underwood. This may be the same person as Jos. Douglass, but I could not confirm. Joseph B. married Eliza Bell, the daughter of Randell Woods and Sally Young, on April 12, 1900 in Des Moines, Iowa. Joseph B. married a second time to Jessie B. Slater, the daughter of James M. Buckner and Mary F. Shelton, on May 1, 1907 in Jennings, Indiana. This record shares several more details stating that Joseph was born on September 23, 1860 in Dexter, Michigan and worked as a "Minister of the Gospel." Jessie is listed as working as a Hairdresser. This document also shares another important detail that confirms we have the correct family. It states that Joseph's father James Willis Underwood was born in Mt. Pleasant, Ohio and was a barber, but that his mother Sarah Jane was born in 'ersburg, Ontario." Although the placename is incomplete, it is more than likely that this is meant to say 'Amherstburg, Ontario." This record also shares that Joseph and Jessie were both previously married. Joseph's first wife died April

12, 1901 and Jessie's first husband passed away on July 4, 1891. Their spouses' names are not listed.

Now it is time to move on to discuss the last child of Major Stevens and Mary Harris, Martha. According to her brother Ezekiel's obituary, Martha married a Mr. Harris of Chicago. With a little more research, I was able to locate Martha and Hugh P. Harris in the 1880 Census for Adrian, Michigan. It also lists their daughter Jessie with their grandson Harris K. Kelley. I also found Martha Harris' death record which states that she passed away on March 15, 1930 in Chicago. It also states that she was born in Amherstburg, married to Hugh P. Harris, was widowed and her mother's name was May (Mary) Stevens. I also found the death record for Martha's daughter Jessie which records that she passed away on April 19, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois at the age of 76. This record also states that Jessie was born on September 2, 1867 in Adrian, Michigan.

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 where we will celebrate another amazing family.