

## The McDowell Family History Part 1 – Service in the Rebellion of 1837

This month's family history features the McDowell family starting with John McDowell and his wife Mary Harris. According to the 1861 Census, John and Mary were living in Malden Township with their children John, Simuel, Samuel, Daniel, Mary Ann and Benjamin. Not mentioned in this census is their daughter Susan who, based on the evidence, was already married and living with her family in a separate household. Before discussing their children, I want to share John's obituary from *The Amherstburg Echo* which was printed on November 12, 1886. It says "In Amherstburg, on Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, John McDowell, aged 74 years. His funeral took place from his son's (Simuel's) residence to the Baptist Church and thence to the cemetery on Sunday. His sons Simuel, of Amherstburg; Samuel, of Windsor; Benjamin, of Milwaukee, and Daniel, of Toledo, and his daughter, Mrs. Susan Lennox, of Windsor were all in attendance at the funeral. Deceased was born in Kentucky, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 1812, and left his native place for Canada in 1829, coming direct to Amherstburg, where he resided continuously until the time of his death. He served as a volunteer in the rebellion of 1837, being stationed at this place. Mr. McDowell went through a long period of illness the last six years of his life, and for the past two years was entirely helpless."

Mentioned in John's obituary is his daughter Susan McDowell Lennox who is the first child of John and Mary I am going to discuss. I was unable to find a marriage record or obituary for Susan which would have revealed her husband's name, but I did find a Susan Lennox listed with her husband Sep on the 1861 Census, along with a Joseph and Susan Lynex listed on the 1871 Anderdon Census. This would explain why Susan is not recorded on the Census with her parents and siblings. I also found a birth record for her son Arthur which shared that Susan Jane McDowell and Joseph L. Lennox were Arthur's parents, meaning that Sep is a shortform for

Joseph. Arthur was born in Windsor on February 19, 1878. I also found a WWI Draft record for Arthur Lenox (Lennox) which records his birthday as February 23, 1878. It says that he worked as a packer and cook for Swife Co., Union Stock Yards. It also states that his wife was named Grace and that they were living in Chicago. I could not find a marriage record for Arthur and Grace but, as will be shown in the following pages, many of the Lennox family relocated to Chicago. Along with Arthur, Susan and Joseph had several other children including Sarah, John, Cornelius, Joseph, Eliza, Caroline, Mary, and James.

Before I discuss their children, I want to share a few more details about Susan and Joseph. Susan J. Lennox passed away on September 24, 1892 in Chicago at the age of 63. Her death record also states that she was born circa 1829 in "A'burg" or Amherstburg. Joseph passed away a few years later on March 8, 1900 in Chicago and was roughly 83 years old.

I was able to find further information for three of their children: Eliza, Carrie/Caroline and James. Based on the records, I think Eliza was married twice. The 1900 Chicago Census lists an Eliza Smoots living with her daughter Ella and two brothers, Arthur and James Lenox. Eliza worked as a dressmaker, while Ella was a Domestic, and Arthur and James were Janitors. Eliza's death records lists her as Eliza Carter, the wife of George Carter. It states that Eliza passed on January 30, 1935 and was born on September 14, 1865.

Eliza's sister Carrie Lennox married Thomas Aaron Stanley, son of George Stanley and Mary Johnson, on December 20, 1889 in Detroit. The 1920 Chicago Census for Thomas Stanly (Stanley) also lists his wife Carrie and their children Thomas Jr., Edward, Corinne, Frederick, and Lathshie. They also had a son named Oscar. According to Lida Corine Stanley's birth record, she was born on June 18, 1903 in Cook County, Illinois. I also found a death record for Corine's brother Frederick Albert who passed away on March 21, 1971 in Chicago. Frederick was married

to Jackie Wright. The Census record listed Carrie and Thomas's daughter Lathshie, but I have also seen her name spelt Lactitia. She was born on September 15, 1912 in Chicago. Oscar Stanley, according to his death record, was born on November 13, 1901 and passed on February 21, 1944 in Chicago. His wife's name was Julia and he worked as butcher.

Carrie McDowell Stanley passed away on June 25, 1947 in Evanston, Illinois. Her death record also says that she was born on April 20, 1871 in Detroit. Carrie's brother James Lennox, according to his death record, passed away on May 8, 1957 in Chicago. It also says he was born on July 19, 1879.

Now that I have discuss John and Mary McDowell's daughter Susan McDowell Lennox, I'll discuss their other children (John, Simuel, Samuel, Daniel, Mary Ann, and Benjamin). I could not find any information for John, and the only information that I could find for Daniel was that he was living in Toledo, Ohio. It is likely that Daniel's sister Mary Ann passed away following 1861 when she is recorded in the Census because she is not listed in her father John's obituary from 1886. If she was alive, she would have been mentioned. Mary Ann's brother Benjamin is recorded as living in Milwaukee. It also appears that Benjamin worked on a steamer as is mentioned in *The Evening Record* on December 17, 1907 which reported "Benjamin and Simuel McDowell arrived home on Thursday after laying up the flag-ship of the steel trust fleet, the 'Cole.'"

**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 2.**