

Billings Family

Compiled by Bruce A. Fowler
Hartland Historical Society ~ August 20, 2021

Josiah Billings, Jr

s/o Josiah Billings, Sr & Hannah Whitney

b. 11 Aug 1820 Lancaster, Massachusetts

d. Nov 1904 Charles City, Iowa (Riverside Cemetery, Charles City, Iowa w/Marcia) at 80yrs

m1. 13 Apr 1846 Lancaster, Massachusetts

Lydia Ellen Monroe

b. 1823 Lancaster, Massachusetts

d. 14 Feb 1864 Hartland (Ireland Cemetery) at 40yrs

He was educated at Groton Academy (now Lawrence Academy) in Massachusetts. He learned the tanning trade from his father who was a Tanner in Massachusetts. He first came to Brownfield, Maine in 1845 living there in C/1850 where he was noted as a Tanner with his wife Ellen and their son Edward.

In 1856, Josiah purchased a large piece of property including water rights from James Moor at the Upper Dam on the northern corner of the dam where he built the 2nd tannery in Hartland. He also built their home, a hide drying house, storehouse and a boarding house for some of his dozen or so tannery employees.

The small section of road leading from the bridge to his tannery became first known as Bridge Street (future Upper Mill Street). The northerly road leading across from his tannery to North Street (future Commercial Street) first came to be called Tannery Street then Billings Street (future North Street) before their respective current street names were voted on and changed in 1897.

Following Lydia's death, he remarried to Marcia Tibbetts in 1866 and in 1867 sold his tannery and properties to Greenville Jefferson Shaw and his father Charles Shaw. He and Marcia moved soon after to Charles City, Iowa near Rockford, Iowa living there in C/1870 where he became a farmer and remained there the rest of his life. He was a life time member of the East Somerset Agricultural Society in Hartland.

Ch. BILLINGS:

1. Edward Eugene Billings

b. 12 Nov 1847 Massachusetts

d. 12 Mar 1924 Biloxi, Mississippi (Riverside Cemetery, Charles City, Iowa) at 76yrs

m. 1871 Iowa

Augusta Adelaide Davis "Addie"

d/o William Davis & Nancy Augusta Matthews

b. 1848 St Albans

d. 2 July 1935 Rockford, Iowa (Riverside Cemetery, Charles City, Iowa) at 87yrs

*She was a teacher and was also noted as the first female Assistant Principal at Hartland Academy under Principal Jonathan Soule. Edward moved from Hartland to Rockford, Iowa where he was living in C/1870 with Hiram Starbird of Hartland and his family (**See Starbird Family**). Addie was living with her parents in St Albans in C/1870 but they also moved to Rockford soon after 1870 where she and Edward married. They were living in Rockford, Iowa in C/1880 where the first of their 5 child was born in 1872. She later visited Hartland several times following Edward's death where newspaper articles reported her stories of teaching at the Academy.*

Ch. BILLINGS: (C/1900 & C/1910 note 5 children born, 5 living)

A) Lydia Ellen Billings

b. 31 Jan 1872 Rockford, Iowa

d. 26 May 1960 Hollywood, California (Fairview Cemetery, Waterloo, Iowa)

m. Alfred Longley

B) Edna E. Billings

b. 13 Mar 1873 Rockford, Iowa

d. July 1966 Chicago, Illinois

m. William Nelson Gemmill

C) Jennie Davis Billings

b. Feb 1875 Rockford, Iowa

d. Mar 1939 Wilkinson, Mississippi (Red Oak Cemetery, Tipton, Iowa)

m. Charles Longley Rigby

D) Bertha A. Billings

b. 5 Apr 1876 Rockford, Iowa

d. May 1964 Grand Forks, North Dakota (Riverside Cemetery, Charles City, Iowa)

m. Guy L. Ireland

E) Josiah Quincy Billings

b. 10 May 1878 Rockford, Iowa

d. 1952 Mississippi (Evergreen Cemetery, Woodville, Mississippi)

m. Katheryn Hays

m2. 11 Nov 1866 Exeter (her 2nd marriage)

Sarah Marcia Tibbetts "Marcia"

d/o Elisha & Christiana Tibbetts

b. 2 Feb 1840 Exeter

d. 19 Apr 1894 Charles City, Iowa (Riverside Cemetery Charles City, Iowa)

They had no known children.

She married 1st to _____ Smith. They had 1 child; Martin T. Smith b. 1859 who was adopted by Josiah and took the Billings surname as noted on his marriage certificate as adopted.

m3. 1 Oct 1895 Chicago, Illinois (her 2nd marriage)

Marion Elizabeth Monroe

b. May 1833 Lancaster, Massachusetts

d. 1917 Charles City, Iowa (Riverside Cemetery Charles City, Iowa)

They had no children.

She is noted as the younger sister of Josiah's 1st wife Lydia Monroe. She married 1st in Massachusetts in 1854 to Humphrey Barrett who died in Lancaster, Massachusetts in 1885. She is buried in the same lot with Josiah & Marcia as Marion E. Billings.