

EDWARD WILMOT b. 1821 Rotherfield Peppard, d. 1886 USA

Edward was my 3rd Great Uncle, brother of George Wilmot my Gt x 2 Grandfather. He is an interesting ancestor so I've decided to put his story into print as much as I can with the facilities I have, mainly the internet.

Edward's actual date of birth is not known but he was christened on 24th June 1821 in the Parish of Peppard, Oxfordshire. His parents were Thomas and Sarah Wilmot.

In the 1841 census they are living in Peppard but the actual dwelling is unreadable. Next door is a Family, Burgis (sic.) and a John Burgis was a witness at Thomas's and Sarah's wedding in 1810.

Thomas and Sarah have three children living there; Edward 20, Richard 10 and Thomas 8. George, my Gt.x 2 Grandfather married in 1838.

In the 1851 census, still at Peppard with only Richard at home at the time of the census.

Edward Wilmot had married a Caroline Brown, (b. 1821), in London in 1845, and in 1851 we find them with a daughter, Elizabeth 3, also living at Peppard in Cottage No. 26. It is impossible to know where Edward met Caroline but it seems she was born in or around the same area.

In 1854 Edward Wilmot and family which included Elizabeth b. 1847 and by then they had a baby, Robert, six months old, emigrated to America. They had another child with them, 3 year old Fred. J. Pike*. The ship was the 'Clara Wheeler' which sailed from Liverpool on 23rd April. The name of the Captain was Nelson, (not the famous one). The ship arrived at New Orleans on 3rd July 1854. According to the Captain's log, three people died on that crossing. (This was the voyage just before the famous 24th November voyage from Liverpool to New Orleans which had hundreds of Mormons on board. There's a lot of information about this crossing on the internet.) The ship is pictured below.



We don't know what happened to the family on arrival, but if they were part of Mormon migration, I would expect them to be met by other Mormons. There were only 29 people on board, as against the 400+ on the next voyage from Liverpool. There are many sites dealing with Mormon migration, and I guess they were all on their way to Salt Lake City.

Just three months after landing at New Orleans poor Caroline died from dysentery. This is in the records from Missouri.

On 4th December Edward married Fanny Emingham at St. Louis, Missouri. They went on to have two children, Laura 1861 and Arthur E. 1865. Fanny Emingham was from England b. 1827, according to records but I can't find her in the UK census.

Edward Wilmot now has two families.

The address that keeps popping up is Chicago Ward 31, Cook, Illinois.

1863 records of American Civil war show an Edward Wilmot, miner b. 1819, England, at Gravais Coal Mines, Missouri. This may or may not be our Edward but places seem to correspond.

The following is an entry in the Mormon baptism list...

“Edward Wilmott was baptized a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on 23 February 1867 at Gravois, St. Louis, Missouri, by William Hazzledine. He was ordained a teacher. He died from pneumonia.”

In 1866 Edward’s and Caroline’s daughter, Elizabeth Wilmot married a Peter Carpenter. The Missouri Marriage Records read;

“(U.S. Stamp, 5c) This is to certify that on the 12th day of March A.D. 1866 the undersigned, a Clergyman, did join in marriage Mr. Peter Carpenter and Miss Lizzie Wilmot in the City and County of St. Louis and State of Missouri, St. Louis Mich. 1866. A.A. Kendrick, Pastor of Second Baptist Church. Filed and Recorded March 12th 1866. Julius Conrad, Recorder.”

In 1872 they had a son, Warren Carson Carpenter, another son in 1874, Peter E. Carpenter. There, the Wilmot line ended. I can find nothing about Elizabeth’s brother Robert Wilmot.

*Fred J. Pike is in the 1851 census together with George H. Pike and 32 year old Elizabeth Pike, listed as Step mother. They are living next door to Thomas and Sarah Wilmot and their son Richard. We can assume that Fred’s parents were quite happy to let him sail off to America with Edward and Caroline. I’ve searched the U.S. censuses but can find no entry for Fred, not even a death.

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