

CEPHAS McCULLAR: A PRELIMINARY BIOGRAPHY

By Claire Prechtel-Klusken,
2602 Ryegate Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

Cephas McCullar, son of Baptist minister William McCullar and his wife Chloe Bullard, was born 23 May 1798 in Vermont, and died 2 June 1882, age 84 years, 10 days. He was buried with his fourth known wife, Diadema Coe, in Jamestown Cemetery, Jamestown Twp., Steuben Co., Indiana. He married at least four times:

1). On 9 Feb. 1824, at Ira, Rutland Cty, VT to PHIDELLA COLLINS, the Rev. Lyman Glazier, officiated. She was born ca. 1794, and died 26 May 1836, daughter of Benoni and Lydia [--?] Collins. Phidella received a share of her father's real property after his death in 1822. She was buried with her parents at Riverside Cemetery, Ira, Rutland Cty. VT, where her gravestone reads: "Fidelia Culler [sic], wife of Cephas, d. May 26, 1836 age 42 y."

2). On 29 Dec. 1850, in Branch Co., Michigan, to MARIAH PATTERSON, who was born about 1814, possibly in New Jersey.

3.) On 6 Mar. 1855, in Calhoun Co., Michigan, to MARY ANN SMITH, who was born about 1813, and presumably died before 1860.

4.) On 13 June 1875, in Steuben Co., Indiana, to DIADEMA COE, who was born about 1803 in New Hampshire. Coe may have been a married name, not a maiden name.

Cephas McCullar had at least four children:

i [male] McCullar, born bet. 1815-1820.

ii. [male] McCullar, born bet. 1815-1820.

iii. [female] McCullar, born bet. 1825-1830.

iv. Mariah (aka Maria) McCullar, born 31 Dec. 1853 in Jamestown Township, Steuben Co., Indiana, and died in 16 Mar. 1901. She married on 12 November 1869, to ALBERT COLLINS.

v. Alma [McCullar?], born about 1862 in Indiana, *may have been his daughter or his step-daughter*. Since she is not residing with Cephas in 1870, Alma may have been Cephas' step-daughter, that is, a child of the fourth wife, Diadema. Alma lived in Cephas' household in 1880.

HIS NAME. In the Bible, Jesus gave Simon the symbolic nickname of Cephas or Peter, which mean "rock" in Aramaic and Greek, respectively. Peter was called to Jesus first among the 12 disciples; he was thus a special foundation stone of the Christian church. In John 1:42, Jesus says, "thou shall be called Cephas... a stone." In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says: "Peter ... and upon this rock I will build my church...." Cephas McCullar's parents may have chosen his name in the hopeful symbolism that their baby Cephas (their only known son and last child) would be the foundation stone of the continuity of the McCullar family name to future generations.

IRA, RUTLAND CO., VERMONT. Cephas remained in Ira after his parents and younger siblings moved to Salem, Washington Co., New York, in 1819. In 1830, the "C. McCuller" family was enumerated at Ira, Rutland Co., Vermont:

JAMESTOWN TWP., STEUBEN CO., INDIANA. Cephas "McCuller" is remembered as one of the early Jamestown Township pioneers. Among these were Mallory and Collins families from Ira, Rutland Co., Vermont, who were related in some way to Cephas' first wife, Phidella Collins. Cephas probably removed to Jamestown Township in 1836 on the basis of favorable reports from the Barton Collins who came in 1834, followed by David Mallory in 1836. Their story is told at length in History of Steuben County, Indiana, pp. 524-526 (Chicago, IL: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1885), and it mentions Cephas McCullar: "[In summer 1836] David Mallory came out and stayed until the first of October, [and] when his family of eight came Mr. McCullough [sic, Cephas McCullar] was with them, so there was quite a house full. The boys helped McCullough build his cabin and then moved in with him."

Land Ownership. Eighty Acres. In 1835, Cephas "McCuller" registered for 80 acres of land in section 20 of Jamestown Twp. This land was owned by Donald Herl in 1955, and by Samuel D. Herl and Donald D. Herl, et al., in 1970.

One Hundred Nine Acres. In 1836, Cephas registered for 109.24 acres in section 19 of Jamestown Twp. On 20 August 1838, the General Land Office issued to "Cephas McCuller" a land patent for 109.24 acres, being "the South West fractional quarter of Section 19 in Township 38 North of Range 13 East in the District of Lands subject to sale at Fort Wayne, Indiana." This land Cephas purchased as a Cash-Sale Entry pursuant to the the Act of 24 April 1820 (3 Stat. 566). On 25 April 1853, Cephas McCuller conveyed the north half of this land to William Carr, and on 9 March 1864, he conveyed the south half to Henry K. Taylor. This land was owned by Ernest Munger (north half) and A. D. Stewart (south half) in 1955, and by Ernest Munger, et al., (north half) and Martin Christlich (south half) in 1970.

Other Land Ownership. In 1843, Cephas McCuller registered for one acre in section 16 of Jamestown Twp. On 16 June 1859, Cephas McCuller conveyed land in Section 18 of Jamestown Twp., to A. W. Hendry.

Census Enumerations. In 1840, Cephas lived alone; one of his nearest neighbors was Barton Collins. In 1850, Cephas lived alone, and was a farmer who owned \$1,300 in real estate. In 1860, Cephas was a farmer who owned \$2,000 in real estate and \$895 in personal property. His daughter, Maria, age 6, lived with him, along with his housekeeper,

Continued on Page 5

Burnette Sanders, age 26, and her daughter Christena J. Sanders. His post office was Crooked Creek. In 1870, Cephas was a retired farmer who owned \$2,400 in real estate and \$700 in personal property. His post office was Angola. His newly-wedded daughter, Maria, age 17, and her husband, Albert Collins, resided with him. In 1880, Cephas was a retired farmer. His wife, "Deidamia," and daughter (or step-daughter?), Alma, lived with him.

Elective Office. Cephas "McCuller" was elected Jamestown Township Justice of the Peace in 1854 (along with L. S. Eldridge), in 1861 (along with Martin Stoddard), and in 1864.

Old Settlers' Society. In 1873, the Steuben County newspaper, *Republican*, published a call for a meeting to organize an Old Settlers' Society. The organizational meeting was held at the courthouse in Angola on Saturday, 9 Aug. 1873. Three men from each township were elected as vice presidents of the new society. Clayton Mallory, Cephas "McCuller," and John McClue were vice presidents for Jamestown Township. The first Jubilee for Old Settlers was held 25 Sept. 1873 at the County Courthouse. There was no formal program; the day was spent in reminiscing, and music was furnished by the Angola Brass Band. In subsequent years, the reunions were held on the third Saturday in August, usually at McConnell's Grove, and consisted of picnicking, talks by early settlers, and music. The last one was held in 1910. Cephas McCullar was at the 8th Annual Reunion held at the courthouse in Angola, Indiana, on 18 Aug. 1881. "Cephas McCullough [sic] was at the [1881] meeting and stated that he still resided in Jamestown, on the land he bought at the United States land-office, Fort Wayne."

Note as to "McCullar" name: "McCullar" was the spelling of choice of Rev. William McCullar. Further research is needed to determine the spelling Cephas preferred. The surname is often spelled McCuller, McCullough, M'Culler, and other variants, and "McCuller" is sometimes misread and reported as "McCullen" in some publications.

Sources Consulted:

History of Steuben County, Indiana, pp. 279 et seq., 292, 520-525, 528-529, 536-538 (Chicago, IL: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1885)

International Genealogical Index, citing Branch Co. Michigan Marriage Records, Vols. A-C (1833-1898), FHL Film No. 0930796 ("Cephas McCullar") and Calhoun Co. Michigan Marriage Records, Vols. 1-5 (1836-1884), FHL Film No. 1009295 ("Cephas McCuller").

Ira, Vermont, Town Records, Vol. 4, pp. 452-457, FHL Film No. 28384.

Jenks, Margaret R., Middletown Springs and Ira Cemetery Inscriptions, Rutland County, Vermont, p. 43 (Kirkland, Washington: the author, 1982).

Kensill, Mrs. Charles E. comp., "Pokagon Chapter D.A.R. Presents Steuben County, Indiana, Marriage Records, 1862-

1889," Indiana DAR, Genealogical Records Committee Report, Series 1, vol. 598, p. 46.

Lewis, Audree Seibel, comp., Cemeteries of Steuben County, Indiana, Vol. II, p. 1215 (N.p. [S.I.]: The Compiler, 1990).

Lewis, Audree Seibel, comp., Marriage Record for Steuben County, Indiana, 1832-1890, pp. 106, 350 (Fort Wayne, IN: Fort Wayne, Public Library, 1967).

Morley, Harvey W. The 1955 History of Steuben County, Indiana, p. 5, 9, 444, 357 (S.I.: The Compiler, 1956). Contains mistakes; use caution.

NARA Microfilm Publication M19, Fifth Census of the United States, 1830, Roll 188, page 114 (C. McCuller family, Ira, Rutland Co., Vermont).

NARA microfilm Publication M704, Sixth Census of the United States, 1840, Roll 94, p. 111 (Cephas McCuller household, James [sic] Twp., Steuben Co., Indiana).

NARA microfilm Publication M432, Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Roll 173, p. 133 (Cephas McCuller household, Jamestown Twp., Steuben Co., Indiana).

NARA microfilm Publication M653, Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Roll 298, page 683 (Jamestown Twp., Steuben Co., Indiana, Cephas M'Culler household).

NARA microfilm Publication M593, Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Roll 359 page 94, dwelling 70 (Cephas McCuller household, Jamestown Twp., Steuben Co., Indiana).

NARA microfilm Publication T9, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, roll 312, Jamestown Twp., Steuben Co., Indiana (Cephas McCullough [sic] household, E.D. 7, sheet 14).

NARA microfilm Publication T623, Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, roll 404, E.D. 99, Sheet 3 (Albert and Maria (McCullar) Collins household, Jamestown Twp., Steuben Co., Indiana).

Steuben County, Indiana, General Deed Index, Vol. 1 (1836-1862) (unpaginated), FHL Film No. 1871913, citing Steuben County, Indiana, Deeds, Vol. 7, p. 75, and Vol. 9, p. 368.

Steuben County, Indiana, General Deed Index, Vol. 2 (1862-1872) (unpaginated), FHL Film No. 1871913, citing Steuben County, Indiana, Deeds, Vol. 17, p. 539.
Triennial Atlas & Plat Book, Steuben County, Indiana, p. 15 (Rockford, IL: Rockford Map Publishers, Inc., 1970).

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Land Patent Issued to Cephas McCuller, 20 Aug. 1838, online at <<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>> as document number 16141, accession/serial number IN3490_.053.

Watkins, Quentin, comp., Original Land Owners of Steuben County, Indiana, p. 30 and Jamestown Twp. map page (Mt. Vernon, IN: Windmill Publications, 1994).