

William H. Stedman

Find-A-Grave # 185194463

By Carolyn Schmidt

William H. Stedman was born to Richard (1790-?) and Hannah (Ketchum) Stedman, natives of Ireland and New York respectively, in Orange County, New York on May 4, 1823. He was their second son. His siblings were Ezeriah K (1821-?) and Sarah S. (1832-?). In 1833, when William was age 10, the family moved to Muskingum County, Ohio. William remained there until he was thirty years old.

Around 1853 William emigrated to Tippecanoe County, Indiana. For the next ten years he worked in boating on the Wabash & Erie Canal.

The Canal Society of Indiana has copies of boat clearance records from Covington, Fountain County, Indiana from 1845-September 1864. Starting in late 1861 these records began carrying the name of the boat master (captain). We have three that show William H. Stedman as master.

CLEARANCE. No. 268 Collector's Office, Covington, Oct. 23 1862.

I _____ Master of the Boat Telegram of _____ do certify that the following is a true statement of Cargo on said Boat, on which Tolls have not been paid. 2229.50

Articles	Where From	Where Bound	Weight	Miles	Rate	Toll
Boat	Covington	(State) Line		178	2½	4.38
782.44 Bushel Corn			43,836		41	17.97
746.39 Bushels Wheat			44,760		44	19.71
6 Sacks Feathers			574			
4 Do (ditto - sacks) Wool			441		44	<u>.45</u>
						\$ 42.51

W. H. Stedman

CLEARANCE. No. 336 Collector's Office, Covington, Nov. 1863.

I _____ Master of the Boat Hoosier & Buckeye of _____ do certify that the following is a true statement of Cargo on said Boat, on which Tolls have not been paid.

Articles	Where From	Where Bound	Weight	Miles	Rate	Toll
(Hoosier)	Attica	Covington		14	2½	.35
Buckeye	Attica	Covington		14	2½	.35
Scrap Iron	Covington	Attica		14	8	<u>.85</u>
						\$ 1.55

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CLEARANCE. No. 344 Collector's Office, Covington, Dec. 9, 1863.

I _____ Master of the Boat Buckeye & Hoosier of _____ do certify that the following is a true statement of Cargo on said Boat, on which Tolls have not been paid.

Articles	Where From	Where Bound	Weight	Miles	Rate	Toll
Boats	Attica	Perrysville		42	2½	1.05
Merchandise	Attica	Covington	3916	14	8	<u>.44</u>
						\$ 1.49

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Before then no captain was listed. They just gave the name of the boat, where it started and where it was bound, etc. William was hired as the captain of several boats at difference times. He did not own a boat. The boat "Telegram" traveled the farthest going from Covington all the way to the Indiana/Ohio State Line beyond New Haven, Indiana. Note his signature.

CLEARANCE No. 368		Collector's Office, Covington		Oct 23 1868		
I, _____		Master of the Boat, <i>Telegram</i>		do certify that the following is a true statement of Cargo on said Boat, on which Tolls have not been paid.		
ARTICLES	Where From	Where Bound	Weight	Miles	Rate	Toll
782 44 Book	Covington	Erie		175	22	4380
746 39 Bushel Corn	ccc	ccc	43 850	c	41	1797
6 Dress Feather	ccc	ccc	44 760	c	44	1951
4 Do Hoal	ccc	ccc	574	.		
			441	c	44	445
						742,31
<i>W. H. Stedman</i>						

During the canal era most boats made short journeys between two or more towns delivering goods like those on the other two clearance records. There were very few boats that actually made the trip all the way from Toledo to Evansville or Evansville to Toledo on the Wabash & Erie Canal.

The canal was declining. William then worked on steamboats on the lower Wabash and Ohio rivers for a number of years.

In 1862 he married Julia M. Todd (Oct. 31, 1840—Feb. 21, 1910). Julia was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. William was 38 years old and she was 21. They became the parents of five children all born in Indiana:

- Hannah Stedman (July 8, 1863—March 26, 1907)
- Mary J. Stedman (April 12, 1866—February 25, 1896)
- James Thurston Calvin Stedman (May 17, 1868—1952)
- John Reber Stedman (July 2, 1871—1941)
- William Albert (Burt) Stedman (July 1, 1879—1930)

In 1867 William purchased a farm in Deer Creek Township, Miami County, Indiana and resided there making farming his sole business. He was regarded as a progressive farmer.

William was a Republican and believed in the principles upon which that party was based. He wanted the greatest good for his section and for the country as a whole.

On January 12, 1909 William H. Stedman passed away at age 85. The cause of death was listed as heart disease. He was laid to rest in Section F Lot 123 Space 10 in Mt. Hope Cemetery at 411 North Grant Street in Peru, Miami County, Indiana on January 13, 1909. In his will he left all his real estate, all his personal property, rights & credits to his wife Julia to be used during her lifetime and divided equally between his heirs at the time of her death. She was appointed the executor of his will without any intervention by the courts.

On February 21, 1910 William was followed in death by his wife, Julia, who was 69 years old. Julia was laid to rest by his side on February 24, 1910 in Section F Lot 123 Space 6 of Mt. Hope Cemetery in Peru, Indiana.

William and Julia's daughters never married.

Their son James T. C. Stedman married Kathryn Anne Humrickhouse (1800--1941) on November 28, 1889. They had four children:

Ben A. (1890—1910)

Esther Nell (1891—1944)

Julia Kathryn (1900—1988)

Charles Thurston (1903—1985).

Their son John R. Stedman married Della (?) in 1899.

Their son William A. Stedman married Jessie Margaret Dye on November 10, 1900. They had two children:

Effie (1901—1967)

Julia Mae (1904—1947).

Sources:

Ancestry.com

<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/461565508/person/6486178298>

Boat Clearance Record Book No. 1 November 1860-September 1864.

Fountain County, Indiana Recorder's Office copied November 17, 1995

Recorder Mary Ann Martin, Toll Collector David Webb

Find-A-Grave

Memorial 185194463

History of Miami County, Indiana. Chicago, IL/Brant & Fuller, 1887.



William H. and Julia Stedman
Section F Lot 123 Mt. Hope Cemetery
Peru, Indiana

Indiana Wills and Probate Records, 1798-1999.

United States Federal Census: 1850, 1880, 1900