

Lyman Peck & Cynthia Steele  
Parents of Orin Peck  
By NMBrunk

Lyman Peck was born on 27 Feb 1793 in Sandgate, Rutland or Pownal, Bennington Vermont.<sup>1</sup> When he was a young child, his family removed to Salem, New York by 1800 then shortly after removed to Jay, Essex, New York.

From McDonough County History/Biographical<sup>2</sup>:

""Lyman Peck, son of Joshua and Rachel (Mallory) Peck, was born probably in Sandgate, Vermont. He married Cynthia Steele who was born on November 3, 1806 in Essex County, New York. Lyman enlisted into the military on May 29, 1813 with his brother Andrew at Westport, New York and was assigned to Captain C.G. Jones 1st Co. 29th US Infantry, Major John E. Wool's Regiment, commanded by Colonel Isaac Clark. He also was involved with operations and skirmishes against the British forces prior to the Battle of Plattsburgh, New York and was honorably discharged on May 29, 1814. He was described as 5ft. 8in. in height, black hair, brown eyes with a light complexion. Lyman and his family lived in the town of Jay and made their livelihood as farmers. In 1835 they migrated west into the wilderness and settled near Sandusky, Ohio. They resided there for about 4 years and then moved on to Chalmers Township, Illinois, where they purchased land and made their new home. Lyman applied for and received a land bounty for 160 acres of land from the government in 1850 and a pension in 1871 for his service during the War of 1812. Cynthia applied for and received a widow's pension after the death of Lyman in 1872. It was said that Cynthia embraced religion and united with the church at the age of 16. From that time she lived an earnest and consistent Christian life until her death on April 20, 1881.""

""Lyman Peck came to this county in 1839, and located near Blandinsville....In 1835, he settled in Sandusky County, Ohio, where he resided four years, then removed to this county at the time above stated. He remained in Blandinsville Township until 1859, then moved to section 21, Chalmers township, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred in February 1872. He was married in New York to Cynthia Steele, and by this union had nine children, four of whom are now living. His widow survived until April 1881. (Son) Orrin was born in Ohio, May 5, 1837, and was two years old when he came to this county, where he was reared and received his education."" This account is loosely correct; birth date and place were recorded wrong, and they had eleven children total however several died when very young.""

Lyman married Cynthia Steele in Jay Essex, New York.<sup>4</sup>

Cynthia's obituary records yet another account of the family's migration to Illinois as follows<sup>5</sup>:

""Mrs. Cynthia Peck on April 20th (1881), 75 years at the residence of her son, Wilber Peck in Chalmers twp. McDonough County, IL. The deceased was born in

Essex County, New York, 3 November 1806 where she grew to womanhood. Her maiden name was Steele. In 1823 she was married to Lyman Peck, a resident of the same place, and a soldier of the War of 1812. In 1839 they emigrated west, settling near Sandusky, OH, where they resided two years. Two years later, they struck out for the then "wild far west," and made their home in this county, their residence being Hire Township, two miles south of Blandinsville. Here they lived until 1859, when they purchased land in Chalmers Township, moved upon the same, and where she has resided since, until her death.

Her husband died some nine years ago, since which time she has made her residence with her sons. She leaves three sons, Orin, Wilber and William Peck, residents of this county, and one daughter, Mrs. Marietta Slyter, of Wright County Iowa. At 16 years of age, "Mother" Peck embraced religion, and united with the church. From that time through life, she lived as an earnest and consistent Christian. She was one of those who "went about doing good" in the name of The Master, and has now gone to her reward."\*

From these we can presume Lyman was about 30 years old when he married in 1823 in Essex County New York. Cynthia was about 17 years old. The family then spent a few years (somewhere between 1830/5 and 1839) in Sandusky County Ohio<sup>6</sup> on their way to Illinois arriving in McDonough County by 1840. Census records will agree on the arrival in McDonough County by 1840. Six children were presumably born in New York before they removed from there. Orin may have been the only child born in Sandusky Ohio. The remainder of the children were born (presumably) in McDonough County, most assuredly in Illinois.

Lyman and Cynthia had at least the following children<sup>9</sup>:

1. **James M. Peck** was born on 5 Oct 1824 probably in Jay, Essex, NY and died in 1864. He married 16 January 1851 at McDonough Co.<sup>7</sup>, to Julia Badger (b. 1831, McDonough, IL), daughter of Lyder Badger<sup>8</sup>. They had at least three children: Sarah E., Lidie, and Cynthia (Normandin line). James was a "Master Blacksmith"<sup>4</sup> James died in 1864/66. No information on his death has been located; he was not found in any military index.

2. **William H. Peck** was born on 27 Oct 1826 probably in Jay, Essex, NY and died in 1881. William married Phoebe E. (Guaf or Goff) Faucett on 7 October 1875, in Vermont, McDonough, IL and had at least one daughter: Maude

3. **Joshua Peck** was born on 28 Oct 1828 probably in Jay, Essex, NY. He died on 6 Nov 1841 in <Hire Twp>, McDonough, IL and was buried in South Cemetery, Blandinsville, McDonough, IL.

4. **Darius Peck** was born on 19 Jan 1831 probably in Jay, Essex, NY. He died on 25 Oct 1831. Darius is once recorded in his sister Marietta Slyter's Bible, the only record I have found for this child.

5. **Mary Peck** was born on 29 Dec 1832 probably in Jay, Essex, NY. Mary died young.
6. **Melissa Peck** was born on 7 Nov 1834 probably in Jay, Essex, NY and died in Nov 1874. Melissa Peck married Philo R. Slyter on 24 September 1856 at McDonough Co, IL. They had at least the following children: Harriet, Philomena, A. J. Frank Slyter and Polina.
7. **Orin Obidiah Peck** was born 27 Nov 1836 or 5 May 1837 in Sandusky, Sandusky, Ohio and died on 26 Nov 1916. Orin Peck married Sarah Jane Merritt on 15 January 1857, in Alexandria, Clark, Missouri. They had at least the following children: Mosoury M., James N., Ida Virginia, Arta M., Owen Lee, Caddie, Lowe, Birdie, Susie, Louis, Dottie and Orin Jack.
8. **Malinda Sarah Peck** was born on 26 Aug 1840 probably in McDonough County, IL. Malinda married James W. Jordan 28 February 1856 in Pope Co, IL; she died on 18 May 1858 with no known children from this marriage.
9. **Wilber/Wilbur Peck** was born on 28 Feb 1843 in Blandinsville, McDonough, IL and died on 31 Oct 1932, in Macomb, McDonough, IL. Wilbur married Mary H. Burtis Pike on 31 May 1864 in Colchester, McDonough, IL and had at least the following children: Ora E. (Uncle Orie) , Nellie Melinda, Emma (line of Mark Coates), Phoedana or Philana, William E., Olla, Arusha or Arntha, Lillie R., Winnie or Wyna E., Louis W. (line of Bruce Barton) and Marilla. Wilber is buried at Mt.Auburn Cemetery in Colchester, McDonough, IL (Lot 8, Block 1) with his wife Mary H., son William E. and his wife Ora E. Peck.
10. **Matilda Peck** was born on 2 Dec 1845 in Blandinsville, McDonough, IL. She died on 9 Jan 1848 in Blandinsville, McDonough, IL and was buried in South Cemetery, Blandinsville, McDonough, IL.
11. **Marietta (Mary Etta) Peck** was born on 19 Apr 1849 in Blandinsville, McDonough, IL and died on 11 Apr 1918 at Rochester, , Minnesota; buried at Highland Cemetery, Havre, Hill, Montana.  
She married on 25 Feb 1866 to Delette Slyter (b.24 June 1847 at Danby, DuPage, Illinois, 19 Feb 1914, at St. Charles, Winona, Minnesota) and by him had the following children: Eva Alameda, William Irving, Selucia, Rolla Augustus, Charley, Seth O., Ary Delette, Etta Maude, and Ira Slyter<sup>1</sup>.  
Marietta married second to Mr. Chris (or Christopher) Jenson.
- Joshua, Darius, Mary and Matilda died young.

Lyman's military record is described in detail in his Pension Application File, which has subsequently been transcribed. The results are contained within this report. The transcriptions include information on his duty, personal appearance and detailed information on Cynthia, as his wife, receiving her widow's pension.

Lyman died 27 February 1872; Cynthia died April 20, 1881. Lyman is known to have been buried at Steven's Cemetery within in the bounds of Colchester, located west of Macomb, There is a marker for Aaron Peck, who is still somewhat unidentified. This is NOT the grandfather of Lyman also named Aaron. Once I thought it could be a stone for

Lyman with the wrong name on it.. .but that would be unlikely since the headstone of Aaron identifies a different officers' unit for his 1812 military service. There is a metal 1812 commemorative stake also located at this sight that may belong to Lyman.

A burial location for Cynthia has not been proven at any other location, and it is *my opinion only* that she is likely buried here beside her husband in Steven's Cemetery as there is plenty of open space around the Peck gravestone here and she never remarried after his death. It is a small cemetery located in the center of agricultural land currently being tilled for corn crops. (When she died she was living with her son Wilbur, who is buried at Mt Auburn Cemetery, where there is no record of a grave for Cynthia Peck)

The land he owned and later sold to his sons is located directly south of the road on which the cemetery land is located. There is a natural creek running through the land, much wooded area and many acres of farm crops now being grown on it.

Footnotes:

1. Lyman Birth: "The Peck Family from Upstate New York, the North Country", A Genealogical History of the Descendants of Joshua Peck of Jay, New York, including the ancestral line to Joseph Peck of Milford, Connecticut, who emigrated with some of his family to this country in 1637, by Joseph A. Peck, 1997, self-published.

2. "History of McDonough County, Illinois 1885", Continental Historical Company, Springfield, Illinois, 1885

3. Federal Census Records for Lyman:

1830 Not located

1840 Illinois, McDonough Co

1850 Illinois, McDonough, Co, Page 250B, 265A

1860 Illinois, McDonough, Chalmers Twp, Page 364/725

1870 Illinois, McDonough, Chalmers Twp, Page 8/411

4. Marriage, documented in pension file declarations made by Cynthia and Alvah Peck (brother to Lyman) to the McDonough County Court in February 1872.

Pension File: NARA Records, War of 1812, Lyman Peck Certificate No. 1205; Widow File No. 23145

Also listed in "Index to War of 1812 Pension Files", Volume III: N-Z, transcribed by Virgil D. White, The National Historical Publishing Company, Waynesboro, Tennessee, 1989; located at the Grapevine Public Library, Grapevine, TX: Page 1404: PECK, Lyman, Cynthia, WC-16046, SC-1205, srvcapt. C. G. Jones' & Capt Peter B. Van Buren's Co's, 29<sup>th</sup> US Inf as a Pvt, IL res

5. The Macomb Daily Journal, 28 Apr 1881

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and one daughter, Mrs. Marietta Slyter, of Wright County Iowa. At 16 years of age, "Mother" Peck embraced religion, and united with the church. From that time through life, she lived as an earnest and consistent Christian. She was one of those who "went about doing good" in the name of The Master, and has now gone to her reward."\*

6. It is likely some of Cynthia's family removed at about the same time, to Ohio, because in the 1840 census her brothers Almond and Roswell are recorded in the 1840 federal census at Huron Township in Erie county, and in the 1850 census her brother Almond is recorded at Green Creek Township in Sandusky County with his family, including a son Roswell, her nephew, who later is living with her and Lyman in Chalmers. By 1860, Almond is living in Chalmers Twp, McDonough Co, IL with wife and children, including Roswell age 11. It is unclear what happened to her brother Roswell and his family.

7. Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, IRAD, Volume A, License # 00000078.

8. 1850 Federal Census, Illinois, McDonough, Chalmers, Page 265A

9. Family Bible of Marietta Peck Slyter

10. Land Records for Lyman include those described under Orin Peck's report and the following:

15 Jan 1842, \$500 paid to Jacob Hainline by Lyman Peck for: "N part 6 ½ of SW Sect 7, also S part of 6 ½ of NW Sect 7 at 6N 4W. This was in Hire Twp, near Blandinsville.

12 June 1849, 18 ½ Acres, N ½ E ½ NE SW 7 6N 4W (Lyman purchased at Sheriffs sale for taxes)

5 March 1851, William S. Hail assigned to Lyman Peck, 17 Acres, N ½ SE SW 7 6N 4W

23 July 1851, Lyman assigned to Joshua C. Alexander W ½ SE SW 7 6N 4W

Note: Copies of the deed transactions were made from the basement of the McDonough Co Courthouse but the files were not located under the index pages as recorded. Book and page numbers were not identified correctly which made locating very difficult. The copier was none to friendly either and consequently I did not make good notes as to the final locations of the documents copied...I know.