

Family History Corner

Addison Ellsworth Chappell

Posted by Dan Nielsen, Chicago, IL - May, 2021

My great-great-grandfather, Addison Ellsworth Chappell (AEC), was born on May 25, 1862 in Washington D.C., and died on March 13, 1920 at his residence: 4117 Chesapeake St. NW, about two blocks north of Eldbrooke Church. From various sources, Addison Ellsworth Chappell's occupations are listed as farmer, gardener, butcher, and house painter.

Addison Ellsworth Chappell married Lydia Lee Sherwood (LLS, 1870-1945) on December 5, 1889, when he was 27 and she had just turned 19. They were married at the Tenleytown home of George C. and Anna B. Paxton, who are also buried in *The Methodist Cemetery*. Anna was Lydia's half-sister; Lydia's father having been married to Mary Ann Strother (1836-c.1869) before marrying Lydia's mother Mary Virginia Mills (1849-1935).

AEC and LLS had five children, the second of which was Mary Annabel Chappell (MAC, 1894-1976). In 1915, Mary married Bernard Leroy Robey (BLR, 1895-1941), the youngest child of James William Robey and Margaret Ann Kidwell. MAC and BLR are both buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Bethesda along with several other Robey family members.

Several of AEC's siblings are also buried in *The Methodist Cemetery*.

AEC's parents, John Ellsworth Chappell (JEC, 1821-1907) and Sarah McDonald (Paxton) Wolford Chappell (1823-1879) are also buried in the cemetery. From JEC's obituary:

Death of J. E. Chappell – 1907 Obituary

John E. Chappell, who died at the residence of his eldest son, Charles Chappell, at Glendale, Md., September 8, and who was buried from Eldbrooke Methodist Episcopal Church, Tennallytown, September 10, was one of the oldest citizens of the district.

He was born in Virginia in 1821 and came to the District in 1845, residing with his family until recently upon the old home place, near Tennallytown, a tract of land called Fletchall's Chance, which had been in the possession of the family since his grandfather, Dr. John Chappell, who came from England in the eighteenth century, first owned it.

His maternal grandfather, Israel Elsworth Holliday, was born in Connecticut about 1732. He was a Revolutionary soldier and was present at the capture of Ticonderoga and Crown Point and later served in Washington's army, being with it during the retreat from Long Island and afterward until the close of the war. After the war he settled in Virginia, where he died at the advanced age of 99 years.

In 1849 John E. Chappell married Sarah McDonald Wolford (nee Paxton). Of the children born to them five are living. They are: Charles R., John W., A. Elsworth, and N. Webster Chappell, and Mrs. Ida Paxton.

John E. Chappell devoted the best and most active years of his life to teaching; many of the parents and grandparents also of the neighborhood having gone to school to him. Previous to the Civil War he conducted, during the winter months, a private school for the instruction of young men. After the close of the war, he was largely instrumental in the establishment of public schools in the county and was one of the first trustees. Later he was appointed principal of the Grant Road School and held the position under the superintendency of Benjamin P. Davis and J. Ormond Wilson for many years until he was succeeded by his son, who some years before had been taught by him in the same building.

He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and as a young man attended the old church located at Tennallytown. It having been destroyed during the Civil War, he took an active part in and contributed largely toward its rebuilding in 1866. It is now known as Eldbrooke Methodist Episcopal Church.

AEC's paternal grandmother, Elizabeth (Halliday) Chappell (1783-1865) is also buried in the cemetery. Her father is the aforementioned Israel Elsworth Halliday (IEH, c. 1732-1831) who fought in the Revolutionary War. IEH's maternal grandparents lived in Hartford, CT. and ancestors of IEH's maternal grandfather's family immigrated from outside of London to *The Colonies* in the first half of the 1600s.

However, it is through IEH's father's family (Samuel Ellsworth) that the Ellsworth name derives. They were also early immigrants to *The Colonies* and can possibly trace their lineage to Sir John Ellsworth (1578-1653).