

One Life, Many Tenleytown Connections

William Leon Robey was born in Washington, D.C. on November 8, 1899 – the only child of James Harvey Robey (1876 – 1944) and Bertha May Robey (nee **QUINLAN**, 1879 – 1949). William's grandparents were James William Robey (1846 – 1933) and Margaret Ann Robey (nee **KIDWELL**, 1851 – 1917).

James William Robey founded a building construction company in the Tenleytown area in the 1890s. James and Margaret Robey had nine children, all of whom married into local families from Tenleytown. Many of the Robey siblings worked in the business and some helped to run it. Several of them continued to run the business after James retired, including William Leon Robey's father.

The ancestors of several of these local families are buried at The Methodist Cemetery.

William's:

1. Uncle Frederick Frost Robey (1872 – 1945) married Sarah Johanna **WALTHER** (1873 – 1945). Sarah is the daughter of Charles Hermann Marion WALTHER and Esther Ann Walther (nee WOLFORD), both buried at the cemetery. Sarah's grandmother, Sarah McDonald Wolford (nee PAXTON), is also buried at the cemetery.
2. Aunt Effie Selena Robey (1886 – 1941) married John Teasdale **DUVALL** (1883 – 1968). John is the son of Samuel **DUVALL** and Mary Ann Duvall (nee **PERRY**), and the grandson of John G. **DUVALL**, all three buried at the cemetery.
3. Uncle Bernard Leroy Robey (1895 – 1941) married Mary Annabelle **CHAPPELL** (1894 – 1976). Mary Annabelle is the daughter of Addison Ellsworth **CHAPPELL** and Lydia Lee Chappell (nee **SHERWOOD**), both buried at the cemetery. Addison is the son of John Ellsworth Chappell and Sarah McDonald Chappell (nee PAXTON), both buried at the cemetery.
4. Uncle Albert Fairfax Robey married Ethel M **BURROWS**. Ethel's grandparents, John Burrows and Elizabeth F. Burrows (nee **PHELAN**), are both buried at the cemetery
5. Aunt Virginia Mae Robey married Joseph Henry **POORE**.
6. Uncle William Millard Robey married Annie Estelle **KISNER**.
7. Uncle Elmer Sebastian Robey married Bessie Prettyman **HOUSER**.
8. Uncle Alonzo Devine Robey married Mary A **LEYHAN** (she died in 1918 in the flu epidemic) and then Winifred Viola **BARNUM**.

William Leon Robey's parents are buried at the Mount Zion Cemetery in Bethesda, Maryland. However, also buried at The Methodist Cemetery are his mother's (Bertha) two sisters; Lola Levina Ward (nee **QUINLAN**) and Lillian M. Quinlan; and Bertha's grandparents, George Washington Riley and Martha Riley (nee **KISNER**).

Sadly, William Leon Robey died on Friday, January 4, 1901 at 14 months old. His grave marker is in the SE section near the fence line of the church, next to Riley and Quinlan graves. No doubt his mother helped to secure a plot near Quinlan family members, after such an unexpected tragedy. The gift of a long life is unfortunately not bestowed upon everyone. From a genealogy standpoint, his very short life spanned two different centuries and one U.S. Federal census.