

The Family History of William Columbus Pipes 1852 - 1922
Robert J. Pipes - April 2016 [latest Update 09/17/21]

William C. Pipes
 Texarkana, Mar 17 - William C. Pipes, aged 72, died last night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. S.H. Denham, on North Wood St. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Denham and Miss Flora Pipes, and two sons, William and Owen, all of Texarkana. The body will be sent to Cove, Ark, the former home of the family, where the funeral and interment will take place Sunday.
The Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock, Arkansas - May 28, 1922

My part in this story started in April of 2016 when I received an email from my cousin Mary Beth Worley which contained the newspaper clipping above, a death notice for William C. Pipes. She also included a copy of his Texas death certificate which she found online and a screen shot of a 'Find a Grave' notice about his burial place in Cove, Arkansas.

One of the most enjoyable parts of being an amateur genealogist, for me anyway, is receiving or finding little clues like this and then I get to play 'detective' and trace the person's lineage and history and ultimately connect them to my database of people named Pipes. Then, 5 years from now, when someone writes to me and says "my Great-Grandfather was William C. Pipes, who lived in Arkansas, can you connect me to the Pipes family?" I can say "yes, I know all about him". I have done this hundreds of times now and it never ceases to amaze me how excited I get while doing it.

My first thoughts after reading the death notice were that he was probably a descendant of Phillip Pipes from Limestone Co. Alabama. Phillip's family spread out to nearby Hardin County, Tennessee and Poinsett, Arkansas. But after reading the death notice where it is reported that his parents are not known and that William C. was born in Indiana, I was confused.

This is the Bowie County, Texas Death Certificate for William C. Pipes. The person signing is his son Owen Pipes and we should notice that the birth year is wrong and should be 1852.

William C. Pipes is buried next to his second wife Sarah S. Hays in Westview Cemetery in the city of Cove, Arkansas. His 'Find A Grave' # 49816306.

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

PLACE OF DEATH: County Bowie City Texarkana (No. 1902 Wood)
 FULL NAME: William C. Pipes (a) RESIDENCE: No. 13429 St. Or Oak
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred: yrs. mo. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mo. ds.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
 3 SEX: M 4 COLOR OR RACE: White 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word): Widowed
 6 DATE OF BIRTH: 8/30/85 (Month) (Day) (Year)
 7 AGE: 36 yrs. mo. ds. If less than 2 years state if breast fed. If less than 1 day Yes No hrs. mins.
 8 OCCUPATION: (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work: Hotel Prop (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer):
 9 BIRTHPLACE (State or country): Ind
 10 NAME OF FATHER: Pipes
 11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country):
 12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER:
 13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country):
 14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE (Informant): Owen Pipes (Address): Texarkana

MEDICAL PARTICULARS
 16 DATE OF DEATH: 5/26/22 (Month) (Day) (Year)
 17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 4-20 1922 to 5-26 1922 that I last saw him alive on 5-26 1922 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 5:30 pm. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
Bright Disease
 18 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?
 Did an operation precede death? No Date of:
 Was there an autopsy?
 What test confirmed diagnosis?
 (Signed) J. H. Neal M. D. (Address) Texarkana
 *State the Disease Causing Death, or in death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for State Statutes.)

19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL: Cove Ark DATE OF BURIAL: 3/27
 20 UNDERTAKER: Revere-Fowell ADDRESS: Texarkana

NOTE WELL—INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE SIDE. WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Where signing is given as cause of death, file birth certificate. Every item of information should be carefully checked and corrected before signing. Error in statement of OCCUPATION is very important. Fully supplied. AGE should be properly classified. Error in statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

Filed 5/29 1922 W. H. Jones Registrar

This is the information I started with and it is more than I often have to go on. I knew right away that his birthplace in Indiana in 1852 was probably not correct. When I do these investigations I use 4 main sources: Ancestry.com for census records, birth, marriage and death (BMD) records and WWI and WWII draft and enlistment records; Familysearch.org for family histories and BMD; USGENWEB.org for county and state archives and cemetery records; Find-A-Grave (FAG) and Fold3.com for military records. I also use my own census database for Pipes entries from 1790 to 1900; my own Pipes genealogy database and a large and unwieldy collection of genealogy files.

I started my search using his name and birth year and over about two or three days found a birth record, census records, marriage records and some surprises as it turns out he was closer to my own family than I had imagined and sure enough, he was not born in Indiana but was born in Kentucky.

The story became as much about finding his parents as it was about him. His mother and father were a big surprise and I had to call in expert help to verify what I was finding. Karen Fowler Caldwell is my expert on the Kentucky Pipes family and has been willing to share her knowledge of the Kentucky family for many years now.

Helpful History

It might help to explain first: Captain John Pipes Jr. (1839-1821) had three sons with his second wife, Mary Morris. They were Nathaniel, Morris and William Pipes. All three of them remained in Kentucky and all lived very near the Old Union Church and Cemetery south west of Perryville in Boyle County. We have combed through endless records and microfilms trying to make sure that we knew all of the children of these three men and all of their descendants too. I am a descendant of Nathaniel Pipes and Karen is a descendant of Morris Pipes. Karen and I discovered a few years ago after analyzing the census records that Morris Pipes had two unknown (to us) sons born between his marriage in 1825 and the 1830 census.

About 16 years ago we found one of his sons whose name was John F. Pipes. John F. married a young woman named Isabella Nash in Kentucky and then moved with her entire family to Texas where he was killed in the Civil War while with Parson's 19th Texas Cavalry, leaving a widow and 4 children. Coincidentally, he was killed near Little Rock, Arkansas. One of his 4 children, Samuel Pipes, became a somewhat infamous outlaw as part of the notorious Sam Bass Gang of railroad robbers. That story is told elsewhere on pipesfamily.com Now as it turns out, the father of William C. Pipes is the other missing son of Morris Pipes and his name is also William Pipes. Thanks to our work on William C. Pipes we have been able to tie them all together. Throughout this article William will be the father and William C. will be the son and subject of this article, remembering that there is a 3rd William here, the brother of Morris and Nathaniel who we will talk about later.

William Columbus Pipes (1852 - 1922)

Mary J. Cundiff was the daughter of a man named Meshack Cundiff and his wife Tabitha Nelson and it appears she was born about 1826 in Kentucky. About 1843 she married a man named William Henry and before 1850 they had two sons, George and John Henry. In the 1850 census of Marion County, Kentucky Mary J. and William Henry and their two sons are living in the household of Meshack and Tabitha Cundiff. We do not know the fate of husband William Henry but there is a Marion County, Kentucky Birth Record for William Columbus Pipes on Aug 30, 1852. The parents are Mary J. Cundiff and William Pipes.

In the 1860 Census of Haysville, Marion County, William Pipes and Mary J. Pipes are living next door to Morris Pipes and his wife Sally (Montgomery) Pipes. William and Mary have two sons named George (b. 1844) and John (b. 1849) who are from her first marriage (but not named as such in the census record), a son name William Columbus (b. 1852) and 4 children born between 1854 and 1860. These four are named Levi (1854), Martha (1856), and twins Rachel and Sarah (1860).

This family is very hard to trace after 1860. It appears they moved to Pike County, Indiana before 1870. Why Pike Co.? Remember that the three brothers, Nathaniel, Morris and William were in Kentucky together. The third son William and his wife Nancy Gray had 12 children and after this 3rd brother William died in 1855, all of the children but one moved to Pike County, Indiana. Not all at once but by 1870 they were all there except George Washington Pipes who stayed in Kentucky and lived on the old home places of the Pipes family near Union Church. So the attraction was family and cousins who could help them get settled there.

In the 1870 Census of Pike County, Indiana we find Columbus Pipes (no first name), age 19, living in the home of the Hollon Brothers, Maston and John. The Hollon family was from Kentucky too and many of them married into the Pipes family. William C. is a farm laborer. Also in Pike County are George and John Henry the two first sons of Mary J. (Cundiff) Pipes. They are with Henry relatives. The rest of this family is nowhere to be found. I suspect they are there but the census missed them or the names are incorrect. Note too, that William Columbus gives both Kentucky and Indiana over the years as his birthplace and the birth place of his father.

We should note here that William Columbus Pipes went by many name variations during his life, i.e. W.C., William C., Columbus, Caloumbus, William, W. Pipes, Wm C., etc., etc.

In the 1880 census we see the next step in the life of William and William Columbus Pipes. William Pipes is in Marion twp., Pike County, Indiana listed as a 57 year old widower with a 16 year old son named Flavius (b. 1864). William's occupation, by the way, was always listed as "Cooper". William's name includes the middle initial "H" in this record. No death record has yet been found for Mary J. (Cundiff) Pipes and no trace of the other 4 children has been found. William is marked as a widower so means Mary has passed before 1880.

Flavius Pipes has not been found in subsequent census records. In these records his birth is given as 1862. This may be his middle name or perhaps it is his first name and he started using the middle name after 1880.

William Columbus (In this census as Wm. Columbus Pipes) age 28, is now married to a very young woman named Ida J. Scaper (b. 1865) and they have a son named William Edmon Pipes born in February 1880 in Pike County, Indiana. William and Ida were married on Dec. 20, 1878 in Pike County and William Columbus is listed as a farmer in this census.

We found no further trace of William Columbus Pipes' parents or siblings after the 1880 census. (Other than John F. mentioned above.) We assume his father William died in Pike County after 1880 but have no record of that yet.

The next 20 years skip by with no census and little records so we pick up the story again in 1900. We can deduce what path William Columbus and Ida followed by the census records and the birth of their children. In 1900 we find Wm C. Pipes with a new wife named Sarah S. Hays. They are living in the town of White in Polk County, Arkansas. The birth record for William Columbus' second son named Owen tells us part of the story. Owen was born in 1887 in a town named Birthwright, in Hopkins County Texas and Ida J. Scaper was his mother. Ida apparently died between the date of Owens' birth and March 27, 1900 when William Columbus married his new wife, Sarah S Hays in Polk County, Arkansas. Sarah Hays was born in 1874 in Arkansas and was 24 years younger than William Columbus. William Columbus and his family are keeping a hotel for boarders and they do that for a living for the next 20 years.

The 1910 census shows that William Columbus and Sarah have two daughters, Flora (b. 1901) and Dora, (b.1902). They are managing a hotel in Polk County with boarders and a young female servant.

The 1920 census shows the family still in Polk County but William Columbus is now 68 years old and listed as a real Estate Agent. They have 3 more children and Sarah has passed away with records showing her death as June of 1918. Their name in the census is given as Ripes and they are living in an unincorporated town named Vandervoort. Dora is still in the home in 1920 age 17 and she has 3 new brothers: Marvin age 8, Milton age 7 and Norman age 5. After William Columbus' death the 3 small boys are in the homes of their older siblings in Texarkana. Flora is not in the household and I could not find her in this census. Dora marries Sydney H. Denham in

April 1921 and their home in Texarkana, Texas is where William Columbus was living at his death. In 1922 William Columbus passed away in Texarkana at the home of his daughter Dora. His death certificate says he had Bright's Disease which is a kidney failure disease said to be caused by a lack of vitamin D. His body was returned to Polk County, Arkansas where he and Sarah are buried in Westview Cemetery in Cove.

Further records in the 1930 and 1940s show families for William E. Pipes and Owen Pipes in Bowie County, Texarkana, Texas and some records for the sons named Marvin and Norman. No further info has been found on son Milton Pipes. Their families will be added to my Pipes family database. Norman served many years in the US Army and during WWII was a Tech Sargent 5 and died in 1987 in Lake County, Indiana.

Update: September 17, 2021, While doing research on military men named Pipes in our family, I found Records for Milton Pipes; except that his full name is Charles Milton Pipes, Born November 12, 1912 to Sarah Hays Pipes and William Columbus. He enlisted in the Military and served in WWII from 1943 to 1946. In 1937 he married Carolyn Ward and they lived in Little Rock. In the 1940 Census they have no children. There is little info on them after that and Charles died on April 24, 1975 in Arkansas.

One unanswered question in this story is why would William Columbus Pipes and Ida J. Scaper move from Indiana to Birthright Texas in 1887? Birthright is a very small town in east Texas now known as Lone Star, Texas and is the home of the late Green Bay Packers NFL football player and coach Forest Gregg, once described as the best football player and worst coach to ever play the game.

[Update 2018] I received an email from Teresa Remsberg (tremberg@juno.com) who is connected to this family and the John Gray Family as well. She provides information that Ida Scaper's parents, Isaac Scaper and Mary Elizabeth McCormack, played into the move to Birthright, Texas. The story is that Isaac Scaper enlisted in the Civil War, probably an Indiana Infantry unit, was captured, held as a POW for some time and then released or exchanged. He died shortly after returning home and Ida was born 18 days later. Teresa says that Ida's name is actually Isaac Ida Scaper. Mary Elizabeth remarried to Erastus Flint in Pike County, Indiana and sometime after 1882 they move to Birthright, Texas. Ida and William C. Pipes must have moved with them or followed some time shortly after.

Doing all this digging around in Pike County, Indiana has revealed several other Pipes family members that need follow up and addition to the database as well. I hope you enjoyed this little family story.

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