

Information on Kate Maxham (apparent third wife of Otis H. Maxham)

The attached letter was sent to my father Vincent F. Gehrlein in 1982 by Ruth Gosnell of Pierpont, Ohio. It references Nancy Clawson who was the head of household where Otis Maxham was listed in the 1860 Federal Census with an apparent second wife "Pemelia". "Catharine Sheen" was also listed as a member of the same household in 1860.

The letter suggests that "Pemelia" could actually have been "Cordelia Clawson", but that was later disproved. It also suggests without proof that Kate Shine (Catharine Sheen) in the census report was a niece of Nancy Clawson.

A will of Otis Maxham's apparent third wife Kate from 1906 was also mentioned in this letter, and a copy of that will was sent later and it is also attached. The will states that Otis Maxham was her husband and that Wilmer Kelly was her son. Nieces and nephews were are mentioned, but they are not named.

It is very unlikely that Catherine Shine from the 1860 Federal Census was Otis Maxham's third wife "Kate", despite the similarities of their ages in the 1860 and 1870 Federal Census reports. This results from Wilmer Kelly's reported date of birth as December 1859 in the 1900 Federal Census, while he does not appear in the 1860 Federal Census with Catherine Sheen.

William V. Gehrlein
Lewes, Delaware
January 2019

January 21, 1982

Dear Mr and Mrs Gehrlein,

I was very pleased to hear from you. I'm not sure I can help you very much at the moment but I'll give you what I know which isn't very much.

First I must tell you how I happened to pick up on the name Mapham. I was making trips to the library in Meadville, Pa. I would go up to the second floor in the Historical Society.

The Crawford County Genealogical Society is located there also. One day I was reading the 1860 Census report on Cussewago twp.

This is what I found living at household of Nancy Clawson.

1379-1323	Nancy Clawson	age 62
	Otis Mapham	41
	Pemelia	31
	Marcena	10
	<u>George</u>	3
	Catherine Shine	29

The handwriting was so poor I could not make out the name Mapham. I finally wrote to a young fellow in Saegertown, Pa. who is active in the Crawford Co. Genealogical society. He said the name was Mapham. I am surmising that the wife of Otis might be a daughter of Nancy Clawson. Catherine Shine, my dad knew her and called her Kate Shine, was a daughter of Nancy and Joseph Clawson's sister Elizabeth (Clawson) Shine. I know in the census report the wife of Otis was written as Pemelia (looked like it anyway). Now I copied a petition at the Court house which names a Cordelia Clawson.

Here is a copy of the petition:

Joseph Clawson

Docket A.

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at an Orphans Court held in Meadville in and for the County of Crawford the 16th day of Aug 1831 the petition of Nancy Clawson, relict and widow of Joseph Clawson, deceased, was presented praying the Court to appoint guardians for William, Ursula, Cordelia and Jane, minor children of said deceased all under the age of fourteen years. The court appoints John Allee guardian.

I have found Ursula's grave and know she was born in 1826. Cordelia would have been born a little after that. The Bemelia in the 1860 census was about the right age. I know for a fact they made mistakes in the census reports anyway I thought it was a very good lead that Otis was living with Nancy Clawson.

The death dates I have for Charles and Clair Mapham were obtained for me by the young fellow in Saegertown. He found this information in the card files at the Historical Society in the library in Meadville, Pa. It stated these children died in Erie, Pa. The marriage date of George and Mae Cornell was obtained from the card files also. That must mean the deaths and the marriage were published in one of the Meadville papers years ago. That is why I didn't have the name of Grace Maude.

I don't know if this Otis Mapham is any relation to Bert Mapham.

This is about all I have on Mapham's; however I did copy a will of the widow of a Otis Mapham at the Meadville Court House. Unfortunately I do not have this with me. It's back at our home at Pierpont, Ohio. I don't know if it's the same, or a different Otis Mapham's. I cannot remember the will good enough to quote it to you.

I don't know how you feel about hiring anyone to do searching for you; but if you are interested a good one to do searching in the Meadville area (Crawford County) would be:

Eugene F. Throop

R.D. #1

Saegertown, Pa. 16433

Eugene's ad in the Sept-Oct 1981 issue of the Genealogical Helper reads as follows:

Throop, Eugene F., R.D. 1, Saegertown, Pa. 16433.
Genealogical Research done in the following Penna Counties - Erie, Crawford, Mercer, Warren and Forrest plus Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties in Ohio. Rate is \$6. per hour. Ten years experience. Please enclose SASE.

He is the one who helped me on the Mapham info.

I do not know of the C. C. Mapham married to Mattie Batchelor.

I would very much appreciate any bits and pieces you could send me on the Mapham's. I would like to get a start on this line.

4.
I have been working on Joseph's Clawson's line all summer. Specifically the descendants Ursula (Clawson) (Erwin) Fisher. Many of her descendants are in Albion, Ludwigs Lane, Erie, Ashtabula, O, Conneaut and various other places.

I still have to get a line of the Dennis started. Jane and Ambrose Dunn lived in the Erie area and are buried at Erie Cemetery - address Chestnut St. I expect they have descendants there but I haven't located them yet.

I hope I haven't confused you further by all this.

We are in Fla. for the winter so I can't do much research till I get home sometime in May.

Sincerely
Ruth Gosnell

Winter address

Mrs Martin (Ruth) Gosnell

6 Blueberry Lane

St James City, Fla. 33956

Phone 813-283-4229

Summer address (from about May till Oct)

Mrs Martin (Ruth) Gosnell

6500 N. Richmond Rd.

Pierpont, Ohio 44082

Phone

216-577-1496

↑

Our daughter's phone

Mrs Robert (Sara) Dillen

P.S. We have 1 son - 2 daughters
7 grandchildren

Will of Kate Masham

9-87

L-397

Registered June 4, 1906

A. L. Oster Register

I, Kate Masham, of the town of Conneautville, County of Crawford, state of Pa. being of sound mind memory and understanding do make this my last will and testament and do revoke any other will made at any other time.

First I direct that all my debts and funeral expenses be paid and a fitting marker be erected at my grave and that of my son, Wilmer Kelly. Second I bequeath all my silverware to my niece, Sarah Chapman.

Third I give to Clare Masham the overcoat of my former son Wilmer.

Fourth I direct all my other property personal, mixed or real, of whatsoever nature be sold and turned into money and used as it may be needed for the support of my husband, O. H. Masham.

I appoint Dr. L. A. Dennis Trustee to hold the money and also appoint him Executor of this will. If any funds shall remain after Mr. Masham's death and his funeral expenses are paid it shall be divided equally between my nephews and nieces. Signed and sealed this twenty ninth (29) day of May 1906.

Mrs Kate Masham