

Orin Peck

By NMBrunk

Orin PECK was born on the 27th of November 1836 in Sandusky, Ohio, the son of Lyman¹ and Cynthia B. (Steele) Peck. He arrived at an early age in McDonough County, Illinois where he grew up and where he lived with his family¹¹ until he died on 26 November 1916.

Orin married Sarah Jane Merritt on 15 January 1857, at Alexandria, Clark County, Missouri¹³. Sarah Jane's family lived at Alexandria at the time. Orin and Sarah's first child was a daughter they named Mosoury M. Peck³

They had a total of 12 children⁷ as follows:

1. Mosoury M. b. Nov 1858, d. Sept (before 1860), headstone engraved but unreadable by summer 2001
2. James N. b. 1860-1861, d. between 1870-1880
3. Ida Virginia b. Aug 1859, d. 20 October 1882, m. Dennis L. Vorhes 23 September 1880
4. Arta M. b. 7 Nov 1864, d. Feb 1968, m. Charles A. VanDiver on 7 February 1895 (Charles died 24 April 1931, Cicero, Cook, IL IRAD Cert#5180114)
5. Owen Lee b. 6 Oct 1866, d. 13 July 1938, m. Mae Straeder 2 February 1887⁸ (Mae died 31 August 1932 at Macomb, McDonough, IL IRAD#0550188)
6. Caddie M. b. 31 August 1867, d. 5 Dec 1943, Oak Park Village, Cook, IL IRAD#0000909) m. George E. Gamage; lived at Rock Island in 1916.
7. Loe b. 2 August 1868, d. 20 Sept 1917 IRAD#0027469; lived in Macomb in 1916
8. Birdie b. 11 Sept 1872 or 25 Dec 1871, d. 18 August 1961 at Sacramento, CA (California Death Records Database, includes mother's maiden name Merritt), m. Charles E. Filbert 19 October 1892
9. Susie b. 1874, d. 1875
10. Louis b. 1874, d. 1875
11. Dottie b. May 10, 1877, d. 1 May 1947, m. (1) Charles E. Hanan, m. (2) Charles Walter Kline 20 August 1906 lived in Macomb in 1916
12. Orin Jack. B. April 3, 1879, d. 3 September 1919; lived in East Moline in 1916

Orin was a volunteer in the Army during the Civil War². He was a POW and served as nurse at the military hospital at Corinth, Mississippi while a prisoner there². He was very ill when discharged for disability in 1863². He maintained a farm upon land where he lived for over 30 years^{4,5,6,7}. He owned land at Colchester, which his father owned before him¹². He also bought other farm land and several lots for homes in the city of Macomb. He and Sarah removed to Macomb when Orin retired from farming (by 1900).

Orin was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)¹⁰ and in 1907 was an officer of the McDonough Post #103 at Macomb. His position was "Surgeon". Sarah was a "Guard" in the Women's Relief Corps, McDonough Lodge No.34, organized in 1886, with this information published 1907¹⁰.

From "*History of McDonough County, Illinois 1885*", Continental Historical Company, Springfield, Illinois, the following articles were printed in the Chapter on Chalmers Township:

"Orrin Peck is a son of Lyman Peck, who came to this county in 1839, and located near Blandinsvilte. The latter was born in Essex County, New York, February 22, 1806. He was brought up in his native county. 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. 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. In 1859, he located on the farm where he now lives. Mr. Peck enlisted, December 13, 1861, in company A, of the 64th Illinois infantry, and served until March, 1863, when he was discharged on account of disability, after which he returned home and resumed farming. He has 130 acres of land, well improved. He was married January 15, 1857, to Sarah J. Merritt, a native of Ohio, and by this union has seven children—Artie M., Owen L, Caddy M., Lois, Birdie, Dot and Orrin. In 1880, Mr. Peck discovered upon his farm, the mineral springs, which have since made his place famous. Observing that the water had a beneficial effect upon stock, he determined to have it analyzed. For account of this, see further on.

MINERAL SPRING

"On the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 21, is a mineral spring which is destined to make its proprietor widely known, as well as to be a never failing source of revenue to him. It was discovered by Mr. Orrin Peck, the owner of the property, in 1880. At that time he did not know of its valuable properties, and probably would never have suspected them had he not noticed the beneficial effects of the drinking of the spring water on his stock. This fact led him, in 1883, to have the water analyzed. Accordingly, Professor Long, M. D., professor of chemistry, pharmacy and toxicology in the Chicago medical college, was employed to make the analysis, which he did on October 16, 1883. As a result, it was found to contain ingredients in the following amounts, per U. S. gallon of the water. Chlorate of sodium, .623 grains; sulphate of sodium, 1.045; sulphate of potassium, 1.092; sulphate of calcium, 39.181; bi-carbonate of magnesium, 20.756; bi-carbonate of calcium, 15.683; bi-carbonate of iron, 2.877; silica, 1.389; alumina, large trace; organic matter, small amount. At the spring he has a commodious pleasure house, built in 1883, which is 16x30 feet in ground

area. Another smaller building is situated just below the spring, receiving water from it through pipes. This water is guaranteed to cure Bright's disease in all stages, liver troubles, palpation of the heart, neuralgia, rheumatism and every curable ailment. Mr. Peck feels confident that a trial of the water of his spring will convince any skeptic of their medicinal value. He sells it in quantities to suit purchasers.

“Extracts from the Illinois By-stander, 16 January 1889” had the following glimpse into his life: “Orin Peck, of Chalmers, who has been seriously ill for several weeks, was able to be in Macomb, Saturday. He is still far from being a well man, and he says he, himself, has little hopes of ever regaining his health.” Note this was written about 27 years before his death. It is likely he was of poor health on many occasions, possibly chronically, because of the disabilities connected with his war service.

Footnotes:

1. Death Certificate, Orin Peck, State of Illinois, McDonough County, Certificate #26039, Reg # 135, Dated Nov 26, 1916, cause of death: cerebral thrombosis.
2. Military Service Record including Certificate for Disability Discharge, copies from NARA, Washington ,D.C., Civil War Pension Index, Certificate # 105416 (Sarah Jane, Certificate# 828400)
3. Headstone Transcriptions and Photos, Oakwood Cemetery, Macomb, McDonough, Illinois, summer 2001 & 2002
4. 1860 Federal Census, Illinois, McDonough, Chalmers, page 364/725, Lines 16-18
5. 1870 Federal Census, Illinois, McDonough, Chalmers, page 8/411, DwI/Fam# 55
6. 1880 Federal Census, Illinois, McDonough, Chalmers, Page 341b, Lines 9-19
7. 1900 Federal Census, Illinois, McDonough, Page 174a, Lines 66-73, West Jackson Street.
8. Obituary for Owen Lee Peck, Macomb Daily Journal, Macomb, McDonough, Illinois:
“Services on Friday for Owen Lee Peck
9. *McDonough County, Illinois Genealogical Society News Quarterly*, October 2000, Vol. XXI No.4, Page 76.
10. “*Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*”, History of McDonough County, by N. Bateman, P. Shelby & A. McLean, Munsell Pub. Co., Chicago, 1907, Chapter XXVIII, Fraternal Organizations, page 790.
11. “*History of McDonough County, Illinois 1885*”, Continental Historical Company, Springfield, Illinois, 1885,
12. McDonough County Land Deed Indices and Records, McDonough County Court House and/or IRAD, Western Illinois University, Macomb, McDonough, Illinois.
13. Alexandria, Clark County, Missouri:
Alexandria is situated on the Mississippi River a short distance below the mouth of the Des Moines River and at the junction several major railroads. The original town, called Churchville in 1833, was made up of four public squares and seventy-three blocks.

Alexandria was the county seat for Clark County at the time Orin and Sarah were married so it would have been likely that their marriage would have been successfully recorded at that time, however a thorough search for a county recording of their marriage was made and none was found. It was further learned that the City of Alexandria, because of its location has suffered over the years with massive flooding leaving the area looking quite different that it would have looked in 1857 when it was the county seat and a center for progress.