

Family Group Sheet

23 February 2013

Father Robert Maw SYKES¹		
Birth	16 Jan 1835	Gorham, Cumberland Co, Maine ²
Death	19 Dec 1907	Yonkers, Westchester, New York, USA ²⁻³
Burial		Auburn, Androscoggin Co, Maine, Oak Hill Cemetery
Marriage	27 Sep 1866	Portland, Cumberland Co, Maine ^{2,4}
Father	Thomas SYKES (1804-1884)	
Mother	Catherine MAW (1807-1898)	
Mother Theda CARY¹		
Birth	15 Apr 1841	Gray, Cumberland, Maine ^{3,5}
Death	25 Sep 1911	Gray, Cumberland, Maine ³
Burial		Auburn, Androscoggin Co, Maine, Oak Hill Cemetery
Father	Thomas CARY (1807-1901)	
Mother	Julia Ann WHITNEY (1814-1889)	
Children		
M	Payson Tucker SYKES¹	
Birth	14 Sep 1868	probably in Auburn, Androscoggin, ME
Death	bef 1928	probably in Jamestown, Chautauqua Co, New York
Burial		
Spouse	Mary Lydia HILL (1872-1945)	
Marriage	26 Dec 1912	New York City, New York Co, New York
M	Emery Howe SYKES¹	
Birth	17 Feb 1874	Auburn, Androscoggin Co, Maine ⁶
Graduation	Jun 1890	Edward Little High School, Auburn, Androscoggin Co, Maine
Death	7 Nov 1956	Lafayette, Contra Costa Co., California, USA ³
Burial		
Spouse	Lillian Florence STEMLER (1887-1984)	
Marriage	17 Mar 1915	St. John's (Episcopal) Church, Clifton, Staten Island, Richmond Co, NY ⁷
M	Robert Maw SYKES Jr.¹	
Birth	2 Nov 1875	probably Auburn, Adroscoggin, Maine
Death	bef 1936	probably Jamestown, Chautauqua Co, New York
Burial		
Marriage		
Preparer		Comments
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FAMILY NOTES

Marriage (27 September 1866): They were married by the Rev. James T. Hewes

FATHER NOTES: Robert Maw SYKES

Birth (16 January 1835): The Sykes family bible says his birth date was 16 January 1835, but the Maine Birth and Christenings records say he was born on the 11th. I wonder if the 16th was his christening date? I will put the 16th as his birth, since it is the one in the family Bible and the one on his headstone.

General: Robert fought for the Union in the Civil War. His infantry group was in service for 9 months. Robert enlisted 10 September 1862, apparently as a Private and a fife major, and was discharged 15 July 1863 with his company. He served in Company E of the 23rd Maine Infantry. His rank at enlistment and discharge was Private and Fife Major, 1862-3. He, and later his widow, Theda, received a pension for his service. On the pension record he is listed as an invalid. According to the pension papers:
"While on duty at Edwards Ferry, MD, on or about 28 December 1862, he was disabled by being knocked down by an army team and wagon, and crushed between the wheel of the wagon and a stump, injuring his left hip, resulting in shortening the left leg, and causing pain ever since."

His younger brother, Thomas E. also served, in the 17th Maine Infantry, and he also was a private for his entire service. I don't know how long he served or anything more about Thomas but his death date.

From Robert's death certificate it is clear he and Theda had lived in Yonkers for only 2 months. It seems to indicate (the Dr's writing is hard to read) that Robert was sick 2 days before dying. It looks like cause of death was "Exhaustion" and contributing factor was "General Parisis"

The time of death was 8 PM. His parents are listed, but Theda is shown only as Mrs. R. Sykes. In other of the pension papers she is shown as Theda C. Sykes -- and maiden name as Theda Cary.

He is buried at Oak Hill, in Auburn, ME.

He, like his father, was a tailor -- he is listed in the 1850 census (age 15) as a tailor. By the 1870 census he is listed as a merchant tailor, like his father.

In the 1880 census they are listed as living at 35 Spring Street in Auburn, Androscoggin, Maine.

1900 census shows they owned their own home with no mortgage. Robert listed at this point as a landlord.

I can tell from his photographs that he had blue eyes. kkl

MOTHER NOTES: Theda CARY

Birth (15 April 1841): The birth date and death date are listed on her headstone.

Death (25 September 1911): The death certificate notes:
"Struck by Express Train Neck broken, Compound Fracture of skull"

Again, her maiden name is spelled CarEy instead of Cary.

General: The family story was that Theda's oldest son, Payson, also was killed in the carriage/train collision, but I have marriage and census records which show this was incorrect. Payson lived until after the 1920 census but died before the 1930 census.

CHILD NOTES: Payson Tucker SYKES

Death (before 1928): Payson died sometime AFTER the 1920 census and BEFORE the 1930 census. On 28 March, 1922, he gave a deposition on behalf of his brother, Emery Howe Sykes, who was applying for a passport. At that time Payson lived at No. 1 Woodworth Avenue, Jamestown, Chautauqua Co, New York.

I found him and Mary and Robert listed in a 1926 directory for Jamestown, Chautauqua Co, New York. At this point Mary is listed as head of household, working in real estate, and no employment is shown for either Payson or Robert. I would guess that Payson was in ill health at this time. By the 1928 directory, Mary is listed as a widow, so Payson died sometime before that directory was put together.

Interestingly, Payson, Mary and Robert were listed in a 1917 directory for Asheville, NC directory, and he is shown as a tailor. By the 1920 census they were living in upstate New York.

General: On Payson's father's Civil War pension papers information is where I got Payson's b-day.

I always had been told that Payson died with his mother in a carriage/train collision when she was visiting Gray, Maine in 1911. Then in January, 2006, I was doing genealogy research at the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, UT, and found a 1920 census which listed as head of household Payson T. Sykes, with wife Mary L, and brother, Robert M. Sykes!

My mother had been told that Payson had died with his mother, and that Robert had married the housekeeper my grandfather employed, but had kept it a secret so that my grandfather would continue to pay her! From the census it is clear that it was instead Payson who married. Whether or not it was the housekeeper and had been kept secret is anyone's guess.

March 2006: I got a marriage certificate for Payson Tucker Sykes and Mary Lydia Hill! That means the 1920 and 1930 census that I found IS them. So he clearly didn't die with his mother in Gray, ME. Payson and Mary apparently did not have any children, as none show up in either the 1920 or the 1930 census.

Payson is shown as living in Rosebank, Staten Island when he married, and my mother says that's where Emery, Payson's brother (my grandfather) lived then. So that part of the story seems correct, that he was living with Emery.

CHILD NOTES: Emery Howe SYKES

Graduation (June 1890): "*Honor Est A Nilo*"

Valedictory Speech by E. H. Sykes

At Edward Little High School

Auburn, Maine. June 1890

Nearly a century ago, in the summer of 1798, there transpired an event ever memorable in the annals of history and naval warfare. Where the Nile pours her vast but sluggish waters into the bay of Aboukir was fought the battle which, of all others, established England's supremacy on the sea, for two years delivered up the Mediterranean to the power of that nation, left the French army isolated and distracted amidst a hostile population, rescued India from the Napoleonic grasp, and made Horatio Nelson, its victor, the most famous naval commander of modern time.

We must realize every condition of this wonderful fight to appreciate its performance and the importance of its issue---the superior force of the enemy, the darkness of night drawing round, the position of anchorage, which decidedly favored the French fleet, the hazardous risk incurred in the penetration of a space of water of which the English sailors, to a man, were ignorant.

The critical moment had arrived; on the one side, drawn up in formidable array, the splendidly equipped French armament of nineteen ships; on the other, eager and expectant for the fray, although at apparent disadvantage, the fleet of fourteen ships under Nelson sailing the English colors. That the great commander alone, on the occasion, made victory possible, is the universal and impartial verdict of all writers of history; and an incident of the fight, which will serve to convey a glimpse of the heroism which was always a characteristic of the man, is thus recorded. In the thickest of the conflict, when the contending forces were fiercely struggling for the mastery, in fact, at a juncture when the destinies of two nations were trembling in the balance - while volley after volley and fire upon fire were given and withstood, an alarmed officer approached the admiral with the inquiry, "What will the world say if we do not succeed?" Calmly Nelson answered him, but with determination expressed on every feature, "There is no if, but we must."

There had never to that hour been a more decisive battle at sea. The overwhelming defeat of the French, under these circumstances, must always rank among the most astonishing achievements in the catalog of the battles of the world.

Now let us follow the hero and the exultant crew from the place of action to that other scene in the Bay of Naples, as they returned in triumph from their well-earned victory of the Nile. To the student of history it is, indeed, thrilling, soul-stirring, to vividly recall the spectacle there presented, the brilliant reception tendered, and the honor accorded England's greatest admiral.

The bay, sparkling in the sunlight of that bright August day, reflected, as a mirror, in its glass clear surface and innumerable boats and barges, the uniformed officers and crews, the waving flags and colors. In the distance Vesuvius, lifting its mass to the fleecy clouds, lent a grand picturesque ness to the scene. The populas, crowding the shore, were wild with excitement, hailing this man as their savior and preserver, and one long acclaim filled the air. Facing the fleet and sloping gradually toward the harbor, the main thoroughfare of the city was strewn with flowers, while in the foreground was a rostral column erected under a magnificent canopy, and on it inscribed the words "Honor est a Nilo."

Surely, if honor can ever come from the triumphs and successes of this world, it was distinguishedly accorded Nelson by this hospitable greeting and enthusiastic welcome. Feted, revered, praised, he rose to the very acme of human greatness. England enrolled him among their nobility. But that name he had ennobled beyond all additions of titles. It was the name by which England loved him, Egypt, Italy and Turkey celebrated him, and all the world admired him.

Classmates, from the inspiration of this man's character, from incidents of his life, replete with thrilling suggestiveness of courage, decisiveness, fortitude, unyielding determination guided by sound judgment, let us draw a useful lesson --- a lesson not merely for the present which may pass before our eyes and, like a phantom, fade away; but one which it shall be our constant care to cherish, that the wisdom of its teaching may grow more and more with the flight of years. Let it sink deep into our hearts and become impressed upon our minds; let the influence of its example become a part of our routine of daily duty, asserting itself in our intercourse with men, permeating our very natures, strengthening and developing our characters and ennobling our lives.

It may not fall to the lot of any one of us to win a great renown in our respective avocations and chosen pursuits --- certainly we can not hope to attain such high distinction as that achieved by the famous admiral --- but, so far as it pertains to worldly affairs, the example before us is worthy of all emulation. And if we profit by it, we may look back upon the record of our past with an honorable sense of

satisfaction and pride, and may justly say with him, "Honor comes from the action. Mine has been the victory, mine is the reward."

We stand tonight upon the threshold of a new career. The future is before us with its many possibilities, its limitless opportunities along the pathway of honest and manly endeavor. Let all our actions be pure and noble, earnest and sincere, that honor may come therefrom ---honor, the brightest gem in the crown of character. We may then learn to know more appreciatively the forceful truth contained in the poet's words,

"Honor and shame from no condition rise,

Act well you part, there all the honor lies".

Death (7 November 1956): Emery, his wife (Lillian), daughter (Janet), Lillian's parents and her two brothers and their wives are all buried at Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla hamlet, Mount Pleasant, Westchester Co., NY. Daughter Mildred wants a marker for herself there, though she does not want to be buried anywhere -- rather have ashes scattered about. kkl

General: Emery graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, 1894

He got his law degree from Columbia Law School, New York City, NY, 1899-1902

The following is from notes I took talking with his daughter, Mildred Sykes Klitgaard:

"Between college and law school, Emery taught at a private school (boarding?) for young men, teaching English, Greek, Latin, French and mathematics.

Emery was admitted to the New York bar in 1902, and associated with Sullivan and Cromwell law firm on 1 October 1903, where he remained until his retirement 31 December 1949.

Emery was a senior member of the law firm, working principally in the field of litigation - trial corporate law. According to his death record, his Social Security number was 056-05-3973.

Other members of the firm included John Foster Dulles (later Secretary of State in the mid-1950's), and Allen W. Dulles (later head of CIA in the mid-50's), and Harlan Fiske Stone (later a Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court)."

From a letter of R. J. Stemler, his brother-in-law:

"After reading what I had written, I realize that I had failed to give special mention to my brother-in-law Emery Howe Sykes. He was a fine lawyer, an associate of the nationally known firm of attorneys, Sullivan and Cromwell. He, too, was a fine man."

Emery, his wife (Lillian), daughter (Janet), Lillian's parents and her two brothers and their wives are all buried at Kensico Cemetery, Valhalla hamlet, Mount Pleasant, Westchester Co., NY. Daughter Mildred wants a marker for herself there, though she does not want to be buried anywhere -- rather she wants to have her ashes scattered about.

In the 1920 census, Emery, Lillian and Janet were living with Lillian's parents on Staten Island. By the 1 June 1925 census for New Brighton, Richmond Co, NY, Emery and family are living in Castleton Apts. and his in-laws are living with them. Emery is now head of household. Oddly, Emery, Lillian, Janet and Mildred are listed as "aliens," b. in Norway!!

CHILD NOTES: Robert Maw SYKES Jr.

Death (before 1936): Robert is listed in the 1930 census with his sister-in-law, Mary. However, he is not listed in the 1936 directory for Jamestown, so either he moved (which seems unlikely), or he died by then.

General: I got his birth date from his father's Civil War pension papers. Since his father listed Robert as "Jr.," then his middle name must be Maw as well.

Robert never married, and lived with family his whole life. I wonder, therefore, if he wasn't disabled in some way.

1. GEDCOM file imported on 30 Aug 1998.
2. Sykes family Bible.
3. Death certificate.
4. Mrs. Florence H. L. Nelson, Copied and Indexed by Jessica J. Haskell from Manuscript book by Mrs. Florence H. L. Nelson, page 14: "1866 Marriage Entries for 1866: Sept. 27 Mr. Robert M. Sykes of Auburn and Miss Theda Carey [sic] of Gray."
5. 1850 Census for Gray, Cumberland Co., ME.
6. 1880 Census for Auburn, Androscoggin, ME.
7. marriage certificate.

CARY

Theda (b. 1841) . . .
Thomas (b. 1807) . . . 1

HILL

Mary Lydia (b. 1872) . . . 1

MAW

Catherine (b. 1807) . . .

STEMLER

Lillian Florence (b. 1887) . . . 1

SYKES

Emery Howe (b. 1874) . . . 1
Payson Tucker (b. 1868) . . .
Robert Maw (b. 1835) . . . 1
Robert Maw Jr. (b. 1875) . . . 1
Thomas (b. 1804) . . . 1

WHITNEY

Julia Ann (b. 1814) . . .

Index of Places

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Maine

Androscoggin
probably Auburn . . . 1

Androscoggin Co
Auburn . . . 1

Cumberland
Gray . . . 1

Cumberland Co
Gorham . . . 1
Portland . . . 1

ME

Androscoggin
probably in Auburn . . . 1

New York

Chautauqua Co
probably in Jamestown . . . 1

probably Jamestown . . . 1

New York Co
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NY

Richmond Co
Staten Island

Clifton

St. John's (Episcopal) Church . . . 1

Oak Hill Cemetery . . . 1

USA

California

Contra Costa Co.

Lafayette . . . 1

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Westchester

Yonkers . . . 1