

STEBEN REPUBLICAN, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1909

CATHERINE (STEALY) BIGLER

"Mother is dead" – only a brief telegram to the children, but to them it holds a world of meaning. What memories of a life time it suddenly brings to the mind. What joys and sorrows once shared in the old family nest, now at last broken up and deserted forever. But it all must be for the best.

Catherine Stealy was born near Marion, Seneca county, Ohio, Aug. 5, 1830, and died at her home near Fox lake, July 27, 1909, aged 78 years, 11 months and 27 days. She moved to Pleasant township with her parents, Elder John Stealy and Susannah Stealy, 74 years ago when she was only five years old. Her father was one of the earliest of the pioneer settlers of Steuben county and the first resident preacher to proclaim the Gospel in this part of Indiana. She was the last surviving member of a family of thirteen children, a younger sister, Mrs. Lydia Adams, having preceded her only a few weeks.

She was married to Levi Bigler, Oct. 15, 1854, who departed this life March 27, 1907. To this union were born seven children: Jessie Franklin Bigler, of this city; Viola Lowater, who died Nov. 22, 1890; Scott Bigler, of Alameda, Cal.; Augusta Bigler of Angola; Mrs. Viva Lewis, of Toledo, Ohio; Barton B. Bigler of Logansport, Ind.; Mrs. Maud Ruckman, Hillsdale, Mich.

Funeral services were held from her late home on Thursday, July 29th, at 2 o'clock p.m., Rev. John Humfreys officiating. Interment in Circle Hill cemetery. So closes a long life, seventy-five years of it being lived here in Steuben county. It was a life that was full of pioneer toils. Mrs. Bigler was a woman who never knew what it was to shirk her duties. The spirit of heroism pervaded her life, even to the last, and "Her children arise up and call her blessed."

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Catherine (Stealy) Bigler, 05 Aug 1830 – 27 Jul 1909, native of Marion County, Ohio, on 15 Oct 1854 married Levi Bigler, born in Wayne County, Ohio on 18 Mar 1829 and died 27 Mar 1907. They are buried at Circle Hill Cemetery, Angola, Steuben Co., Indiana.

Catherine was the daughter of Rev. John Stealy, 07 Apr 1794 – 17 Aug 1848, and Susanna H. (Seitze) Stealy, 16 July 1801 – 14 Mar 1875. They are buried at Old Angola Cemetery, Angola, Steuben Co., IN.

Levi Bigler was the son of Emmanuel Bigler, 07 Oct 1805 – 03/04 Jun 1882, and Anna (Ewing) Bigler, 07 Sep 1808 – 06 Feb 1882. They were married in Ohio in 1827. They are buried in Pleasant Lake Cemetery, Steuben County, Indiana.

CHILDREN OF THE MARRIAGE OF CATHERINE AND LEVI:

Son: Jessie Franklin Bigler, 12 Apr 1856 – 16 Dec 1930, married Martha/Mattie (Opp) Bigler, 1863 – 1936.

Daughter: Viola E. (Bigler) Willis Lowater, 28 Dec 1857 – 22 Nov 1890, married first on 22 Feb 1877 in Steuben Co., Edwin G. Willis. Married second, Henry G. Lowater. Viola is buried at Circle Hill Cemetery.

Son: Scott S. Bigler, 1858 – 1931, buried at Circle Hill Cemetery. He was living in Alameda, CA when his mother died.

Daughter: Augusta Bigler, 1860 – 1941. Buried at Circle Hill Cemetery.

Daughter: Viva M. (Bigler) Lewis, wife of A. W. Lewis, was living in Toledo, OH, when her mother died.

Son: Dr. Barton/Bartt B. Bigler, born Mar 1864, died in St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida. Buried 20 Apr 1937 at Galveston I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Cass County, Indiana. He was married 22 Jun 1892 in Cass County, IN, to Kathryn (Gray) Bigler, born 27 Aug 1871 in Cass County, IN, died 01 Aug 1937 in St. Augustine, St. Johns County, FL; buried with her husband at Galveston I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Cass County, IN. She was the daughter of Samuel Gray, born 20 Dec 1830 in Butler County, Ohio; died 24 Oct 1903 in Cass County, IN, and his first wife, Phoebe (Campbell) Gray, born about 1847 in Indiana, died 11 Oct 1881 in Cass County, IN. They were married in Oct 1866. Phoebe was buried in Fouts Cemetery, Cass County, IN. Samuel was buried in Center United Brethren Church Cemetery, Cass County, IN. His second wife was Eva Forrest (Copeland) Gray, born Aug 1845, died after 1900 in Cass County, IN.

Daughter: Nina Maude (Bigler) Ruckman was born in 1871 in Indiana. On 29 Jun 1898, she married Edward Augustus Ruckman, born 25 Jun 1863. He was the son of Lewis A. Ruckman, born 23 Nov 1823 in New Jersey. He married Lucretia Motte (Gregory) Ruckman, born 10 Jul 1836 in Saline, Washtenaw County, Michigan. They were still living in Hillsdale, Hillsdale County, Michigan in 1930.

SIBLINGS OF CATHERINE BIGLER'S HUSBAND, LEVI BIGLER

Levi was the oldest child, born 18 Mar 1829.

Brother: John Bigler, born about 1831.

Sister: Catherine Elizabeth (Bigler) Kemmerling Gochenaur, born 27 Dec 1833/1834 in Ashland County, Ohio, died 27 Jan 1905 in Scott Township, Steuben County, Indiana. On 24 Jun 1855 she married William Kemmerling, who died 19 Oct 1858. On 19 Oct 1860 she married Joseph Gochenaur, 17 Oct 1829 – 19 Mar 1898. Catherine is buried with Joseph at Mt. Zion Cemetery. Joseph's first wife was Sarah Ann (Smith) Gochenaur, 1834 – 06 Oct 1859. On 13 Oct 1852, Sarah married Joseph Gochenaur. He is buried with his wives at Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Sister: Maria (Bigler) Patterson, born about 1835 in Ohio, on 26 Jul 1857 in Steuben County, Indiana, she married William Patterson. They had at least one child, Mary Patterson, born about 1859 in Indiana.

Brother: William Bigler, born about 1835 in Ohio, married on 04 Mar 1860 to Marcia/Marisa/Maria H. Payne, born about 1839, died 12 Apr 1883 age 44 years, 5 months, 12 days. They are buried at Circle Hill Cemetery with their son Bartie who died in 1863, age 9 months, 23 days.

Brother: David Bigler, born about 1839 in Ohio.

Brother: James Bigler, born about 1841, possibly in Richland County, Ohio.

Sister: Martha J. Bigler, born about 1848, possibly in Richland County, Ohio.

Brother: Robert Bigler, born about 1853, possibly in Steuben County, Indiana. On 18 Feb 1877 in Steuben County, IN, married Susie (Gramling) Bigler, who was born 11 Jan 1855 and died 13 Apr 1895. "Wife of Robert Bigler" is the inscription on the monument of John Markley at Pleasant Lake Cemetery per the cemetery books by Audree Seibel Lewis. Susie was the daughter of Henry Gramling, who died on 14 Apr 1854. His first wife was Sybilla (Faltz) Gramling Markley, 29 Apr 1812 – 15 Oct 1902. Henry and Susie are buried in County Line Cemetery, Steuben County, Indiana.

Audree Seibel Lewis in her cemetery books on pages 151 and 152 lists 2 more girls, sisters of Levi. Martha I. Bigler, 12 Jan 1848 – 21 Sep 1850, who is buried with her sister, Mary Bigler, who died 18 Aug 1846.

SIBLINGS OF CATHERINE (STEALY) BIGLER

Brother: Christian Stealy, 13 Dec 1818 – 21 May 1883, married Catherine (Wrighter) Stealy. He served with the 44th Regiment Indiana Vol. Infantry. Christian is listed as living in his brother-in-law and sister-in-law's home in Angola, Indiana, in the 1880 census. He is also listed appears to be listed as Christopher Staley and living in Pleasant Lake in the 1880 census.

Brother: Lewis Stealy, 02 Nov 1826 – 21 Jul 1907. The 1880 U.S. Census lists him as the head of the household, single, age 54, and is a farmer. Other family members living with him were Lidia/Lydia (Stealy) Adams.

Sister: Lidia/Lydia (Stealy) Adams was born about 1836. She married Chester Adams. Their son, Frank Adams, born 09 Jan 1865 and died 25 Jun 1926. On 12 Dec 1888 in Steuben County, Indiana, he married Anna (Henry) Adams, 19 Feb 1868 – 16 Jun 1935. She was the daughter of William G. and Tersel (Jarvis) Henry. Their daughter, Nellie S. Adams, also lived in her uncle's (Lewis Stealy) home in the 1880 census. Nellie was married on 24 Dec 1889 in Steuben County, Indiana, to William Oliver Bailey, 03 Dec 1855 – 08 Jun 1927, son of Samuel R. and Mary E. (____) Bailey. William O. married first, Dora Ellen (Smith) Bailey, who died 20 Apr 1888, leaving a daughter, Mary (Oliver) Harris (Mrs. Ellis B. Harris). He married second, Nellie (Adams) Bailey and had a daughter, Mildred Madeline (Bailey) Johnson (Mrs. Walter R. Johnson). William and Nellie are buried at Circle Hill Cemetery.

Brother: John Stealy, born 05 Nov 1839. He died of typhoid 21 Feb 1862, age 22 years 3 months 16 days.

SOURCES

Steuben Republican, Wednesday, November 5, 1902, page 1, column 6. Obituary of Sybilla (Foltz) Gramling Markley.

RootsWeb.com World Connect: "Millers of Allen and DeKalb Counties, Indiana"

RootsWeb.com World Connect: "James Gray and Rebecca Shaffer"

"Cemeteries of Steuben County, Indiana – 1990," by Audree Seibel Lewis. Volume 1, pages 151 and 152.

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