

### JAMES MORTON FORWARD

In Chicago, May 2, 1895, James Morton Forward, aged 56 years, 1 month and 21 days.

Deceased was born in Steuben township, Steuben county, Ind., March 11, 1839, being the oldest son of James and Loretta Thayer Forward, who were among the early pioneers of Steuben county. He enlisted in the army of the spring of 1861, and served until the close of the war. In 1864 he was married to Miss Adelaide Closson, a greatly beloved and noted teacher of her time. She died in January, 1872, leaving two children. In September, 1874, he was married to Sophronia E. Perfect. They were residents of Pleasant Lake, Ind., until 1882. They lived in Omaha, Neb., where Mr. Forward was engaged in the produce and commission business, until three years ago when they came to Waukegan, Ill., near Chicago. Last July they lost their son, Gaylord, leaving their beautiful and happy home so lonely and desolate that they left it and came to Chicago, where they took rooms with friends, who realizing their bereavement sought to comfort their sorrowing hearts. Mr. Forward suffered all winter with rheumatism, but with the pleasant spring weather he felt so much better that he took a job of building, but the first day he fell about twelve feet from a roof and broke his ankle. He lived three weeks after the accident. The rheumatism in his system and the shock from the fall finally resulted in his death. He had borne all his trials and sufferings with most remarkable fortitude, and his cheerful, kind disposition became more and more apparent to those who knew him, and gained for him many sympathizing and loving friends to whom it became a great pleasure to visit and converse with him. The more he suffered the more spiritual-minded he became, and the memory of his beautiful character will long be cherished by those who knew him best. His devoted wife, a loving daughter, Mrs. Mary Snow, of Omaha, a son, J. T. Forward, of Battle Creek, Mich., an aged mother, two sisters and one brother are left to mourn their loss.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

James Morton Forward, 11 March 1839 – 02 May 1895. On 23 Feb 1864 in Steuben Co., IN, he married his first wife, Adelaide Zorayda (Closson) Forward, born 16 Jan 1839 in Delaware County, OH. James is buried at Chicago, Cook County, IL. Adelaide is buried at Pleasant Lake Cemetery. Adelaide is the daughter of George Washington Closson, 08 Jan 1816 – 12 Dec 1887, and Bertha Thornton (Weeks) Closson, 14 Mar 1819 – 31 May 1890. James and Adelaide had 2 children. Mary "Mattie" Edith (Forward) Snow, May 1867 – 30 Oct 1933, married 15 Oct 1890 in Steuben Co., IN, to Herbert Albert Snow, 1865 – 30 Aug 1932. They were living in Omaha in 1895 but their burial place is unknown. Their son, James Thornton Forward, was born 20 July 1869 and died on 11 July 1942. On 25 Dec 1899 (possibly in Michigan), he married his first wife, Loretta "Lottie" Flavilla (Wolf) Forward, Mar 1872 – 1911. He married a second time between 1910 and 1920 Maud (\_\_\_\_) Forward, born in 1890. James died at Battle Creek, Calhoun County, Michigan. Their burial place is unknown at this time.

James Morton Forward married on 27 Sep 1874 Sophronia (Sona on the license) E. (Perfect) Forward, born in 1846. She was listed in Angola, Steuben Co., IN, on the 1910 census. They had one child, Gaylord "Gay" T. Forward, born in 1876 and died in July 1894. He died in Chicago, Cook County, Ill.

Sophonria's parents were James Perfect, 28 May 1795 – 07 Oct 1856 and mother Sally (Gaylord) Perfect, 1799 – Apr 1868. James Morton Forward's parents were James Forward, 04 Dec 1806 – 24 Jun 1887, married on 01 Jan 1830 in Steuben Co., IN, to Eunice Loretta (Thayer) Forward, 08 Jul 1813 – 1896 or 1910. They are buried at Branch County, MI.

James' parents had several children. These are James Morton Forward's siblings:

Sister: Harriet S. (Forward) Brong, 11 Dec 1834 – 16 Jun 1909. She died in Milford, Seward Co., NE, and is buried in Camden Cemetery. On 09 Feb 1851 in Branch County, MI, she married Jacob Brong, who was born on 19 Nov 1820 in PA and died on 25 Jan 1908 in the same city as his wife. He was the son of Jacob Brong and Elizabeth (Farber) Brong.

Sister: Maria M (Forward) Shuman, 1841 – 1919, married on 25 Nov 1863 to Henry A Shuman, who was born in 1838 and died in 1917.

Brother: Francis "Frank" E. Forward, 25 Apr 1846 – 20 Mar 1915; on 11 Aug 1867 married to Mary J. (Fifer) Forward, born Sep 1848 and died 09 Sep 1917. Mary is the daughter of Adam Fifer, 23 April 1818 – 02 Nov 1883 and Elizabeth (Deller) Fifer, 15 Feb 1821 – 27 Sep 1896. Francis and Mary are buried at Lakeview Cemetery in Quincy, Branch County, Michigan. Adam and Elizabeth are buried at Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Sister: Nancy E. (Forward) Harraman, 06 Jul 1848 – 02 Jan 1874 on 24 Dec 1865 married John Harraman, (Hennan in marriage license of Steuben County), born Feb 1840 in Green Camp Township, Marion County, OH and died between 1910 and 1920 in Clarkson Twp, Payne County, OK. John is buried in Oklahoma and Nancy is buried at Pleasant Lake Cemetery. John's second wife was Mary E. Priest, born in March 1838. They were married 25 Jul 1875 in Steuben County, IN. She died between 1900 and 1910 in Clarkson Township, Payne County, OK. Her first husband was William Priest, born 1830/1831, died between 1860-1875.

Brother: Luther M. Forward, 16 Oct 1850 – 05 Aug 1879. Buried at Pleasant Lake Cemetery.

#### SOURCES:

FamilySearch.org: Family group record for Henry Albert Snow, James Thornton Forward, William Thayer, Eber Thayer, and Cherry B. Thayer. Records accessed on various dates in 2005 and 2006.

FamilyTreeMaker.genealogy.com: Ed Brong home page: Information about Jacob Brong and Ed Brong home page: Information about Harriet S. Forward. Accessed on 24 Apr 2007.

RootsWeb.com World Connect Project: Butsch – Kilbourne/Tomlinson – Harraman/Freeland – Walters/Hufford – Huber, accessed 5 May 2007. Also, Bickford's of Branch County, Michigan and associated families research, accessed 22 April 2006.

History of Steuben County, Indiana – 1885, page 778 and 779, George W. Clossen; page 782 and 783, Sylvanus George

Obituaries of Eber/Eben Thayer and Bertha Thornton (Weeks) Closson

“The Pioneers,” Steuben Republican, 24 May 1893, James Forward; 21 Aug 1895, James M. Forward; 23 Aug 1899 Eber/Eben Thayer

Cemeteries of Steuben County, Indiana – 1990 by Audree Seibel Lewis. Volume 1, pages 367, 622, 623, 652, and 843. Volume 2 pages 1433 and 1656.

SUBMITTED BY: Jessica Brooks on behalf of Mona Hilden-Beckwith

EMAIL: [brooksfamilyhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:brooksfamilyhistory@hotmail.com)