

Daniel Merritt Joslyn – Evidence Discussion

BIRTH

Was Daniel Merritt Joslyn born 1814 or 1815 in Cayuga, New York or Vermont or Pennsylvania – conflicting evidence exists?

1850 US Census shows Vermont - unlikely

1860 US Census shows Caugua NY

The location listed as Caugua is most likely a misspelling of Cayuga. In 1810, the Alvin Joslyn family appears to have been included in his older brother Lindsey's family tally in Smithfield PA. Lindsey's son Dr. Zara Washington Joslyn was born in Cayuga, New York in 1815, which indicates that Lindsey Joslyn's family was in Cayuga. This suggests that Daniel's birth location of "Caugua" could have been Cayuga. In 1820 the US Census shows Lindsey Joslyn and his family in Cayuga New York.

1870 US Census shows Pennsylvania

1880 US Census shows New York state – which does not contradict Cayuga, but negates PA and VT.

1883 City of Buffalo Death Certificate show U.S. Perhaps the survivors did not know if it was New York or Pennsylvania, so they just answered U.S.

DEATH

Daniel Merritt Joslyn died in Buffalo, New York on December 25, 1883 not November 25, 1883

I believe the evidence indicates that Daniel died in Buffalo, New York on December 25, 1883 not November 25, 1883 as shown on his death certificate. A death certificate issued to me by the City of Buffalo indicates November 25, 1883 as the date of death, but two Buffalo newspapers the Morning Express and the Courier published Daniel's death notice Thursday, Dec 27, 1883 and stated the date of death as December 25th and his funeral date as Thursday, the same day the two morning papers were published. Emily Joslyn's DAR application also confirms the date as December 25, 1883. When a family member dies on Christmas Day, the date is not likely to be forgotten. It is very unlikely for an adult grandchild to state the wrong month in that case, but a local daily newspaper is not going to publish a death notice a month late. Somehow the month is wrong on the City of Buffalo Death Certificate and also wrong in a City Directory for Buffalo published in 1884 (which was based on the city records). The error was apparently on the original record, since it was also picked up by the City Directory.

The death certificate has a burial permit number of 1149. Someday I may go to Buffalo to see if that sequence number is one that would have been issued in November or December.