

**MCSCHOOLER, JAMES WESLEY**<sup>8</sup>: James Wesley McSchooler was born about 1791 (according to the Kenosha County, Wisconsin 1850 Census) in Germany. His children that survived to record his birth location (in census data) almost universally indicated he was born in New York except for Levi in 1900. There Levi states that his father was "born at sea" and then Scotland is written and lined through. According to my family legend he (or one of his ancestors) was a "boat builder" in New York and changed his surname. Changing one's name was a common practice in early America, especially if you were not English, Irish or Scottish. If James was German or Dutch his name could have been Schuler, Schyuler, Van der School or Van Schoonhoven. These were all common names in Madison County, NY. Another possibility is MitSchuler (one of my Wisconsin Cousins found this name recently). I recently found a connection of my great great grandmother McSchooler (James' daughter-in-law) to the Schoonmaker's of Ulster County, New York. It is possible that our ancestors were Dutch Schoonmaker's. James married **Abigail Gray**<sup>8</sup> probably before 1820, probably in Madison County NY and lived there for about 20 years. It is possible that he was married before Abigail. If they married about 1820 he would have been about 30 years old. This is an old age for a first marriage in the early 19th century. Since I have not found him, or any McSchooler's before 1820 I can not confirm any of this conjecture.

In my research I have found very few records of McSchooler's. James is identified as James McScholar in the 1830 New York census in Madison County and in the 1840 New York census in Onondaga County (which is the next county west of Madison County). In Madison County they (and the Gray's) lived in the southeast corner of Smithfield Township not far from Peterboro, NY. In 1830 this family did have a male dependent that was of the correct age to be Justus McSchooler as well as two other males and two females. In the 1840 Onondaga census there were two daughters (one new, one gone compared to 1830) and 6 dependent males (3 born between 1811 and 1820. I have no idea who these were.) These two counties are on the Erie Cannel and thus would be prime locations for a boat builder to live.

I also checked "The Record of Road Warrants" for Madison County, NY for 1819-1855. This was a record of days of road building/repair work assessed to adult males in order for them to vote. From 1820 through 1836 a McSchooler is assessed some days of roadwork each year (also several Gray's including Justus Gray). The interesting part of that is that James W McSchooler is assessed most of these workdays. In years when he is not assessed, a William McSchooler (1824 and 1834) or Stephen M McSchooler in 1828 are assessed the work. I assume that these men all lived in the same home and were all adults sharing the load. I further assume that James' son William is not the above William as he would not have been an adult in 1824.

By 1850 I could not find James McScholar(McSchooler) in New York; however, I did find a J.W. McSchooler and family living in Paris Township, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. This record stated J.W. was a farmer, aged 59 from Germany (highly unlikely with a name of McSchooler). His wife, Abby, was 50 and born in (Pelham, Hampshire County,) Massachusetts. Other research has proven that she was the daughter of **Justus Gray**<sup>9</sup> and **Lucy Sekiel**<sup>9</sup>. There were three children living with them (Melissa, Levi and Alonzo), all born in New York; aged 19, 14 and 11. A Pierson Brown (Melissa's future husband), aged 25 from Canada also was living with them. In future census data Abigail's children always gave her birthplace as Massachusetts.

A Charles McSchooler, aged 63, a farmer born in Connecticut was located in Paris, Kenosha County, Wisconsin in the 1860 census. Charles' wife was Emily, 58 born CN and two daughters Annie, 30 and Jenette, 25 both born in CN. Also living with them is Peter Groves, 25 born in Germany and John Groves, 19 born NY. I have made no connection of him to any of our family. I also have never found him again or any of his family.

James Wesley and Levi McSchooler (and Levi's first wife) did purchase government land in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin in February of 1858. Also his wife, Abigail died in Fond du Lac County in 1855 and is buried there in Campbellsport, WI (Their son Joel Norton lived most of his adult life in Fond du Lac County, WI). I have not found James W after 1850 in any census I have checked. One