

**MCSCHOOLER,JUSTUS GREY (JAMES WESLEY):** Justus Gray McSchooler was born in New York 30 January, 1824, probably Madison County, NY. Justus McSchooler was married to **Elizabeth Brown Wiggins** on 31 August, 1848 in Pickaway County, Ohio. They were located in Pickaway County in the 1850 and 1860 Ohio census. He was listed as a storekeeper. They moved to Clay County, Illinois in April, 1863. Justus died 12 December, 1866 in Clay County, Illinois of illness contracted during the Civil War. He is buried the Maysville Cemetery, Clay City, Clay County, Illinois.

While in Pickaway County, Ohio Justus was an Ohio State Legislator in 1860. He also was a schoolteacher there. In December, 1861 he was mustered in as Captain of Company E, Seventy-Third Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. His Civil War service was brief and resulted in his eventual death. He resigned his commission 5 September, 1862 to convalesce from Typhoid Fever contracted almost immediately after he volunteered. His health, like so many Civil War volunteers, was ruined by the war; many more died of disease than enemy action.

After his move to Clay County, Illinois Justus continued to serve his community. He opened a store, was an Illinois County Commissioner and on the School Board. His probate showed a large supply of items on hand in his store, which were sold at auction.

Elizabeth Brown Wiggins remarried 1 April, 1869 to George Miinch in Clay County, Illinois. She remained in Clay County the rest of her life. Her and Justus's children's fate was fairly typical of the time. Women were not allowed to own property so a guardian was assigned for the minor children. The guardian then controlled Justus Gray McSchooler's assets. According to the court records in Clay County the guardian requested and received authority to have the property sold "Without Appraisal". This allowed him (always a him) or a friend of his to purchase the assets below actual value (If you do much genealogy research you will see this done repeatedly). The guardian then uses the money received (which is too little for the value he received) to "help the minors (school expenses, clothes, medical expenses)" and surprise, pays himself a fee for these services. As the money begins to disappear he petitions the court to be relieved of his guardianship and a family member is now assigned as guardian, but with no money. Thus the big wheel lawyer in town has got the land and other assets at a reduced cost and most of his money back in fees (and this was legal).

I relate this because I feel that James Wesley McSchooler and at least his sons were prosperous people. The three oldest sons (William, Justus and Joel) were all much more successful than most people of the mid to late nineteenth century. Justus' children, if he had lived, would probably have a different life.

The following information relates to Justus McSchooler's selection and campaign for the Ohio House of Representatives in 1859.

The following series of articles are from the Circleville, Ohio "Circleville Watchman" newspaper leading up to the election of our ancestor, Justus Gray McSchooler to the House of Representatives of Ohio for the 1860/61 term. This newspaper is the Democratic voice in Pickaway County, Ohio and like all newspapers of that era contains mostly political propaganda and invective against their enemies (Abraham Lincoln's Black Republicans in 1860). I also researched the Circleville Herald (I believe) but they apparently were new at the game and did not sling any mud on GG-grandpa McSchooler so I can not give the other side's views.

Friday 29 August 1859:

#### OUR COUNTY TICKET

We give to our readers today the ticket which was nominated by the Democracy of Pickaway County on Saturday last.