

HENRY¹ OF HINGHAM

Eighth Generation

No. 17749

NAME: James⁸ Chamberlin

Father: Joseph⁷ Chamberlin (No. 1385)
[Lewis⁶ (Joseph⁵, John⁴, Henry³, John², Henry¹)
and Anne (Gray) Chamberlin]

Mother: Margaret McNay (No. 15942)

Born: 3 Mar 1817, probably Franklin Twp, Adams Co., PA

Died: 14 Dec 1897, Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA, "aged 80 years"

Buried:

Married: (1) Elizabeth Ellen Laman, 8 Mar 1838, Lafayette, White Co., IN

Other Marriages: (2) Mrs. Catherine (—?—) Snavely, 24 Mar 1857, Johnson Co., IA

No. 17753

SPOUSE (1): Elizabeth Ellen Laman

Father:

Mother:

Born: 12 Dec 1819, Ohio

Died: 10 July 1856, Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA, "aged 36 years"

Buried:

Other Marriages:

CHILDREN

F 17755 Rachel A⁹ Chamberlin, b. About 1839, probably Wabash Twp, Tippecanoe Co., IN.

F 17756 Margaret D⁹ Chamberlin, b. About 1842, probably Penn Twp, Johnson Co., IA.

M 17757 John C⁹ Chamberlin, b. 13 Sep 1844, probably Penn Twp, Johnson Co., IA.

M 17758 Lewis E⁹ Chamberlin, b. 2 June 1847, probably Penn Twp, Johnson Co., IA. Married Annie J. Moreland.

M 17759 Levi G⁹ Chamberlin, b. About 1849, probably Penn Twp, Johnson Co., IA.

M 17760 Leroy Franklin⁹ Chamberlin, b. About 1851, Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA.

C 17761 Child⁹ Chamberlin, b. About 1853 (?), Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA. Probably died there the same day.

F 17762 Daughter⁹ Chamberlin, b. 22 Jan 1854, Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA. Died there the same day.

C 17763 Child⁹ Chamberlin, b. About 1856, Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA. Probably died there the same day.

No. 17754

SPOUSE (2): Catherine —?—

Father:)

Mother:)

Born: 1814, Pennsylvania

Died: 10 Aug 1892, Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA

Buried:

Other Marriages: (1) Rev. Michael P. Snavely (d. 24 May 1857),

CHILD

M 17764 Ira James George⁹ Chamberlin, b. 10 Sep 1858, Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA.
Married Ella E. Sane.

BIOGRAPHICAL

In 1840, James Chamberlin was living in Wabash Twp, Tippecanoe Co., IN, heading a family of 00001-10001 (1 male between the ages of 20 and 30 years, 1 female under the age of 5 years, 1 female between the ages of 20 and 30 years). One person employed in Agriculture.

In 1850, James and family were living in Penn Twp, Johnson Co., IA. Dwelling No. 46, Family No. 46, 24 Sep 1850, as follows:

ID	OR	Given	Surname	Age	Sex	Race	BP	LN	Remarks
6	1	James	Chamberlin	33	M	W	PA	17749	Farmer. \$2,052.
6	2	Elizabeth	Chamberlin	30	F	W	OH	17753	
6	3	Rachel A	Chamberlin	11	F	W	IA	17755	School.
6	4	Margaret	Chamberlin	8	F	W	IA	17756	School.
6	5	John C	Chamberlin	6	M	W	IA	17757	School.
6	6	Lewis E	Chamberlin	3	M	W	IA	17758	
6	7	Levi	Chamberlin	1	M	W	IA	17759	

In 1860, James and family were living in Penn Twp, Johnson Co., IA. Dwelling No. 1320, Family No. 1237. North Liberty Post Office, 3 July 1860, as follows:

ID	OR	Given	Surname	Age	Sex	Race	BP	LN	Remarks
50	1	James	Chamberlain	44	M	W	PA	17749	"Jas." Farmer. \$12,000/\$1,800.
50	2	Catharine	Chamberlain	47	F	W	PA	17754	
50	3	John C	Chamberlain	15	M	W	IA	17757	School.
50	4	Lewiz	Chamberlain	13	M	W	IA	17758	Given uncertain. School.
50	5	Eli F	Chamberlain	10	M	W	IA	17760	School.
50	6	Ira	Chamberlain	1	M	W	IA	17764	Given uncertain.
50	7	Isabel	Snavely	28	F	W	PA		Given illegible. School.
50	8	Illegible	Snavely	17	F	W	PA		
50	9	Henry K	Snavely	12	M	W	PA		School.
50	10	Frances	Snavely	9	F	W	PA		School.

Leroy Chamberlin was living next door, brother of James.

James⁸ Chamberlin (No. 17749) – Continued

In 1870, James and family were living in Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA. Dwelling No. 61, Family No. 66. Chase Post Office, 11 June 1870, as follows:

ID	OR	Given	Surname	Age	Sex	Race	BP	LN	Remarks
36	1	James	Chamberlin	53	M	W	PA	17749	Farmer. \$15,000/\$2,000. USC.
36	2	Catharine	Chamberlin	55	F	W	PA	17754	Keeping House. \$3,000/-.
36	3	Leroy F	Chamberlin	19	M	W	IA	17760	School.
36	4	Ira J G	Chamberlin	12	M	W	IA	17764	School.
36	5	Isabelle	Snively	37	F	W	PA		Idiot.
36	6	Frances	Snively	20	F	W	IA		Teacher. School.
36	7	Charlotte	Pratt	14	F	W	IA		Domestic Servant. School.
36	8	Simon L	Altar	18	M	W	IN		Teacher. School.

In 1880, James & Catherine were living in Madison, Johnson Co., IA. Dwelling No. 86, Family No. 89, 8 June 1880, as follows:

ID	OR	Given	Surname	Age	S	R	Rel	M	BP	FBP	MBP	LN	Remarks
93	1	James	Chamberline	63	M	W	Head	M	PA	PA	PA	17749	"Jas." Farmer
93	2	Catherine	Chamberline	66	F	W	Wife	M	PA	PA	PA	17754	Keeping House
93	3	Isabel	Snively	48	F	W	Step-D	S	PA	PA	PA		
93	4	Mattie	Dunlapp	24	F	W	Niece	S	IN	IN	IN		Housekeeper
93	5	Sarah	Mohler	62	F	W	Sister-L	W	PA	PA	PA		

Living next door was their son Ira and his wife Ella.

James was said to have been the third child of his parents. A biographical sketch for James is found in *The Portrait and Biographical Record of Madison Township, Johnson County, Iowa*, which reads:

James Chamberlin the oldest pioneer settler of Madison Township, Johnson County, Iowa, and an honored citizen, of sterling Character, has during his more than half-century's residence become an extensive land-holder and has occupied with fidelity various important positions of trust. A member of the School Board for twenty years, Constable seven years, thirty years a Justice of the Peace, two years County Supervisor, the record of his life is an open book, unstained by act of dishonor. His father Joseph was also born in Adams County. The paternal grandfather Lewis, settled in the Quaker State during the 17th century. The family emigrated to Indiana in 1834, and James was reared on a farm and enjoyed but limited advantages for an education. The little subscription school of the neighborhood, with slab seats and greased paper for window lights, and frequently supplied with crude instructors, was the only "temple of learning" in those early days. Later he attended night school with his father and learned to "cipher" there.

In five days after he attained his majority he was united in marriage, up to that time having lived and worked with his father. In the spring of 1838, he began as a farmer in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, and in 1841 journeyed by wagon to Iowa, and buying a claim, settled upon section 2, Madison Township, Johnson County, where a log cabin had almost been completed. He entered his land and when it came into the market purchased it. The country was new and could as yet boast of but few settlers; those, however, who were even in a distant neighborhood were sociable and friendly and glad to do a friend or stranger any kindness.

The Indians especially were very neighborly and visited often, and on one or two occasions invited themselves to stay over night. The country all about abounded with wild game, and deer were especially plentiful. He was a good shot and kept his family well supplied with meat for the table. In 1872 he visited Indian Territory and while on that trip brought down many buffaloes.

Never neglecting his work, he broke the prairie land with patient ox-teams and was often obliged to take long trips by the same slow conveyance. It was necessary for a long time that he should go regularly to Dubuque or Muscatine to market his produce; these journeys taking three to seven days, according to wind or weather.

His wife's people were early settlers of Indiana. She was a most estimable lady and became the mother of nine children, and passed away early in life. Three children died in infancy, and at this time Rachel A., John C., and Margaret D. are also deceased; Lewis E. and Leroy F. survive (1893).

In 1857 James remarried and his second wife was the widow of Rev. Michael F. Snavelly, who was killed in a great railroad disaster in Joliet, Illinois. Catherine was a lady of intelligence and extended information. They had one child, who was in charge of the old homestead after their demise. James took an interest in local and national issues, and when twenty-two years of age became a Whig, although he had been a Democrat. He is now a Republican and has in various offices been supported by that ticket. As a Justice of the Peace he presided at many weddings and heard many lawsuits. He and his first wife were regular attendants at the Presbyterian Church, but has now been a member of the United Brethren Church for thirty-five years and was one of the charter members of that religious organization here.

He has officiated as Class-leader and Steward and has been one of the prominent and valued members, taking an active part in the promotion of religious work and influence. His second wife was a member of the Church of God and a most worthy woman and sincere Christian.

Financially he has prospered and now owns two hundred and eighty acres of land in Madison Township, and one hundred acres of timber, beside which he sold his son one hundred and twenty acres. He has also forty acres of land in Marion County, near Hamilton, and is now placing his surplus money in mortgages and other good investments. With a capital of \$18, good health and an abundance of hope, he started out in life and has by persevering industry and excellent judgment accumulated a comfortable competence.

In 1863, he went with a party of soldiers to Fort Randall, in what is now South Dakota, accompanying the party as a teamster and butcher. He has always been fond of travel and has been in various parts of the United States and has been in seventy-three counties in Iowa. He was a prominent factor in organizing in the northwest, the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company in 1867, the name now being the Johnson County Mutual Insurance Company.

He was President for five years, and later Treasurer, Vice-President and Director until his failing sight disqualified him for work. Upon the first of January 1852, he began to keep a diary, which is invaluable as the record of minutiae not otherwise obtainable. In 1891 he abandoned his former custom and no longer notes events of the day. His methodical habits have led him to keep every receipt he has ever received in Johnson County, and he has some odd and quaint papers in the large box now carefully, cherished and really invaluable. Since 1842 he has subscribed to the Iowa City Standard, now Republican. Outside of a historical society it would be impossible to secure the valuable data which he so carefully treasured. He relates in March 1842, he set a white oak gatepost, which is in good preservation after a lapse of fifty-one years. His life has extended over many years of busy usefulness and in the approaching evening of his days he may enjoy the memory of obstacles overcome, difficulties surmounted, and later years crowned with abundant success, and rest content that "all is well."

PREPARATION OF THIS RECORD

This record was prepared by the late David C. Chamberlin Sr., using data obtained from various sources as listed. Comments and additional information are welcome and should be sent to the World Chamberlain Genealogical Society. < www.chamberlain-society.org >

Email: CorrSec@chamberlain-society.org

Chamberlin Family Descendants, Compiled by Alva Mae (Chamberlin) Sylvester, Oct 1973, R929.273 C355ca
Information communicated by Ann Smafield to Robert Scott Chamberlin

World Family Treet, Vol. 1, Ed 1, as communicated by William Mennel

The Portrait and Biographical Record of Madison Township, Johnson County, Iowa, by Chapman Bros. 1893;
pp. 598-9 [not seen]

1840 Federal Census, Wabash Twp, Tippecanoe Co., IN. NAM M-704, Roll No. 95 (FHLN #7730), P. 265 [SN 476]

1850 Federal Census, Penn Twp, Johnson Co., IA. NAM M-432, Roll No. 185 (FHL #442,960), P. 174 [SN 565]

1860 Federal Census, Penn Twp, Johnson Co., IA. NAM M-653, Roll No. 327 (FHL #803,327), P. 679 [SN 2158]

1870 Federal Census, Madison Twp, Johnson Co., IA. NAM M-593, Roll No. 400 (FHL #545,899), P. 438
[SN 2102]

1880 Federal Census, Madison, Johnson, IA. NAM T-9, Roll No. 347. E.D. 221, Sheet 12, Lines . P. 067D.
FHL #1,254,347. [SN 2063]

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