

Malden Claflin

Born 1832.¹

Died 1864, in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.²

Buried 12 March 1865 Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio.³

The quietest and apparently most stable of the Claflin siblings, Malden was the only one of the children that did not go into the family business of hawking cancer cures or being a clairvoyant. Malden was not, as has been suggested, the son who “ran off” to avoid Buck’s tyranny; that was his younger brother Hebern. Malden was in the 1850 census twice, once in Mt. Gilead with his sister Margaret (on 5 September)⁴ and again in Homer (12 October).⁵ In 1860 Malden, his wife, and family are living in the same household as his parents and sisters in Cincinnati. He then cited his occupation as “grocer.”⁶

In 1851 Malden married his first cousin, Corintha Claflin, the daughter of Buck’s twin brother, Samuel Carrington Claflin.⁷ They were briefly in Cleveland, where their eldest daughter was born in 1853. Then they were in Altoona, Pennsylvania, for the birth of their eldest son.⁸ The couple eventually settled in Cincinnati. In an 1899 interview, his elder brother, Hebern, called him a railroad conductor,⁹ and he may well have been just that in addition to having a grocery business. His particular interest in the grocery trade was bringing quality butter into the city of Cincinnati “from all the best dairies,” and undercutting the competition, so if he had a link to the railroads, this would have facilitated his shipments of butter.

Prime Table Butter.—M. Claflin, No. 23 Hathaway-street, between Sixth and George, and Jane and Baymiller, is now receiving the best table butter daily by Express, which he sells at 20c. per pound, and is willing to contract by the year at that rate. Also on hand a general assortment of Eggs, Hams, Lard and country produce generally.¹⁰

In February 1864, Malden was in Ottawa, Illinois, sick and being cared for by his mother.¹¹ In September, his eleven year old daughter Mary Ellen died of typhoid fever

¹ His birth year was calculated from his census entries. There is no record.

² “He Talks of Bartel,” *The Chicago Inter Ocean*, 29 July 1899, p. 12. Malden’s brother said he died in December 1864.

³ Spring Grove Cemetery Records, Cincinnati, Ohio.

⁴ 1850 US Federal Census of Mt. Gilead, Morrow County, Ohio. He was called “Malvern.”

⁵ 1850 US Federal Census of Homer, Licking County, Ohio.

⁶ 1860 US Federal Census of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio.

⁷ Charles Henry Wight, *Genealogy of the Claflin Family*, New York, Press of William Green, 1903, p. 124.

⁸ These two cities support the notion that Malden worked for the railroads. Both were important to the growing industry in the early 1850s.

⁹ “He Talks of Bartel,” op cit.

¹⁰ *Cincinnati Daily Press*, 5 May 1860, p. 3 and *Cincinnati Daily Press*, 18 May 1860. In the latter advertisement he went onto state: “supplying prime table butter for families, hotels and dealers will be the leading feature. Avoid common butter, and go to Claflin’s and be supplied at twenty-five cents per pound for Western Reserve butter, warranted. He appears in the 1860 Cincinnati City directory as Malden Claflin at the same address given in the ads.

¹¹ *Ottawa Free Trader*, 13 February 1864. The comment comes in a testimonial by John M. Bailey, of Tennessee’s miraculous cures. While the testimonial is certainly enhanced, Bailey commented: “I called

and Malden himself died in late 1864, and was buried on 12 March 1865 in Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery.¹² His youngest sister, Tennessee, purchased the plot, and, at the time of Malden's burial, moved other family members in the cemetery to the locale. Malden's wife died in New York 1 January 1879.

The couple had four known children. Two died young and are in the family plot in Spring Grove. According to *The Genealogy of the Claflin Family*, John Claflin, born in 1860 and died in New Orleans in 1880, aged 20.¹³ No record of him has been found. William Edward Claflin, born 6 January 1856 in Altoona, Pennsylvania, married Mary Kane, on 28 August 1878 in Brooklyn, NY.¹⁴ The couple had no children, and spent most of their lives in Minnesota. William Edward was called a laborer most of his life.¹⁵ Sadly for William Edward and his wife because their circumstances could have been so changed, he was not included in the settlement of his aunt Tennessee's estate. He was certainly entitled to a share as the only surviving child of Malden and was alive at the time of the settlement.¹⁶ No apparent effort was made to reach out to see if he was still living, and his life stands in stark contrast to the flamboyant behavior of his cousins.

aloud for some one to come to my relief, when an old lady by the name of Mrs. Claflin, **who was then taking care of her sick son**, heard me and came to see what was the matter."

¹² Spring Grove Cemetery Records, #14371. His last residence was given as Chicago, Illinois. Section 75, Lot 22. He had been removed from Chicago to Cincinnati.

¹³ Wright, op cit., p. 256.

¹⁴ New York City Municipal Archives, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York.

¹⁵ See the 1880 US Federal Census of Leven, Pope County, MN; the 1895 Minnesota State Census of Sauk Centre City, Stearns County, MN, the 1900 US Federal Census of Sauk Center City, Stearns County, MN; and the 1910 US Federal census for Sauk Center City, Stearns County, MN.

¹⁶ His wife died in 1925, he was named in the death record (Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota) as her widower.