

## WHO WERE THE PARENTS OF EMZY MAXFIELD (d. 1 Sept, 1863)

### What was his given name?

His first marriage record (1831) calls him *Emzey*.

A newspaper article in 1835 reported the purchase of land by *Emry*.

His land patent (1837) calls him *Emzy*.

In the 1840 census he is called *Emzy*.

The sale of his land in 1840 called him *Amos*.

His second marriage (1842) record called him *Emery*.

In the 1850 Census he is called *Amiza*.

In the 1860 Census he is called *Emzy*.

In his record of military service he is called *Emery*.

It is not unusual for a more familiar name to be recorded when the given name is unusual. This may account for *Emery* and *Amos*.

The more frequent use of *Emzy*, combined with him naming a child *Emzy*, his son James naming a child *Emzy Winslow*, and his son Samuel naming a child *Robert Emzy*, all point to *Emzy* as the correct name.

This could be an approximation of a Biblical name: *Amzi* (1 Chronicles 6:46).

It was not unusual for persons in that time frame to give children obscure Biblical names.

### When was Emzy born?

According to the 1840 Census he was born 1800-09.

According to the 1850 Census he was born 1804-5.

According to the 1860 Census he was born 1806-7.

According to his military enlistment record he was born 1815-6.

Concerning the last document: It was not unusual for older men to lie about their age, in order to enlist in the Union Army. Also, this record would make him 15 years old at his first marriage. So we will discount that last item.

Emzy was born about 1804-1807.

### Where was Emzy born?

The 1850 Census does not indicate his birthplace.

The 1860 Census gives his birthplace as Pennsylvania.

Beginning in 1880 Persons reported to the census taker their birthplace and also the birthplaces of their parents. We find the following indications of Emzy's birth state from the census records of his children:

James	1880	Vermont
Lucinda	1880	Virginia
	1900	Vermont
	1910	Vermont
	1920	Vermont
Emzy	1880	Vermont
	1900	Scotland
	1930	USA
Samuel	1880	Ohio
	1900	Vermont
	1910	Connecticut
	1920	USA
	1930	Maryland.

As Emzy died when his younger children were quite young, we would expect the older children to have a better recollection of this family history.

Concerning Emzy's 1860 Census: His reported birthplace is the same as his wife's, which was reported consistently as Pennsylvania.

Concerning Lucinda's 1880 Census: I suspect a clerical error. Lucinda, her eight children, and her mother are all recorded as follows:

born: Ohio; father born: Virginia; mother born: Ohio.

It would appear that the information for the children was also recorded by the census taker for the mother and grandmother.

So the weight of evidence points to Vermont as the birthplace of Emzy.

### Who were the parents of Emzy?

I have found information on only one extended Maxfield family in Vermont in

the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: The family of David Maxfield of Fairfax, Vermont.

David Maxfield's wife, Judith, would have been about 62 years old in 1804 - beyond child bearing age. David had nine sons. Of these:

David, son of David, died in 1796. His probate records name 3 daughters, no sons.

Jacob, in his will of 1823 names two daughters, no sons.

Eliphalet had a son born in Connecticut in 1799. I cannot find a census record for him in 1800 or 1810. In 1820 he is part of a childless couple. There is no indication he had any other children than the one.

Of the others, we can examine the 1810 census to see if their households contained any male children ages 0 to 9, not otherwise accounted for.

CAUTION: Although the children listed are most likely children of the head of house, this is not necessarily true. A household could consist of other related children, such as nephews and cousins, and could also include servants or hired hands.

1810 Census:

William: 1 male child under 10, accounted for.

Isaac: 3 male children under 10, all accounted for.

Moses: I have not found him in the 1810 Census.

Obadiah: 3 male children under 10, only 2 accounted for.

Henry: 3 male children under 10, all accounted for.

Levi: 2 male children under 10, accounted for.

To summarize, the most likely father of Emzy is *Obadiah*, however *Eliphalet* and *Moses* remain possibilities.

Using the same basic reasoning. Emzy in the 1820 census could have been in the households of Isaac, Moses, or William the son of William, In 1830 he could have been in the household of Gilbert the son of William or John the son of William. On the basis of location, Gilbert would be more likely.