

## **Josiah Lobdel DeForest (Josiah L. Deforest)**

Josiah L. DeForest was born August 9, 1820 in New York City, New York County, New York. His parents were Samuel Isaac and Sarah Ann Bartram or Burr DeForest. Not much is known about the parents nor the early life of Josiah.

Josiah married Mary A. Collins on February 6, 1846 in Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois. Mary was born June 16, 1815 in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Little information is available for Mary. Her parents may have been John and Mary Collins.

Josiah and Mary appear to be living in Big Pigeon and possibly North Pigeon. However, the Big Pigeon Branch Tithing Report (19) recorded donations for Josiah from July 1848 thru March 1850. Josiah is also listed in the membership of the Big Pigeon Branch. The 1850 U. S. Census listed the family in the area where many of the people from the North Pigeon Branch resided. Josiah was in dwelling #1173. He was listed as a schoolmaster, age 30. Also listed were Mary, age 34; Sarah Benadict, age 16; and Mary, age 3.

The couple had five children. Two were probably born in Big Pigeon. Mary L. was born in 1848 and Josiah Lobdel "Joseph" was born on March 1, 1850. Further children were born to them, Mabel, Samuel Isaac, and Martha E. either in Pottawattamie or Harrison County, Iowa.

Josiah and Mary stayed in Harrison County for the rest of their lives. Josiah died in 1866 and Mary in 1902. According to the 1900 U. S. Census, Mary was living with her son, Samuel Isaac DeForest's family, in Weston, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. There it listed that she had seven children and only three were living. Both Josiah and Mary are buried in the Greenwood Cemetery in Harrison County.