

## **Family Records from the Marshall M. Milford Family Bible**

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People record the lives of their families in unique places. The practice of recording family information in the family Bible has been so widespread that many bibles today include sections for recording accounts of marriages, births, and deaths. For genealogists and historians, these records are invaluable. Marshall M. Milford's personal bible, housed in the William H. Smith Memorial Library at the Indiana Historical Society, is a good example of this form of familial record.<sup>1</sup>

Marshall Milford was born August 14, 1816, in South Carolina. By the 1860s, Milford lived in Attica, Fountain County, and served as a lawyer in Warren and Fountain Counties. In 1869, Milford was appointed to the board of directors for the Attica and Terre Haute Railroad Company. He stood for election as a judge of the Eighth Circuit in 1870. In 1872 Milford was nominated as a congressman for the district, although he later withdrew his name from consideration. On December 2, 1874, Milford collapsed in his chair and died while litigating a case at the Warren County Courthouse in Williamsport, Indiana. His death was noted in the local paper, and the court suspended all business for the remainder of that term in his honor. Milford's bible came into possession of his daughter, Mary F. Milford, wife of Samuel E. Perkins III, who passed the Bible to her son, Samuel E. Perkins IV. Perkins IV donated the materials in the Perkins Family Collection to the Indiana Historical Society.<sup>2</sup>

The bible is a rather small—5 3/4" x 3 1/2"—pocket printing of the English Version of the Polyglott Bible translation produced by Desilver, Thomas & Co. in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dated 1835, it is bound in brown leather, and shows evidence of watermarking, note taking, marginal commentary, and underlining of passages among its delicate printed pages. Transcribed below are family record materials, which are written (or in some cases pasted) within its pages.

## Notes

1. Marshall M. Milford Bible (henceforth referred to as Milford Bible), Samuel Elliott Perkins Family Collection, 1835–1947, M 0225, Series 1, Box 1, Folder 9, Indiana Historical Society. This collection consists of one document case and two bound volumes of manuscript materials, six boxes and two envelopes of visual materials, and one pamphlet.
2. Milford Bible; “State Items,” *New Albany Daily Ledger*, January 14, 1869; “For Circuit Judge,” *Williamsport Republican*, April 7, 1870; “Nomination as Congressman,” *Lebanon Weekly Patriot*, March 14, 1872; “Card of Withdrawal,” *Williamsport Republican*, May 2, 1872; “Order of the Court,” and “Departed. Death Knows No Law. A Sad Scene,” *Williamsport Republican*, December 3, 1874; Pamela Tranfield, “Samuel Elliott Perkins Family Collection, 1835–1947,” Collection Guide, 1998 (Revised in 2012 by Greg Hertenstein, Robert W. Smith, and Dorothy A. Nicholson), Indiana Historical Society, 3.

### Front Leaves of Bible:

A. B. Milford  
Belonged to Mar[s]hall M. Milford  
W[i]ve’s [sic] father

### Between Old/New Testaments:

[Handwritten:]

M. M. Milford  
Born August 14<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1816. Penalton District South Carolina.  
Died Dec. 2, 1874. in the Court-house of Warren County, Indiana at  
Williamsport, of apoplexy. “The good die not.”

[Pasted Clipping]: On the 29th of September [inserted with pen]^1838[end insertion] at Attica, Fountain county, Mr. Jesse F Milford.

Mr. Milford had been a member of the Preparatory Department of Wabash College for about one year, and by his amiable and gentlemanly deportment, had strongly ingratiated himself in the feelings of his teachers and associates. He was an assiduous student, and was pursuing a classical course with fair promises of future usefulness. Indiana Record.

[Pasted Clipping]: ODD FELLOWS HALL, Delphi, Ind  
Monday Evening, Nov. 22, 1847.

*Resolved*, That we have received the intelligence of the death of our worthy Brother P. G., Milton [corrected in pen from Mitton] II. Milford, with the most profound regret; that, as a man—a husband—a father—a friend—a neighbor—a citizen, and an Odd-Fellow we knew him well, and in all the relations in life he sustained the character of a high-minded and honorable man, an enterprising and useful citizen and a devoted and true Odd-Fellow.

*Resolved*, That we sincerely sympathise with the family of Bro. Milford in this severed, and to them, irreparable loss.

*Resolved*, That, as a token of respect for the memory of the deceased, the members of this Lodge will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the family of Bro. Milford, and that a copy of the same be published in the “Carroll Express” and the “Western Republican.”

By order of the Lodge.

J. R. Henry, Sec’y.

**Back Leaves of Bible:**

Written over a previous written comment which states, “The basis of all sound morality M.M.M.”

Marshall M Milford was Born August 14<sup>th</sup> 1826

Maria Jane Milford was Born May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1820.

M. M. Milford and Maria Jane Bartlett was married in Warren Co IN Friday May 31<sup>st</sup> 1842

Arthena Amanda Milford was Born April 15<sup>th</sup> 1843

Victoria Jan Milford was Born Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1845

Milton Franklin Milford was Born Nov 28. 1848.

[---e---] E Milford was Born July 27 18-[5?]1.

And departed this --- March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1855

M. M. Milford.

Transient [to or is?] yeb[yet?]

Too much neglected May 30<sup>th</sup> 1838