

Who Were Riley's Parents?

Riley Preston Page was born 6-20-1839, at **Macedon, Wayne Co., NY** according to his Certificate and Record of Marriage to Emma (Conant) Wright in 1905, or at **Manchester, Ontario Co., NY** according to his death certificate. [Macedon and Manchester are about ten miles apart.] When he passed away 4-16-1928 at East Rochester, Monroe Co., NY, Riley's father's name was listed on the death certificate as **Ebenezer Page** and mother's name as **May** (or possibly Mary) "**Thayer.**"

PARENTS	9 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) (State or Country)	Manchester N.Y.
	10 NAME OF FATHER	Ebenezer Page
	11 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) OF FATHER (State or Country)	Manchester England
	12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER	May Thayer
	13 BIRTHPLACE (City or Town) OF MOTHER (State or Country)	Manchester N.Y.

The following are pieces to a puzzle that hopefully someday will be resolved, the puzzle being: who were Riley Page's parents/grandparents?

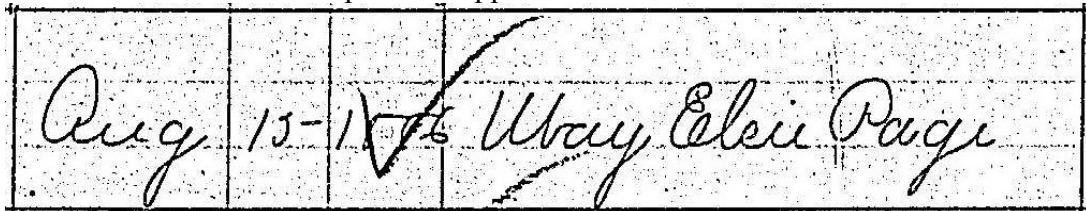
- The Mormon Church has recorded the parents of Riley P. Page as being **William Page** and **Chloe Thayer**, and that they were married 7-20-1832.
- Chloe was William's second wife, his first wife Martha (Sanders) having died 2-1-1830 and been buried at the Palmyra Village Cemetery, Vienna Street, Wayne Co., NY.
- R. Preston Page's Certificate and Record of Marriage to Emma (Conant) Wright in 1905 listed his parents as **W. H. Page** and **Chleo Thayer** (Chleo being an obvious typo by the typist at the Monroe County Department of Health Office of Vital Statistics in Rochester who filled in the certificate from the public record; in 1850 the census spelled her name Chloe, and in 1860, Cloe)

Birthplace of Groom	<u>Macedon, N. Y.</u>
Father's Name	<u>W. H. Page</u>
Mother's Maiden Name	<u>Chleo Thayer</u>

- Chloe (Thayer) Page was about 46 years old when Riley was born. Ebenezer was 19 years old. The Mary E. Tayer discussed below would have been about 23.
- Chloe had been born in Braintree, Massachusetts, before the Thayer family moved to New York state at the turn of the 19th century.
- Chloe had listed her place of birth as Massachusetts in both the 1850 and 1860 censuses.
- Riley did not list the birthplace of either parent in the 1880 Federal census, always thereafter listing his father as born in England; whereas he listed **his mother** as having

been **born in Massachusetts** in the 1900 and 1910 censuses but in **New York** in the one for 1920.

- Riley P. was living with William and Chloe Page and William Page, Jr. at the time of the 1850 Federal census of Webster, Monroe Co., NY.
- Riley P. and William “Henry” Page immigrated to Branch Co., MI, with William and Chloe Page in the latter 1850s.
- Ebenezer Page was born in England according to all known accounts in his regard, including Riley Preston Page’s death certificate.
- **Ebenezer Page** was a son of **William Page** and **Martha Sanders** according to his Civil War record, but same father and different mother’s surname, **Martha Hudson**, according to Ebenezer’s death certificate. (Ebenezer’s known siblings all listed Martha’s surname as Sanders.)
- **May** or **Mary “Thayer”** was **born in Webster, Monroe Co., NY**, according to Riley Preston Page’s death certificate.
- Ebenezer Page never immigrated to Michigan, marrying in about 1843 and remaining in the Wayne and Monroe Co., NY areas except during his service in the Civil War.
- Ebenezer Page’s obituary listed his children but did not name Riley, who was then living at nearby Ontario Center, Wayne Co., NY.
- Riley Preston Page’s son **George Hudson** Page was born in Webster, Monroe Co., NY, according to George’s death certificate.
- Chloe Thayer had a distant cousin named **George Hudson** Thayer, son of Joel and Ruth (**Hudson**) Thayer.
- **George Hudson** Page named his only daughter **May** Elsie Page, though in usage the first and middle names were transposed to appear as Elsie M.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive. The signature reads "Aug 13-1876 May Elsie Page". The date "Aug 13-1876" is written in the first two columns, and the name "May Elsie Page" is written across the remaining columns. There is a checkmark symbol above the name.

- According to the Mormon genealogical website there was a **Mary E. Tayer**, daughter of Gershom Remington Tayer and Adelia D. Perry, who was born in **Clarkson Twp., Monroe Co., NY** in **1816** and married Zenos John “Z.J.” Brown in Lenawee Co., MI, in about **1839**. (Clarkson Township is on the western edge of Monroe County and Webster is on the eastern edge.)
- If Ebenezer Page and a May or Mary T(h)ayer were Riley’s parents, then William Henry, Sr. and Martha (Sanders) Page were his Page grandparents and his Thayer grandparents haven’t been positively identified, unless the mother was the Mary E. Tayer discussed above.
- If William Henry, Sr. and Chloe (Thayer) Page were his parents, then William and Chloe (Preston) Thayer were his grandparents on the Thayer side. His Page grandparents, or great-grandparents if a son of Ebenezer, have yet to be identified.

It could be that the person filling out the death certificate mistook Ebenezer for Riley's father. After all, Riley had attained an advanced age, and most of his generation of relatives was gone. Conversely, William, Sr. and Chloe may have raised a grandson of William’s as their own son.