

Casper Titchworth

By Cathy Dekker

It's possible Casper was his middle name which he always went by. A transcript of a marriage record gives his name as I. Casper Titchworth.

Casper Titchworth was born about 1843 in Nankin, Wayne Co, MI. There were no state birth records at that time, so birth dates are calculated from the age people give for themselves on censuses. Casper was 7 yrs old on the 1850 census. He was in the household of Peter Doolittle but the reason for this isn't known. He was a bit young to be an apprentice. Perhaps the Doolittle family were relatives. The only other Titchworth in town was Alexander Titchworth, born about 1804 in NY. He was living nearby, widowed, with three older children. Perhaps Casper was raised by the Doolittles when his mother died. On the 1880 census, Casper indicated that his father was born in New York and his mother in Canada.

Casper's son, Charles C, was born in California 27 May 1869, so Casper must have moved to California shortly after his military service. His first wife, Julia Canfield, was born in Ohio about 1843, but I don't know if Casper met her there or in Michigan or some place further west.



In 1880, Casper is listed on the census in Los Angeles, captain of a tugboat. The 1890 census records were all lost decades ago, but there are a few other records available for Casper Titchworth. He filed for a pension on April 9 1883, listing his residence as California. The pension file should yield an exact address, for mailing pension checks. And in 1889 and 1890, he is listed in a business directory for San Francisco as the master of the tug, Hercules. His address is 15 Guy Place. His son Charles is also listed in 1889 at the same address, occupation seaman. There is probably also a 1900 and 1910 census record for Casper, but I haven't looked for them yet.

Casper also had a daughter, Laura Louise Titchworth, born 21 Mar 1887 in San Francisco (described in the birth record as "daughter of Capt. C., born in 1887"). It appears Laura's mother Julia died in childbirth or shortly thereafter. Casper remarried later that year (2 Nov 1887) to Ida Howard, probably in Santa Barbara as that was where the newspaper article was published announcing their marriage.

Casper died 21 Jun 1919 in San Francisco, and is buried at the San Francisco National Cemetery, plot A1269-B in the new section.

Casper's son Charles died 15 Dec 1945 in Santa Clara. I do not know if he married. Laura married at least once and died under the surname of Brown. Both Charles and Laura give their mother's maiden name as Canfield on their death records, so we know Laura was the daughter of Casper's first wife. Laura died 6 September 1959 in San Francisco.

I'm guessing there are still descendants of Casper Titchworth living in the San Francisco area. It's possible they'd also have more information about Casper and his boats.