

Benjamin Parham Aydelott


Doctor, Author, Minister, College President

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One of the more fascinating families that I've discovered in our tree is the Aydelott family. We are related through **Peter & Rachel Aydelott Gilstrap, Sr.** (see below). **Isaac & Lockey Davis Gilstrap** were the parents of **Mary Gilstrap Pollard**, our 3rd ggrandmother, and wife of **Joseph G. Pollard**.

The Aydelotts arrived in the U.S. in the mid-1600s. The first Aydelott that I've identified who was born in Europe, but died in the US, was Benjamin, born in London in 1644. A 9th ggrandfather to my generation, he died in Snowhill, Worcester, Maryland, in 1704.



Mary Edwards Walker (1832-1919)
American Activist and Surgeon
 Dr. Mary Edwards Walker was a feminist Union surgeon. She was given a Medal of Honor after the Civil War for her bravery as a prisoner of war, making her the only woman to have received this medal.
 Relationship: 8th Cousin 2 times removed

The list of Jesse Foss Pollard's famous relatives also includes:

- Louisa May Alcott, abolitionist and author of "Little Women" & "Little Men".
- Frances Folsom Cleveland, wife of President Grover Cleveland.
- William Faulkner, author of "Go Down Moses" & "As I Lay Dying".
- Humphrey Bogart
- Mamie Doud Eisenhower
- Frank Lloyd Wright

As you might expect, the Aydolett family shows up in hundreds of documents relating to our country's birth and migration westward. In the process we picked up a few famous ancestors, such as those listed in the graphic on the left. **(Missing from that list is our lovely and enchanting cousin, Grace Kelly...Princess Grace of Monaco.)**

Another of our cousins, **Benjamin Parham Aydelott, MD, DD**, was born July 7, 1795 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He died in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, on

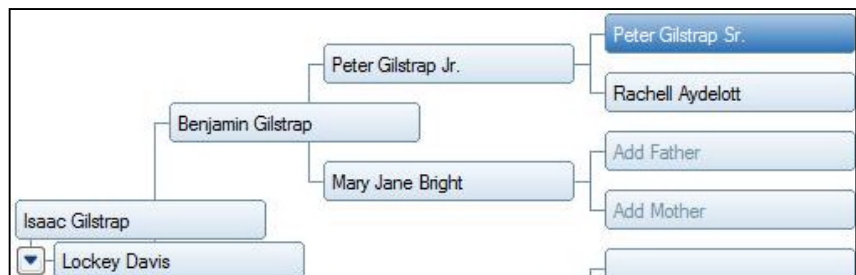
September 10, 1883. He was the rector of **Christ Church**, Cincinnati, the president of **Woodward College**, later to become **Woodward High School**, and, as indicated below, the first president of **The Ohio College Of Dental Surgery**, in Cincinnati.

(These were the early years of Ohio settlement, and our ancestors were still stealing from, breaking treaties with, and massacring Indians, activities thoroughly sanitized in our history books, all in the name of Manifest Destiny. I can only hope that my/our Third Cousin, 7X Removed, Benjamin Parham Aydelott, was too busy preaching and presiding colleges to chase down and kill Indians!)

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The original services (Grace Church, Philadelphia) were held in a small chapel in a little alley above Vine Street, near Eleventh Street, outside of the old city limits. The alley was entered from Eleventh Street.

The first rector, whose picture hangs in the vestry room, was Rev. **Benjamin Parham Aydelott, M.D., D.D.**, from 1826 to 1828. His son, **John Henshaw Aydelott**, sends me the following sketch. The son is City Missionary in Cincinnati, where he is doing very useful work.



Benjamin Parham Aydelott, M. D., D. D., was born in Philadelphia, in 1795, being on his father's side of direct French Huguenot blood, while his mother came of the original Quaker stock, who were the first settlers of Philadelphia. His father being an officer in the US Navy, was necessarily absent from home

the larger part of his time, and for this reason his boyhood training fell almost entirely upon his mother, whose great ambition was that her son should become a physician. He was sent while quite a lad to the "Protestant Episcopal Academy" at Cheshire, Conn., where he graduated, and then entered the "College of Physicians and Surgeons" of New York City, from which he graduated in 1815. In 1816, he was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Dob, of New York, by Rev. Christian Bork.

After practicing medicine for a short period, he became convinced that his true calling was to preach the Gospel, and after taking a theological course he was ordained a deacon by Bishop Hobart, and two years afterward was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Kemp.

He was the first rector of Grace Church, Philadelphia, serving from 1826 to 1828, having previous to that time served other churches, at one period having charge of two parishes in Maryland, journeying from one to the other on horseback. In 1828, he became rector of Christ Church, Cincinnati, and continued there several years, leaving a strong parish where he had found a weak one.

In 1835, became President of "Woodward College," in this city, which position he occupied during ten years of its most successful history, and the "Old Woodward Boys" still cherish a grateful remembrance (sic) of his unwavering kindness and regard for their personal welfare. In 1841, he was united in marriage to his second wife, Miss Betsey E. Fosdick, who survived him for some years. Dr. Aydelott was deservedly held in high esteem as a scholar and Christian minister by those of all denominations, being forward in rendering personal service in all good works.

He was a copious writer for the press, both religious and secular, chiefly upon religious and educational topics, and in advocacy of anti-slavery and temperance views. His college addresses and other writings, as published, were highly appreciated by his many readers. He was a diligent and untiring student, spending many hours in his study each day, and it was while thus engaged he was stricken with paralysis of the brain, from which he never rallied, but closed a long and useful public life in Cincinnati, in 1880, in his 86th year. He was laid to rest in beautiful Spring Grove Cemetery, amid scores of those to whom for so many years he was pastor and friend.

This closes the son's loving testimony to a father's worth.

The family is said to be descended from French barons in feudal days, but they have in later times done good service in the church militant.

Another descendant of Dr. Aydelott writes me as follows: *"He preached usually with notes, but was a ready and easy speaker without them. He was clear and logical in style. He was a man of very positive convictions and opinions. Was the author of a number of books, chiefly on religious subjects."*

With credentials like that, there is little doubt that Benjamin Parham Aydelott was a contemporary of Dr. Daniel Drake, founder of Cincinnati College (University of Cincinnati), and W.H. McGuffey of McGuffey Readers, published in Cincinnati. Perhaps his most lasting contribution was that of the first President of The Ohio College Of Dental Surgery, which (I think) was ultimately merged with University of Cincinnati:

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THE OHIO COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGERY.

[B H. T. SMITH, D.D,S.]

THE Charter or the Act of the Legislature of Ohio, by which this institution came into legal existence, was passed January 24. 1845, and constituted Drs. B. P. Aydelott, Robert Buchanan, Israel Al. Dodge, William Johnson, J. P. Cornell, and Calvin Fletcher, of Cincinnati; Dr. G. S. Hampstead, of Portsmouth, and Dr. Samuel

Martin, of Xenia, and their successors, a board of trustees, with power to establish a College of Dental Surgery in the city of Cincinnati.

In the spring of 1845 the trustees met and organized by the appointment of B. P. Aydelott, M. D., D. D. , president, and Israel M. Dodge, M. D. , secretary ; and then organized the Ohio College of Dental Surgery by the creation of the following departments : Dental Anatomy and Physiology, of which Jesse W. Cook, M.D., D.D.S., was made professor ; Dental Pathology and Therapeutics, of which M. Rogers, M. D. , D.D.S., was elected professor ; Practical Dentistry and Pharmacy, of which James Taylor, M. D. , D. D. S., was appointed professor ; Jesse P. Judkins, M.D., was appointed demonstrator of Anatomy ; and Prof. Taylor discharged the duties of demonstrator of Practical Dentistry.

The Faculty elected Prof. Cook, dean. He issued the first annual announcement; and the college session for its first course of lectures opened on the first Monday of November, 1845, and closed on or about the 20th of February, 1846, four young men receiving,, degrees. President Aydelott delivered the opening address, conferred the degrees, and, in behalf of the college, gave each graduate a copy of the Holy Bible. Prof. Cook made the valedictory address to the graduates.