

# Frederick E. Beardslee

Frederick appears in the 1860 Flushing Census on page 699, the 19 year-old son of George W. Beardslee, an electrician. Frederick has two siblings; Caroline, 15 and George L., 13. Two Irish servants are also enumerated, Mary Nolan, 25, and Mary Powers, 19, a seamstress. His father had invented a successful magneto-electric generator, patented in 1859. An article in the May, 1976 edition of the Civil War Times Illustrated states: "The inventor had been manufacturing his magneto machines commercially for several years at College Point, Long Island with financial backing from the firm of Poppenhusen and Konig, dealers in gutta-percha and India rubber."

The Army had been seeking a portable source of electricity to power the telegraph in the field and Beardslee's invention, with modifications, made it possible.

Frederick became a Second Lieutenant in the United States Signal Corps, certainly because of his background and familiarity with the field. After his service he returned to College Point and appears on page two-hundred and twenty-one in the 1870 Census, unmarried and working as an Assistant Inspector on the railroad.

On March 13, 1876 he married Laura Dingee in Brooklyn at a Methodist Episcopal Church. A child named Lester Eugene is born on January 6, 1878 in Mexico where Frederick had relocated to work as an electrician. He is later baptized at the Park Avenue Primitive Methodist Church in Brooklyn on September 20, 1879.

After the family returned to the U.S. Frederick had a number of jobs according to his cousin William F. Beardslee, who's signed affidavit was included in the pension file.

Frederick was an accomplished electrician and had no difficulty finding work. He did, however, have difficulties that lead to his suicide on September 3, 1888 at the age of forty-four. He had been depressed according to pension documents, and his death certificate indicates that he poisoned himself at 76 Beekman Street. The certificate also confirmed that he was an electrician and, indeed, the son of George W. Beardslee.

Frederick is buried at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn and Laura remained in Brooklyn living at 421 Henry Street.