William Warner Yates and Eliza Jane Sharp

**William Warner Yates**  
born – 10 Jan 1829  
Logan County, Kentucky  
died – 23 Feb 1900  
Berlin, Sangamon, Illinois

**Eliza Jane Sharp**  
born – 1 Dec 1825  
Kentucky, United States  
died – 19 May 1909  
Sangamon, Illinois

Marriage: 3 Dec 1847 in Adair, Kentucky, United States

They had the following children:

1. **Mary E. Yates** was born in 1849 in Kentucky.
2. **Martha Ann Yates** was born on 1 Dec 1850 in Bowling Green, Warren, Kentucky.
3. **Louis Harding Yates** was born in Nov 1854 in Sangamon County, Illinois. He died in 1909 in Illinois.
4. **Melissa Isabelle Yates** was born on 12 Mar 1859 in Sangamon County, Illinois.
5. **Oliver Hardin Yates** was born on 16 Jan 1862 near Farmingdale, Sangamon, Illinois.
6. **Alice Yates** was born on 9 Jun 1865 in Sangamon County, Illinois.
7. **Zemaria Sidney Yates** was born on 11 Nov 1867 in Farmingdale, Sangamon, Illinois.
8. **Carrie Yates** was born in 1872 in Cartwright, Sangamon, Illinois.

William Warner Yates was born to Michael Yates and Rachel Briggs on 10 Jan 1829 in Logan County, Kentucky. Eliza Jane Sharp was born to Mark Sharp and Fanny born on 1 Dec 1825 in Kentucky, United States.

The marriage date for William Warner Yates and Eliza Jane Sharp is given as 3 Dec 1847. Two records somewhat confirm this date. One is from the 1852-1914 Adair KY marriage records. It shows the wedding date as Dec 3rd, but when compared to the other records the marriage year is given as 1857. William W Yates and Jane Sharp show up as married with their first child by the 1850 US census, so the date of 1857 is likely incorrect, unless the marriage ceremony was not performed until later, or this could be a different William Yates and Jane Sharp.

Another marriage record is from Adair 1840 marriages emailed by Steven Loose. The year seems to read 1836, but this date is also likely incorrect.

In the 1850 census for District 1, Adair, Kentucky, it shows Willm W Yates (21), E J Yates (20) and M E Yates. William’s occupation is a Blacksmith, and the census says the parents cannot read or write.
The 1860 US census finds the family in Subdivision 17, Sangamon, Illinois, and the family name was transcribed as “Yatas”. The census lists W Yatas (33), E J Yatas (32), M E Yatas (12), M M Yatas (10), L H Yatas (8), and M J Yatas (2). The birth places are KY until LH Yatas and MJ Yatas, which are IL. Hence, the family moved from KY to IL from 1850-52. William is still a blacksmith.

In the 1870 census, the Yates family is in Gardner, Sangamon, Illinois. The family is listed as William Yates (40), Eliza J Yates (41), Mary Yates (20), Matte Yates (18), Lewis H Yates (16), Melissa E Yates (8), Oliver H Yates (6), Alice Yates (5), and John Yates (2). The “Matte” listed is probably Martha. It is not known why Zemaria Sidney Yates was not listed with the family in between Alice and John.

The 1880 census has the family name misspelled as “Yats” and living in Cartwright, Sangamon, Illinois. The family members are given as William Yats (47), Jane Yats (49), Oliver Yats (17), Alice Yats (16), Zimri Yats (10), and Carrie Yats (8). Notably absent is John Yates, he may have died before the 1880 census. In this census, William is said to be a farmer.


As to Jane’s maiden name, the marriage application of Jane’s son Oliver says that Jane’s maiden name is Sharp (recorded in 1887). However, the death record of Martha Ann Yates (Jane’s daughter, filled out by Lorenzo Peterson (son-in-law) records that Jane’s maiden name was Pointer (recorded in 1916). Because Oliver’s marriage application was recorded while Jane was still alive, it is likely the most accurate.

While unconfirmed, it is possible that William W Yates served in the Civil War…

U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles about William W Yates
Name: William W Yates
Residence: Peoria, Illinois
Enlistment Date: 9 Apr 1861
Rank at enlistment: Private
State Served: Illinois
Survived the War?: Yes
Enlisted in Company Battery A, Illinois 2nd LA Batty A Light Artillery Battery
Service Record: on 04 Sep 1861.
Mustered out on 14 Sep 1864.
Sources: Illinois: Roster of Officers and Enlisted Men

In a story about Lawrence Wesley Peterson (son of Lorenzo S Peterson and Martha Ann Yates) told that Martha Ann Yates was a big Irish woman. No known Irish ancestors.

Written by Jon Ahlstrom, great-great-great-grandson of William W. Yates and Eliza Jane Sharp