

James Nicholas Heile~a Brief Biography

Because a large majority of my recent ancestors lived and were raised on this same section of the boulevard, I have spent much time over the years researching that area. I have made a good study of the available census records as well as the Baltimore County Atlases for 1850, 1857, 1873 and 1877 that are available from the Library of Congress and the Historical Society of Baltimore County, but when I came into possession of the History of the turnpike/boulevard written by James Nicholas Heile, I found new life and more depth to this area than I ever had. That said, James is somewhat of a hero to me. I hope more historians will find answers by reading his account.

As just stated, we owe a great deal to Mr. Heile who recorded much history of this small area of District 13~the one and three tenths miles of Washington Turnpike/Boulevard. As it happens, much of this is autobiographical. I haven't found a great deal of information about him, but what I have found is the following:

James Nicholas Heile (I believe it may have been pronounced "Hyle") as I found that spelling in one of the census records of him. Many times, the census taker would write down what they heard the occupant say.

He was born April 1, 1889 and died June 12, 1967. He served in WWI. James was inducted February 19, 1918 as a private. By February 3, 1919 he held the rank of sergeant. He received the Order of Serbia award during his service. He served overseas 5/10/1918 to 6/1/1919 with an honorable discharge June 11, 1919.

James was a civil engineer for the state of Maryland. It appears from his writing and his WWI and WWII registration that much of his work was with the state road commission. Although he spent much time in the section of District 13 that he wrote of; perhaps because his recent ancestors lived there, it appears he lived most of his life at 2608 Lehman St., Baltimore, Md. The home was built in 1900; and according to Google Maps is still standing in 2022. The 1900 census finds James, his father, Joseph Henry Heile and his mother, Georgeanna Elizabeth Wade-Heile in Mt. Winan's. Mt. Winans is also listed as a division of Lansdowne in that census. From 1920 on, the census finds him at the Lehman St. address.

From what I can find, it appears James never married. It's my guess that his aunt, Mary Ellen Wade (1860-1946) may have lived with him. I cannot find any record of a marriage for her. She appeared only once in the 1940 census as living with James at the Lehman St. address. It would seem that she is the spinster sister of his mother, Georgeanna Elizabeth Wade. She is listed as contact person on his WWII registration and they both share the same marker in Loudon Park Cemetery, Baltimore, Md., Althea Section, Plot 201.

A portion of what James recorded for us on the turnpike/boulevard history is written in the third person where he writes strictly about names, dates and who married who. Several of the names mentioned were, in fact, his close relatives.

His father, Joseph Henry Heile was born October 12, 1858 and died August 6, 1930. His mother, Georgeanna Elizabeth Wade was born January 11, 1856 and died July 11, 1934. His maternal grandfather, George W. Wade (1827-1897) is listed in the civil war registrations for District 13 in 1863. His maternal grandmother was Maria C. Wade (1831-1913). Aside from his mother, his maternal grandparents had several more children who would become aunts and uncles to James: Permelia A. Wade (1854-1929) who married George Henry Doering (1852-1911), Mary Ellen Wade (1860-1946) as mentioned, Benjamin H. Wade (1862-bef. 1945) who married Fannie Proctor (1864-1945) and James C. Wade (1866-bef. 1945) who married Mary Emma Williams (1870-1945). His paternal great-grandparents were Christian Oursprung (1800-1850) and Catherine Hartman-Oursprung (1802-1883). If you review James accounting in the Washington turnpike/boulevard history, you'll find many of these names. The spellings may vary slightly, Permelia/Pamela, Doering/Deering.

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