

Ulysses Freeman Doubleday (1792-1866)

Ulysses Freeman Doubleday was born on December 15, 1792, in New Lebanon, New York. He was the son of Abner and Mercy (Freeman) Doubleday. His father, Abner, fought in the American Revolutionary War, participating in important battles like Bunker Hill and Valley Forge.

Ulysses had a limited education but became a printer. In 1809, he worked as an apprentice printer with Thurlow Weed in Cooperstown, New York. He later worked as a printer in Utica and Albany, New York. He also served in the War of 1812 at Sackets Harbor, which was the biggest naval port in the U.S. at that time.

Ulysses married Hester Donnelly on October 10, 1814, in Newburgh, New York. They had eight children, though only four survived to adulthood.

He worked as a printer and published several newspapers, including the *Saratoga Courier*, the *Cayuga Patriot*, and the *Gospel Advocate*.

Ulysses became a Jacksonian Democrat and served as a U.S. Representative for New York in two terms: from 1831 to 1833 and from 1835 to 1837. In 1834, he worked as an inspector at Auburn Prison.

After his time in Congress, Ulysses lost his wealth in the Stock Market Crash of 1837. He and his family moved to Scipio, New York, where he became a farmer. They later moved to New York City, where Ulysses and his brother Elisha opened a stationery store.

When he retired, Ulysses and Hester moved to Bloomington, Illinois, to live with their daughter Amanda Doubleday Eddy and her family. Amanda's husband, Reverend Herman James Eddy, became the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Bloomington in 1856. Sadly, Hester passed away on November 4, 1859. Ulysses died on March 19, 1866. They are both buried in Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington, Illinois.

The following is a brief description of Ulysses and Hester's children.

Colonel Thomas Donnelly Doubleday- born February 18, 1816 in Albany, NY. He served in the American Civil War as the colonel of the 4th New York Artillery. He died on May 10, 1864 in New York City after having been run over by an omnibus.

Ruth Maria Doubleday- born January 28, 1817

Major General Abner Doubleday- born June 26, 1819 in Ballston Spa, NY. He is the most famous of Ulysses and Hester's children. He was a West Point graduate in 1842 and served in the Mexican and Seminole Wars. He was appointed Major General of volunteers in 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg during the United States Civil War. He is also credited with having invented the modern game of baseball in Cooperstown, New York in 1839. This is a highly contested fact. A 1905 commission was convened to determine whether or not this fact was true. In 1907, the commission came to the conclusion that Abner had indeed created baseball based on the testimony of a childhood friend, Abner Graves, and the finding of the "Doubleday Baseball," which was believed to have been the first baseball used at the first baseball game. Abner died on January 26, 1893 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

William James Doubleday- born September 1821 and died on October 12, 1822 in Auburn, NY.

Amanda Doubleday Eddy- born on January 19, 1823 and died on January 29, 1892 in

Auburn, NY.

Lieutenant Ulysses Doubleday- born on August 31, 1824 in Auburn, NY. He served in Company H of the 121 st New York Infantry during the Civil War. He died on February 11, 1893 in Tryon, North Carolina.

Hester Elizabeth Doubleday- born May 1827 and died on December 12, 1830 in Auburn, NY.

Jane Ann Doubleday- born March 5, 1830 and died on June 12, 1843 in Auburn, NY.