

**Individual Narrative of Anna<sup>7</sup> Luyster Leverich [144]  
Daughter of Edward<sup>6</sup> Leverich [60] and Patience Moore  
Wife of James Milnor Peck**

Anna Luyster Leverich<sup>1,2,3</sup> was born on 5 Jun 1830 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the daughter of Edward Leverich and Patience Moore.<sup>4,5</sup> Anna Luyster Leverich was baptized 28 October 1830 at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.<sup>6</sup>

Edward Leverich made a will dated 13 May 1835, which was proved at the Queens Co, Surrogate on 29 August 1835. One of the will's provisions granted the annual sum of one hundred fifty dollars to his five daughters, including Anna L. Leverich.<sup>7</sup>

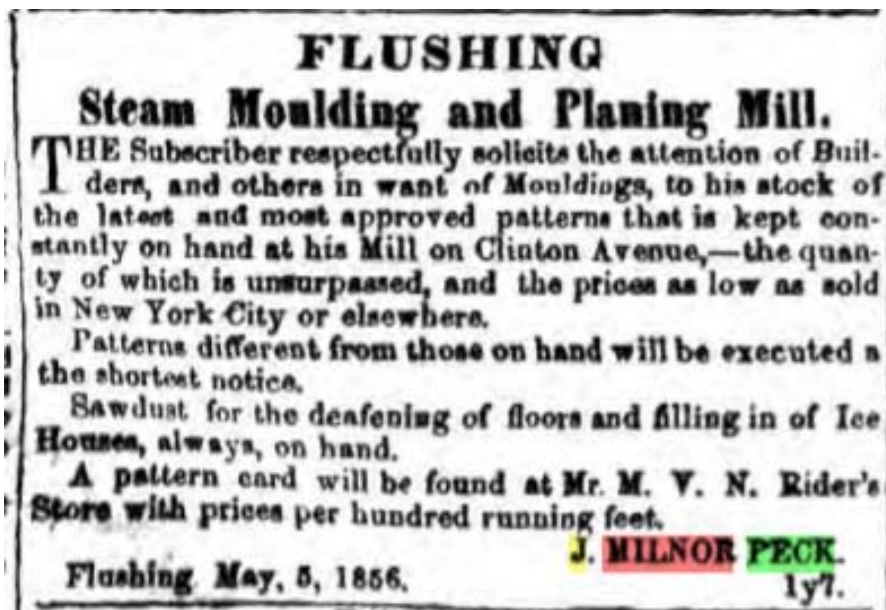
Anna Leverich, age 19, is recorded in the 1850 U.S. Census of Newtown Queens County, New York, living in the household of her mother Patience Leverich, age 52. The household also includes her sister Sarah Leverich, age 17; as well as a servant named Sarah Lang.<sup>8</sup>

Anna L. Leverich, age 30, is recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census of Flushing, Queens Co, New York, living in the household of her sister Sarah Leverich Gorsline, age 26, and her husband Peter Gorsline, age 27, bookkeeper.<sup>9</sup> Anna's fiancée, J. Milnor Peck, age 36, steam miller, is recorded in the 1860 U.S. Census of Flushing, Queens Co, New York, living in the household of his brother George W. Peck, age 38.<sup>10</sup>

Anna Luyster Leverich was married to James Milnor Peck on 14 Sep 1860 at Newtown, Queens, New York, at the Reformed Dutch Church by the Rev. W. W. Halloway.<sup>11,12</sup>

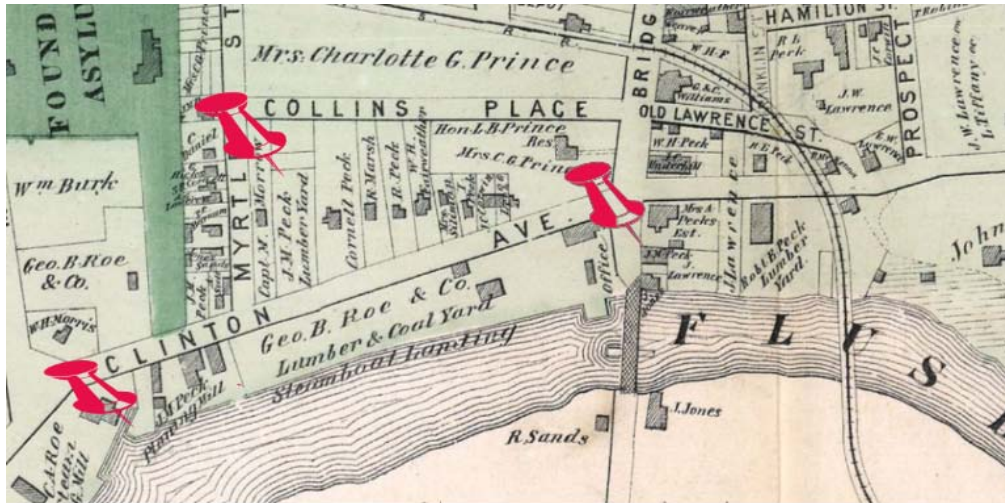
James Milnor Peck was born at Flushing on 14 November 1824, the son of Isaac Peck and Agnes Polhemus. James was baptized 9 December 1824 at St. George's Episcopal Church in Flushing.<sup>13,14</sup>

On 5 May 1856 J. Milnor Peck advertised in the Long Island Farmer his steam moulding and planing mill located on Clinton Avenue in Flushing.<sup>15</sup>



The building of portable houses was a flourishing industry in Queens County in the mid-19th century. In 1858, Isaac Peck and his son, J. Milnor Peck, began the manufacture of such houses at their lumber yard on Flushing Creek, and developed a trade that extended to the remote parts of the world. Designed at first to provide only small houses the plans were broadened until two and three family houses were being shipped to South America and other distant places. This part of the business was discontinued at J. Milnor Peck's death, although the lumber business continued for some years more.<sup>16</sup>

The Long Island Directories for the years 1864, 1865, 1867, and 1868 for Flushing list J. Milnor (or James M.) Peck Steam Planing, Sawing and Moulding Mill at Clinton Avenue near Myrtle, home Clinton or Lawrence near Bridge.<sup>17,18,19,20</sup>

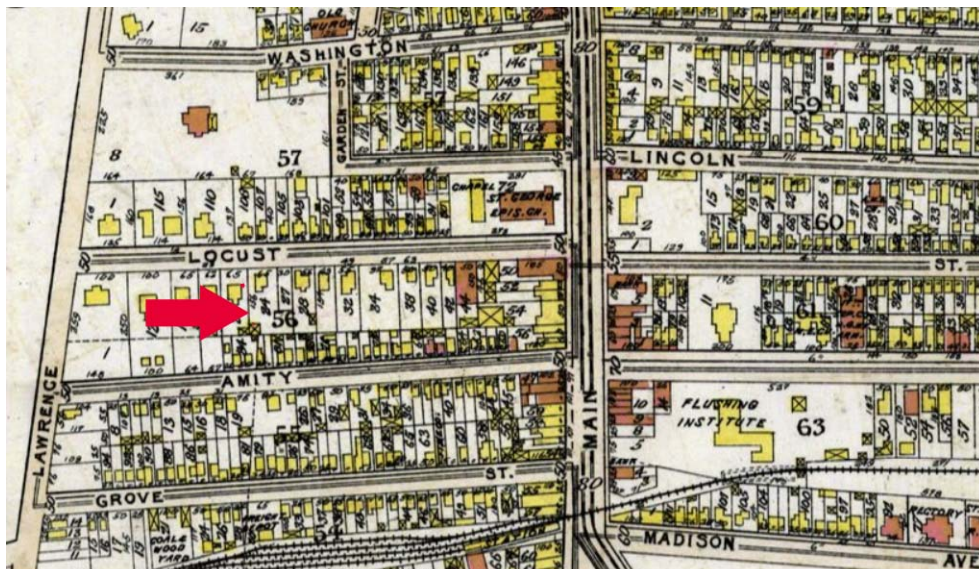


**J. Milnor Peck: Mills and Residence**  
**ITEM #US1628 Flushing Town 1**  
**From Long Island 1873, New York**  
**Published by Beers, Comstock & Cline in 1873**

J. Milnor Peck, age 45, operator of a steam planing mill, is recorded in the 1870 U.S. Census of Flushing, Queens Co, New York. The household also included his wife Anna Peck, age 39; daughter Sarah L. Peck, age 8; and son Edward M. Peck, age 6.<sup>21</sup>

The 1871-1872 Long Island Directory for Flushing lists J. Milnor Peck, Steam Mills Clinton Avenue, home Bridge Street.<sup>22</sup>

About 1872, James and Anna built an elegant 14 room house in the second empire style, located then at 24 Locust Street in Flushing 5 lots east of Lawrence Street (contemporary address 133-31 39th Avenue). The house was occupied by the immediate family until daughter Sarah Collins died in 1936. The house was razed in 1940.<sup>23,24</sup>



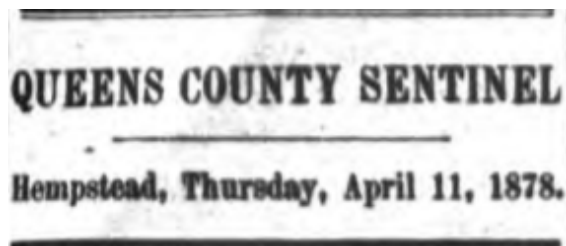
**J. Milnor Peck and Anna Luyster Leverich**  
**24 Locust Street, Flushing, NY**  
**Plate 021**  
**From Queens 1909, New York**  
**Published by G. W. Bromley & Co. in 1909**

**Eugene Ambruster Collection  
New York Public Library**



**J. Milnor Peck Residence  
24 Locust Street, now 133-31  
39th Ave, Flushing, Queens, NY**

By 1878, J. Milnor Peck had opened a branch of his lumber yard at Main Street, Hempstead, Queens Co, New York. An advertisement for the Hempstead Yard appears in the Queens County Sentinel 11 April 1878.<sup>25,26</sup>



Mr. J. Milnor Peck, of the extensive lumber yards at Flushing, continues to keep his Hempstead yards well stocked with building material of every description. Mr. John B. Valentine, who superintends the business, does all he can to satisfy his customers.

**BARGAINS IN LUMBER!**

**J. MILNOR PECK**

Is constantly receiving and now offering a large assortment of all kinds of

**LUMBER,**

At exceedingly low prices, and would invite the attention of those who contemplate building to examine his stock before purchasing.

Also, a very large Stock of

**Wood Mouldings,**

FROM KILN-DRIED LUMBER,

All of which will be sold

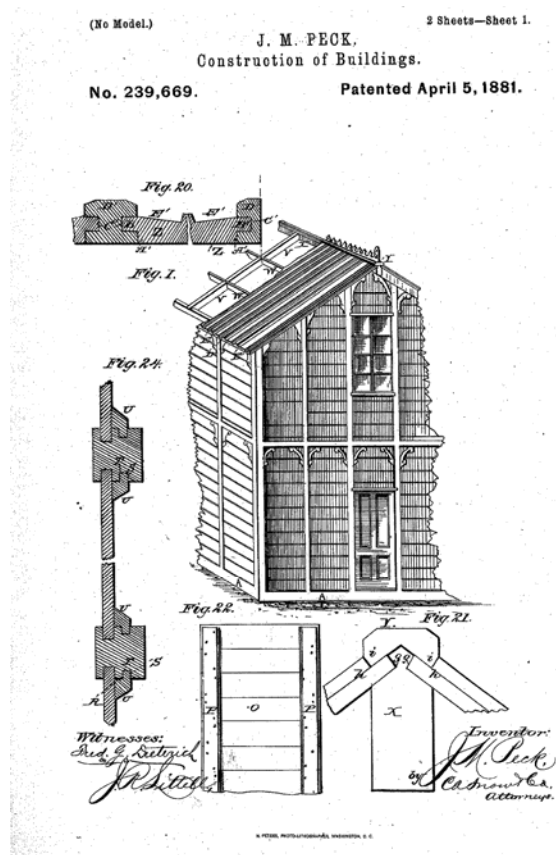
**AT THE LOWEST MARKET RATES.**

JOHN B. VALENTINE, Agent,  
1808 Hempstead, L. I.

J. Milnor Peck, age 56, lumber merchant, is recorded in the 1880 U.S. Census of Flushing, Queens County, New York. The household also included his wife Anna Peck, age 50; daughter Sarah Peck, age 18; son Edward M. Peck, age 16; and son Tallcott M. Peck, age 9.<sup>27</sup>

On 14 July 1880 the Brooklyn Daily Eagle reported that "J. Milnor Peck, of Flushing, was thrown from a wagon yesterday, and struck in the head by one of the wheels and seriously injured." James apparently recovered.<sup>28</sup>

On 22 December 1880 J. Milnor Peck filed an application for a U.S. patent concerning construction methods for houses. "Be it known that I, J. Milnor Peck, of Flushing ... have invented certain new and useful improvements in construction of buildings. And I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification." The patent was approved on 5 April 1881, and assigned Letters Patent No. 239,669.<sup>29</sup>



J. Milnor Peck brought one of his portable cottages to the American Institute Fair in 1881. The Long Island Daily Star reported on 5 November 1881 that "In the corner of the machine department of the American Institute Fair, now open at the Rink, will be found a small, neat cottage, composed wholly of wood. It is so constructed that while there are so few nails in it, it is yet so firmly put together and so substantial that it cannot be made more durable ... the cottage is the result of patented, important improvements ... it is portable and it is made on the panel system, its several parts grooved or rabbeted." Tragically, J. Milnor Peck never saw his portable housing business thrive, since he died in an elevator accident the following year in 1882. His estate and various family members carried on the business for a time, but it never achieved the potential it would have under his leadership and enterprising spirit.<sup>30,31</sup>

J. Milnor Peck died on 7 September 1882. The New York Times reported on 8 September 1882: "J. Milnor Peck of Flushing ... died at the Chambers Street Hospital ... yesterday morning from the effects of injuries received on the day previous while ascending in an elevator in the building at Nos. 17 and 19 Rose-street (in Manhattan). The building in question is occupied by various printing and stationary firms ... Mr. Peck was engaged extensively in the lumber business and in the manufacture and shipment abroad of portable wood houses, of which he was the patentee. He went to the Rose St building for the purpose of getting some electrotype plates which had been prepared to illustrate a catalogue that he was about to publish. Mr. Peck stepped upon the platform of the car, and it began to move upward. Just before the second floor was reached something attracted ... his attention and he leaned over the gate at the side of the car. An instant later his head was caught and crushed between the top of the gate and the floor above ... he was taken to the hospital ... a dispatch was sent to his brother ... in Flushing who came to the city with other members of the family. The injured man recognized his relatives but was unable to speak to them. He remained for the most part in a comatose state until his death ... his wife was at Fallsburg, Sullivan Co, New York at the time of the accident."<sup>32,33</sup>

The Flushing Daily Times on September 11, 1882 described the funeral of J. Milnor Peck. "Every seat in St. George's Church was filled yesterday ... not only was every seat occupied, but the entrance to the sacred edifice was packed with friends eager to pay the last tribute of respect to their deceased townsman. Several hundred people who could not gain entrance, stood on the sidewalks opposite the Church, to witness the departure of the sad pageant. The services at the house were short but impressive ... the services at the church were conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Dr. J. Carpenter Smith ... a very large concourse of the relatives and friends of the deceased followed the hearse to Flushing Cemetery where the beautiful and simple commitment of the Episcopal Church was recited."<sup>34,35,36</sup>

On 8 October 1882, the Rev. J. Carpenter Smith, S.T.D. presented *In Memoriam, A Commemorative Discourse, Preached in St. George's Church, Flushing, L.I., after the Sudden Death of James Milnor Peck*. The thirteen page memorial sermon was published in the Daily Evening Journal Steam Print in Flushing.<sup>37</sup>

J. Milnor Peck did not leave a will and died intestate. Letters of Administration on his estate were granted to his widow Anna L. Peck on 16 September 1882 by the Queens County Surrogate.<sup>38</sup>

The estate of J. Milnor Peck was probated 25 August 1885. Heirs named included his wife Anna L. Peck, and his three children Sarah L. Peck Collins, Edward M. Peck, and Tallcott M. Peck. Edward's share of the estate was offset by funds that had been advanced to him by James and Anna.<sup>39</sup>

Widow Anna L. Peck is recorded in the 1900 U.S. Census of Flushing, Queens County, New York living at 33 Lawrence St. in Flushing. She is sharing the household with Catharine Fairweather, age 83; and Catharine's sister Cornelia L. Luyster, age 73.

It is not known who was living at the Peck home at 24 Locust Street at this time. The home was subsequently occupied by Anna's daughter Sarah L. Peck Collins and her husband Frank A. Collins. In 1900 however, as per census records, Sarah and Frank were living at 427 Amity Street, Flushing; Edward M. Peck was living at 6 Broadway, Flushing; and Tollcott M Peck was living at 2208 Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, New York Co, New York.<sup>40,41</sup>

Anna L. Peck died on 26 Oct 1901 at Flushing, Queens, New York, at age 71. Anna's funeral took place at the home of her son-in-law Frank A. Collins at 427 Amity Street in Flushing, and Anna was buried at Flushing Cemetery.<sup>42,43</sup>

Anna L. Peck left two wills dated 1 July 1892 and 15 October 1901. The 1901 will was proved 26 June 1903 by the Queens County Surrogate. Anna divided her estate in two equal parts granted to her daughter Sarah L. Peck Collins and her son Tallcott M. Peck. The will further stipulated that "I have omitted to give anything to my older son, Edward M. Peck, because he has already received and now owes me a larger amount than either of my other children will receive from the estate."<sup>44</sup>



The 1910 U.S. Census of Flushing, Queens County, New York lists Sarah L. Collins and her husband Frank L. Collins living at the Peck home at 24 Locust Street, Flushing.<sup>45</sup>

Anna Luyster Leverich and James Milnor Peck had five children, three of whom survived to adulthood.<sup>46,47,48</sup>

- i. Sarah Leverich Peck was born 24 October 1862 at Flushing, Queens Co, New York. Sarah married Francis (Frank) Alton Collins 5 September 1883 in Manhattan, New York County, New York. Sarah died 7 May 1936 at College Point, Queens Co, New York. Sarah was buried at Flushing Cemetery.<sup>49,50,51</sup>
- ii. Edward Milnor Peck was born in March 1864 in Flushing, Queens Co, New York. Edward married Nellie Estelle Bowden 14 June 1888 at the Reformed Dutch Church in Newtown, Queens Co, New York. Edward died 2 May 1909 in Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. Edward was buried at Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn.<sup>52,53,54,55</sup>
- iii. Frank Lawrence Peck was born 7 January 1866 at Flushing, Queens Co, New York. Frank died as an infant 19 February 1866, and was buried at St. George's Episcopal Church in Flushing.<sup>56</sup>
- iv. Harris Horton Peck was born 2 October 1867 at Flushing, Queens Co, New York. Harris died as a child 25 October 1868, and was buried at St. George's Episcopal Church in Flushing.<sup>57</sup>
- v. Tallcott Milnor Peck was born 10 February 1870 at Flushing, Queens Co, New York. Tallcott married Florence Nimmo 4 May 1892 in Manhattan, New York Co, New York. Tallcott died 4 April 1918 in Flushing and was buried at the Flushing Cemetery.<sup>58,59,60</sup>

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## Endnotes

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- <sup>1</sup> *Tagg, Arlene and Howard - Correspondent* (Levittown, New York 11756: 17 Hawk Drive, 1997.). Hereinafter cited as *Tagg, Arlene and Howard*.
- <sup>2</sup> James Riker Jr, *Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York: Containing Its History from its first Settlement* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), pages 353-354. Hereinafter cited as *Annals of Newtown*.
- <sup>3</sup> James W. Moore, *Rev. John Moore of Newtown, Long Island and some of his descendants* (Easton, Pennsylvania: printed for the publisher by the Chemical Publishing Co, 1903), page 67. Hereinafter cited as *Rev John Moore*.
- <sup>4</sup> Find A Grave, online <[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)>, Memorial Number 83731446. Hereinafter cited as Find A Grave.
- <sup>5</sup> 1900 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T623, Roll 1148, Town of Flushing, Queens Ward 3, page 1A.
- <sup>6</sup> Arthur White, "Newtown Presbyterian Church Records," 1922, Transcription, New York Public Library, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Irma and Paul Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, Manhattan, New York, New York 10018, Baptisms, 1830. Hereinafter cited as "Newtown Presbyterian Records."
- <sup>7</sup> Edward Leverich will (1835), Volume 1, page 123; Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1835 Probate Edward Leverich.
- <sup>8</sup> 1850 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 583, Town of Newtown, page 111A.
- <sup>9</sup> 1860 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M653, Roll 843, Town of Flushing, page 568.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, Town of Flushing, page 623.
- <sup>11</sup> *New York Herald*, New York, New York, 1840-1920. Hereinafter cited as *New York Herald*, 14 September 1860.
- <sup>12</sup> *Long Island Farmer*, Jamaica, Queens Co, New York, 1821-1920. Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Farmer*, 18 September 1860.
- <sup>13</sup> Descendants Rev Johannes Theodorus Polhemius, Steven Wurster, online [www.whitherthefool.org](http://www.whitherthefool.org), , ID number 752.
- <sup>14</sup> Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial Number 83731381.
- <sup>15</sup> *Long Island Farmer*, 5 May 1856.
- <sup>16</sup> *Long Island Daily Press*, Jamaica, Queens Co, New York, 1926-1963. Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Daily Press*, 14 February 1937.
- <sup>17</sup> *Long Island Directory 1864* (New York, New York: Curtin, 1864). Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Directory 1864*.
- <sup>18</sup> *Long Island Directory 1865* (New York, New York: Curtin, 1865). Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Directory 1865*.
- <sup>19</sup> *Long Island Directory 1867* (New York, New York: Curtin, 1867). Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Directory 1867*.
- <sup>20</sup> *Long Island Directory 1868* (New York, New York: Curtin, 1868). Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Directory 1868*.
- <sup>21</sup> 1870 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M593, Roll 1081, Town of Flushing, page 312B.
- <sup>22</sup> *Long Island Directory 1871* (New York, New York: Curtin, 1871). Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Directory 1871*.
- <sup>23</sup> Billie Tagg, *Tagg the Past - Blog*, online <<https://taggthepast.com>>. Hereinafter cited as *Tagg the Past - Blog*.
- <sup>24</sup> *Bartlett, John - Correspondent* (Thailand: Phra Pradaing, Formerly Staten Island, New York.) Moderator Leverich Branches at Facebook.com. Hereinafter cited as *Bartlett, John*.
- <sup>25</sup> *Queens County Sentinel*, Hempstead, New York, 1858-1899. Hereinafter cited as *Queens County Sentinel*, 11 April 1878.
- <sup>26</sup> *Long Island NY City Directory 1878* (Brooklyn, New York: Lain & Co, 1878). Hereinafter cited as *Long Island NY City Directory 1878*.
- <sup>27</sup> 1880 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, T9, Roll 919, Town of Flushing, page 261D.
- <sup>28</sup> *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York, 1841-1955, 1960-1963. Hereinafter cited as *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 14 July 1880.
- <sup>29</sup> U.S. Patent: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Madison Building, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314. Online <http://www.uspto.gov/main/sitesearch.htm>; , Letters Patent 239,669.
- <sup>30</sup> *Tagg the Past - Blog*, online <https://taggthepast.com>, "J. Milnor Peck's Portable Houses of 1880."
- <sup>31</sup> *Long Island Star*, Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York, 1809-1863. Hereinafter cited as *Long Island Star*, 5 November 1881.
- <sup>32</sup> *New York Times*, Manhattan, New York Co, New York, 1851-Date, 8 September 1882. Hereinafter cited as *New York Times*.
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- <sup>34</sup> *Flushing Daily Times*, Flushing, Queens Co, New York, 1855-1925. Hereinafter cited as *Flushing Daily Times*, 11 September 1882.
- <sup>35</sup> *The Churchman*, Watford, United Kingdom, 1880-Present. Hereinafter cited as *The Churchman*, Volume 46, page 346, "Obituary" 23 September 1882.
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- <sup>38</sup> J. Milnor Peck Administration (16 September 1882), Liber P, pages 194ff, 372; Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1882 Administration J Milnor Peck.
- <sup>39</sup> J Milnor Peck Accounts (1885), ; Queens County, New York Surrogate, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York 11435. Hereinafter cited as 1885 Accounts J Milnor Peck.
- <sup>40</sup> 1900 U.S. Census New York, Queens Co, Ancestry.com, Town of Flushing, pages 1A, 13A, 12B.
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- <sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, Volume 4, Part 2, page 89.
- <sup>58</sup> Find A Grave, online [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), Memorial No. 83731016.
- <sup>59</sup> Database Family Search, 1829-1940, ID Number CN 5452.
- <sup>60</sup> *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 6 April 1918, page 3.