

Through four generations, Dodge men of Worthington have followed the trade of carpentry. The tradition started with Edwin, whose family moved to Worthington sometime between 1830 and 1840. His only son, George Taylor, also followed the vocation, as did all six of George's sons. Three great grandsons, Frederick, Chester Jr. and Gordon Dodge, moved out of the area, but continued in the building trade. A great-great grandson Chester Harding Dodge, Jr. attended Northeastern University, became an engineer for the US Army Corp of Engineers. He worked abroad as far away as Argentina, Newfoundland, constructing a naval operating base.¹

We can follow some of their work from newspaper articles. For example, "George Dodge and company" repaired a house in 1904 "recently bought by H. S. Cole".² "George Dodge and assistants have the cellar for the barn of Nathan D. Bill nearly completed" in 1907.³ George and son Carvel "almost gave away" their services to the Peru church in the summer of 1936. They installed new sills and underpinnings, a new roof and new clapboards.⁴ When a fire partially destroyed the home of the Kilbowins in 1937, George was called in to repair the building.⁵

A fine example of the Dodge carpenters working together was the construction of Chester Dodge's new house in Peru, MA. His old house was destroyed by fire on October 16, 1932. According to Stephen Dodge, (Chester's grandson), George Taylor Jr dug the cellar hole with his team of oxen. All five brothers and their father worked together with a few Masonic friends and a new house was ready to move into two months later on December 22nd.⁶

1. **Caleb Dodge, Jr.** b. ca. 1800 Deerfield, Franklin, MA., son of Caleb DODGE, Sr. and Jemima TENNANT d. 6 Feb. 1862, Worthington, Hampshire, MA. He m. **Electa Harding**, 7 Jan. 1824, Deerfield, Franklin, MA.⁷ She b. 26 Mar. 1800, Deerfield, Franklin, MA, dau. of Captain Abijah Harding and Lydia Dickinson⁸, d. 30 Dec. 1876, Worthington, Hampshire, MA.⁹ Both bur. Ringville Cemetery, Worthington.¹⁰

¹ *Springfield Republican*, Wed. Apr 29, 1942, p. 16

² *Springfield Republican*, Wed. Jun 22, 1904

³ *Springfield Republican*, Aug. 23, 1907, p. 9

⁴ *Springfield Republican*, July 4 and Aug 17, 1936

⁵ *Springfield Republican*, Thurs., Jan. 7, 1937

⁶ *Springfield Republican*, Oct. 20, 1932 and Thurs, Dec. 22, 1932

⁷ Thomas W. Baldwin, *Vital Records of Deerfield, Massachusetts to the Year 1850*, (Boston, MA. 1920), p. 192.

⁸ Pension record application, Abijah Harding, #32785

⁹ MA Death Records, 1841-1915, Familysearch.org

¹⁰ Visits to Ringville Cemetery. We arranged for a new stone for Electa, as her original one was in pieces.