Descendants of Robert Wilson of Augusta County, Virginia

From Mid-Eighteenth Century to Early Twenty-First Century

Michael Leonard Wilson
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Maps</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Photographs</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Generation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Generation</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Generation</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Generation</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Generation</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Generation</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh Generation</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augusta County Details</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Tax Records</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transcriptions</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Adair Wilson and Family During the Civil War</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859–1860</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862–1863</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index of Names</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of Maps

Virginia Counties in 1755..................................................................................................................3
Augusta County locations of interest (modern-day borders).........................................................4
Southwestern corner of the Beverley Patent (by J.R. Hildebrand)..............................................15
Spreadsheet to reconcile the tract descriptions..............................................................................15
Early colonial roads (by William Dollarhide) ..................................................................................20
Counties and towns of interest around Saline and Howard Counties (modern-day borders)......33
Other locations of interest in Missouri (modern-day borders).........................................................45
Locations of interest in Indiana and Ohio (modern-day borders)....................................................46
Early roads to the west (by William Dollarhide)............................................................................54
Locations of interest in Northern California (modern-day borders)..............................................60
Locations of interest in Colorado (modern-day borders)............................................................83
Locations of interest in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (modern-day borders)..........................94
Locations of interest in Louisiana (modern-day borders)............................................................99
Locations of interest in Southern California and Arizona (modern-day borders)......................131
Early western migration trails (by Frederick Smoot) .................................................................132
Locations of interest in New Mexico (modern-day borders).......................................................164
Expansion of Railroads in the 1800s...............................................................................................176
Portion of an 1860 map of Missouri (by Richard Edwards)......................................................215
List of Photographs

John Wilson................................................................. 21
Robert Wilson ............................................................ 40
William Adair Wilson ..................................................... 47
Mary Eliza Wilson Wakeman .......................................... 61
R. L. McDonald and Company building ............................ 68
Benjamin Harrison Wilson ............................................. 71
Colonel Benjamin H. Wilson coat of arms .......................... 72
Maud and Genevieve Wilson ........................................... 76
John Bright Grove ................................................................ 77
Adair Wilson ..................................................................... 79
Mary Sandidge Wilson ...................................................... 88
Priscilla Wilson Ewers ....................................................... 93
Eugene E. Ewers ............................................................. 93
John David Wilson .......................................................... 96
Charles and Maud Miller .................................................. 120
Leonie Wilson Rinker ....................................................... 125
Rose Lino Nash ............................................................... 128
Turner Wilson Reid .......................................................... 143
Harry Hawkins Vaughan .................................................. 144
Adair and Maud Miller (and Captain) ............................... 151
Adair (Butch) Wilson ......................................................... 156
Ruth Larens Wilson ........................................................ 157
William Edwards Wilson .................................................. 160
Anna Larens Wilson ........................................................ 161
Leonard Everett Wilson .................................................... 165
Walker Radio Company .................................................... 166
Elizabeth Trinaistich Wilson ............................................ 168
Dorothy Elizabeth Wilson ................................................ 170
Don, Len, Betty, Jimmy, and Dorothy Wilson ...................... 170
Nyman Adair Wilson ....................................................... 172
Donald Everett Wilson ..................................................... 185
Audrey Gathright Wilson .................................................. 187
Cathy, Mike, Don, and Audrey Wilson ............................. 188
Introduction

This book is about one small branch of the Wilson family, starting with Robert Wilson, who lived in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia two hundred and fifty years ago. The area was not far removed from wilderness at the time—the first Europeans settled in that area starting in the 1720s [72], and the first thing we know about Robert Wilson is that he purchased land there only thirty years later, in 1755. He died in 1768 and left behind a will that gives the names of his children, but so far almost nothing is known about any of them except William, the youngest of the children, from whom all the rest of the family members listed here are descended. There is undoubtedly information in the record about at least some of Robert’s other children, but the challenge is knowing whether a given Wilson belongs in this Wilson family or some other one. There are also hints from DNA testing that Robert may have been related to some of the other Wilsons living in the area, but how closely related is not known as yet.

In compiling a family history like this, it is necessary to contend with a lot of uncertainty—conflicting information and questionable relationships (that is, questions about whether a particular person belongs in a particular family). Many of these conflicts and questions are discussed in the text, but others may not show up due to oversight, so be aware that there could be errors.

I have tried to make this listing as complete as possible, but there are many sub-branches about which little is known (so far). The listing only goes through the seventh generation because most members of the eighth generation are still living and I wanted to respect their privacy. Some members of the seventh generation have been left out as well, because they are still living.

Acknowledgements

I owe thanks to many people for information included here. To begin with, I might never have known who my Wilson ancestors were if not for a school project (I think it must have been in eighth grade) to make a family tree. My father knew almost nothing about the Wilson family before his own father. He had met a great aunt and her family, but that was all. This great aunt, Leonie Wilson Rinker, was said to know a lot about Wilson ancestors and I was able to get an address for her, so I wrote to her to get information for the school project. Luckily, she was kind enough to reply. Or, more accurately, she and her daughter, Catherine Rinker McGrew, were kind enough to reply. Catherine said that her mother was 93 years old and could not see well enough to write, but she passed on information about my Wilson ancestors back to William Adair Wilson [44]. Many years later, when I got more interested in genealogy, this information enabled me to find entries on FamilySearch.org’s Ancestral File [18] that matched. The submitter of those entries was James M. Hotchkiss Jr., and the Ancestral File information included his address. This was a really important breakthrough because Jim Hotchkiss was also a descendant of William Adair Wilson and he had already done a lot of research on this branch
of the Wilson family. Through him, I found out about William Adair’s father, William, and
grandfather, Robert, and many of their descendants. His work formed the foundation on which
this document is built. Jim (who has since passed away) was very generous, and provided me
with several documents, including copies of Robert Wilson’s will and an important deed to part
of his land; information that he had obtained from Katherine Bushman, a well-known genealogist
in Augusta County, Virginia [12]; a short document he had written about the Wilson family [37];
a family record that his grandfather, Adair Wilson, had written in 1902 [77]; and a family record
written by Dr. Thomas Davis Parks in 1878 [53]. (This Parks manuscript was also from
Katherine Bushman. It is not about the Wilson family, but has a lot of information about other
ancestors.)

In addition, I have obtained information from many other sources, including Ancestry.com,
internet searches, family trees, books, newspapers, county and federal records, and
correspondence with many people. Even better, after I started putting my genealogical
information online\(^1\) in March 2006, I started receiving contacts from people who had found me
through internet searches. The most important information sources are included in the
References at the end of the book, but there are many others that are not explicitly listed there. I
am grateful for all of the help!

I would like to thank members of the extended family with whom I have had some
correspondence: Rebecca Betz, Cathy Bynon, Elaine Cosner, Denise Crumpton, Suzanne
Ferguson, Susan Foster, Richard & Lauretta Gillen, Margaret Henry, Joseph Hotchkiss, Karen
Levin, Charles Miller, Judith Miller, Carol Rawles, Ted P. Rinker, Deborah & Michael Vaughan,
Betty Lee Wilson, Jim Wilson, Nyman Wilson Jr., Theone Wilson, and Todd Adair Wilson.
Apologies if I have missed anyone!

Finally, many thanks to Mike Blackledge for advice about writing and publishing a family
history.

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Albuquerque, New Mexico
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\(^1\) [http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mlwilson/]
First Generation

1. **Robert Wilson** died after 9 Sep 1768 in Augusta Co., VA. He was a farmer.

Robert Wilson is the earliest known member of the Wilson family documented in this book. The first known information about Robert is that he bought land in Augusta County, VA, on 3 Jun 1755. He bought the land from his brother, Samuel, who had bought it in 1745. (It is not completely certain that Samuel Wilson was Robert’s brother, but Katherine Bushman thought he was [12].) Augusta County was only organized in 1745, and the deed for Samuel’s purchase is near the beginning of the first county deed book. (Documents before that time are in Orange County records.) Augusta County was huge at the time, in theory stretching from the Blue Ridge all the way to the Mississippi River. However, Robert’s land was in the core part of the county, south and a little west of Staunton, which is the county seat.
This area was not safe at the time. According to *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1871* by Joseph A. Waddell [72], the Shenandoah Valley was not inhabited at the time European settlers started arriving there in the 1720s. Quoting an earlier author, he says:

> This delightful region of country was then only used as a hunting ground, and as a highway for belligerent parties of different nations, in their military expeditions against each other. In consequence of the almost continuous hostilities between the northern and southern Indians, these expeditions were very frequent, and tended somewhat to retard the settlement of the Valley, and render a residence in it, for some time, insecure and unpleasant.

A major pathway for immigration to the Shenandoah Valley and beyond was called the Great Wagon Road or the Great Valley Road. From *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815* by William Dollarhide [26]:

Before 1744, the “Great Warrior Path” was an Indian trading path from New York to the Carolinas. This trail marked the western frontier of the colonies, and no white man ventured across that line without fear of attacks from hostile Indians. In 1744, when a treaty with the Indians gave whites total control of the area east of the Great Warrior Path in Virginia, the way was clear for the path to evolve into the most heavily traveled road in colonial America. By the end of the 1740s, the Great
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Valley Road was the scene of large migrations into the wilderness of western Virginia, beginning at the Shenandoah Valley.

During the period 1745-1775, thousands of immigrants used this road. Many of them were Scotch-Irish families who had sailed from Ireland to Philadelphia or Alexandria….

The general route of the Great Valley Road today is called U.S. Highway 11 (or I-81) and is very easy to locate on a modern map….

See the map on p. 20.

Beginning in the 1730s, the government of the Colony of Virginia encouraged settlement in the area that would become Augusta County, to form a buffer between the Native Americans (and the French) and the more settled parts of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The danger increased quite a bit after the French and Indian War started, and especially after the defeat of British General Edward Braddock at what is now Pittsburgh, PA, on 9 Jul 1755—just a month after Robert bought his land. Most of the action in the French and Indian War was farther north, but there were a number of raids and even massacres in Augusta County. Annals of Augusta County has a long discussion of events in the “Indian Wars” from 1753 to 1764. Included are some incidents involving Wilsons, but they are not known to be related to Robert.

Many of the early settlers of Augusta County were from Scots-Irish families who had initially settled in Pennsylvania (as noted above), so speculation is that Robert and Samuel might have been born in Pennsylvania or in Northern Ireland. (The Scots-Irish, or Scotch-Irish, were people who had settled in Northern Ireland from Scotland and northern England, primarily of Presbyterian faith.) There is some backing for this theory in the biography of Adair Wilson in Portrait and Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity, Colorado [17], which says “His paternal great-grandfather emigrated from Ireland to the United States and after a short sojourn in Pennsylvania went to the Shenandoah Valley, of Virginia, where he was engaged as a planter until his death.” Note, however, that this biography also says that Adair’s paternal great-grandfather was a brother of James Wilson, the signer of the Declaration of Independence—but James Wilson was from Scotland. This suggests another possibility, that Robert could have been born in Scotland, but it also undercuts the credibility of the Adair Wilson biography unless Robert moved from Scotland to Northern Ireland to Pennsylvania to Virginia.

Stories that our Wilson family was related to James Wilson, signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of the authors of the Constitution, are fairly widespread. It was just mentioned above that an Adair Wilson biography said his paternal great-grandfather (Robert Wilson) was a brother of James Wilson. Leonie Rinker, in a letter [44], said that James Wilson “was a brother of a many times great grandfather of yours.” Mollie Turner Reid, in the Reid manuscript [56], said that James Wilson was a half-brother of a grand or great-grandfather of D.W. Reid (this would be William or Robert Wilson). Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri [16], in the biography of Robert H. Wilson, said that his

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First Generation

grandfather (this would be William Wilson) was a half-brother of James Wilson. Benjamin Harrison Wilson, in a letter written around 1895 [78], also said that his grandfather, who would be William, was a half-brother of James Wilson. The Foster/Reid Family Tree [30] has Robert Wilson as a half-brother of James Wilson. This version is the most plausible, but Page Smith’s biography of James Wilson [66] says nothing about James having a brother named Robert or having any half-brothers. This doesn’t necessarily mean he didn’t, but no evidence for it is known to this author. Another possibility is that James was some sort of cousin to Robert, rather than a brother or half-brother.

Below is a transcription (with some help from William J. Wilson) of Robert’s will (which is in Augusta County Will Book 4, pp. 161–163 [5]; originally obtained from James Hotchkiss). Punctuation has been added to improve readability; the original has almost no punctuation marks.

In the name of God Amen, I, Robert Wilson, of the County of Augusta in the Colony of Virginia, Farmer, being sick and weak of body but of Perfect mind & memory thanks to Almighty God, & Calling to mind the Mortality of my body, do make this my last Will in manner & form following that is to Say Principally. I recommend my soul to god & my Body I Committ to the dust to be buried in a Christian like & decent Manner, & as touching such worldly estate where with it hath pleased God to bless me I give, devise, & bequeath as follows. Imprimis: I give & bequeath to my son David two hundred & Sixty acres of the land I live on, with the houses and other Improvements, & order him to give a Sufficient Maintenance to my Wife out of it during her life and to take care of my son William and daughter Littice till they see reason to remove from this or till their Marriage, and also to pay to my Daughter Ann Twenty Pounds at her Marriage. Item: I give & bequeath to my son Robert the Remainder of my Land, Viz. two hundred acres & Order him to Pay my son William Forty pounds when he Arrives to the age of Twenty-one Years. Lastly, I order all my House hold Goods & Stock of Horses, Cows, hogs, and sheep to be equally divided Betwixt my Wife and my sons Robert, David, Ann, & Lettice & my Sons Thomas, Samuel, and James having already had their Shares from me I order them five Shillings each [without punctuation, this is ambiguous, but it looks like the first group is sharing the livestock, etc., and Thomas, Samuel, and James are getting five shillings each, having already had their shares] & I appoint my Wife Mary my Executrix & I do hereby revoke & disanul all other former Wills made by me heretofore, ratifying and Confirming this to be my last Will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & Seal this 9th September 1768.

Robert Wilson, his mark (seal)

Sealed & delivered in the presence of Robert Mitchell, John Tate Senr., John Tate Junr.

At a Court contd. & held for Augusta County Novr. the 16th 1768, This Last Will and Testament of Robert Wilson dec’ed was proved by the Oaths of John Tate and John Tate Junr., two of the witnesses thereto, and Ordered to be Recorded and on the motion of Mary Wilson the Executrix—name in the said Will, who made Oath According to Law, Certificate is Granted her for Obtaining a probat thereof in due form, she having with Securities entered into & Acknowledged their bond According to Law.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

There is additional text about the administration of the will, which is not particularly interesting. Note that Robert’s will was dated 9 Sep 1768 and was proved on 16 Nov 1768, so he died sometime between those dates.

From his will, we know that Robert’s wife was named Mary. Unfortunately, no other information is known about her, except that she survived Robert and was named his executrix. Mary unknown died after 1768.

Robert Wilson and Mary unknown had the following children (the names from Robert’s will):

2  i. Thomas Wilson.
   There is a 1760 will of Samuel Wilson (Augusta County Will Book 2, pp. 355–356 [5]), in which he left his land (400 acres in the Borden Grant, in what is now Rockbridge County) to “cuzens” Thomas and Samuel Wilson. Samuel also named his brother Robert to be his executor. Katherine Bushman thought that Samuel was our Robert’s brother and the two “cuzens” were actually nephews—Robert’s sons [12].

3  ii. Samuel Wilson.
   See the notes for Thomas, above.

4  iii. James Wilson.

5  iv. David Wilson died about Jan 1816 in Augusta Co., VA.
   The Bushman information [12] says he was unmarried. David was left part of his father’s land in his will, and then when his brother Robert died he received the rest of it. When David died, he left the land to his brother William.

Following is a transcription of David’s will (Augusta County Will Book 12, pp. 116–117 [5]), with some punctuation added to improve readability.

I David Wilson, of the county of Augusta & State of Virginia, being sick in Body but in perfect mind & memory, do make & constitute this my Last will & Testament in manner following, Viz, after all my Just Debts & funeral Expenses are paid I give & bequeathe unto my Brother William Wilson all my Estate that I possess, real and personal, or any that I have any legal or equitable claim to. Secondly I order my Brother William to give unto my Sister Letty Wilson a sufficient maintainance as long as She remains unmarried, & also to give her fifty pounds in cash or property which Ever may best suit the parties. I do Lastly appoint my Brother William Wilson my sole Executor of this my Last Will & Testament, hereby Revoking all other Wills or Testaments heretofore by me made & ratifying & confirming this to be my Last given under my hand this Twenty Fifth day of Jany. Eighteen Hundred & four.

Signed sealed & acknowledged before us David Wilson, his mark (seal)

Wm. Steele
Sam Doak
David Doak
At a Court held for Augusta County, January the 22\textsuperscript{nd} 1816, This Last Will and Testament of David Wilson dec’d being presented in court was proved by the oaths of Samuel Doak and David Doak, two of the Witnesses thereto, and ordered to be recorded. And on the motion of William Willson the Executor therein named, who made oath according to Law and together with David Doak his Security entered into Bond and acknowledged their Bond in the penalty of Two thousand Dollars conditioned as the Law requires and it is further ordered that the said Bond be recorded.

Teste
Eras Stribling, CC

6 vi. **Robert Wilson** died before 1782 in Augusta Co., VA.
The Hotchkiss manuscript [37] says he had one child, who predeceased him. Robert was left part of his father’s land in his will, but a deed of land from William and Catharine Wilson to William Thompson in 1817 (see the notes for brother William in the next chapter) says that Robert died without issue and Robert’s share of the land then went to his brother David. By the 1782 tax book (Land Tax Records for Augusta County [4], microfilm Reel 21; note that 1782 is the first year available), David was paying taxes on the entire 461 acres so Robert probably died before then. (Thanks to Doug Jenkins for the tip about the tax records.)

7 vii. **Ann Wilson.**
She was unmarried at the time of her father’s will (September 1768).

8 vii. **Lettice Wilson** died after 1804.
From the wording in her father’s will, she was probably under 21 at the time (September 1768). Her brother David’s will, written 25 Jan 1804, says that her brother William should take care of her “as long as She remains unmarried”. Plus, her name was given as Letty Wilson (no married name), which indicates that she had not been married before then.


A few notes about Samuel Wilson, the presumed brother of Robert Wilson Sr.:

As briefly mentioned above, the (uncertain) identification of Samuel and Robert as brothers comes from a 1760 will of Samuel Wilson, in which he names his brother Robert his executor. This Samuel bought 400 acres of land in the Borden Grant in 1751 (Augusta County Deed Book 4, p. 190), which were then left to “cuzens” Thomas and Samuel Wilson in the 1760 will.

This Samuel’s death occurred in March 1760, a few months after the Kerr’s Creek Massacre of October 1759,\textsuperscript{3} which took place in his area. It has been suggested that Samuel might have died of wounds suffered in that incident. The web site just cited lists a Samuel Wilson as killed in the raid of 10 Oct 1759; it seems unlikely that one Samuel Wilson died in October and then another one died the next March.

\textsuperscript{3} http://www.werelate.org/wiki/The_Kerr%27s_Creek_Massacres_(1759-1763)
Second Generation

9. **William Wilson** (Robert-1) was born about 1756 in Augusta Co., VA. He died on 14 Oct 1827 at the age of 71 in Howard Co., MO. (Birth and death dates are uncertain.) William was a farmer and possibly a lawyer.

From the Hotchkiss manuscript [37]:

The Wilson family came to Missouri from Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia. William was the youngest of eight children of Robert Wilson, who probably came to Virginia from Pennsylvania. Robert bought 461 acres of farm land in Augusta County in 1755 from his brother, who had acquired it ten years earlier.

When you are the last of eight children, with five brothers ahead of you, the likelihood of inheriting land from your father is usually poor. That society usually practiced a variation of primogeniture, leaving most of the land to the oldest son. This was a necessary practice to keep the land from being divided into small, uneconomical pieces. There is no concrete evidence, but one source says that William was a lawyer in Virginia before he came to Missouri. It would be logical for him to try to learn a profession rather than wait hopelessly for a farm of his own.

Robert Wilson died in 1768 and left the property to two of William’s older brothers. Good things come to him who waits. William waited 48 years until 1816. In the meantime brother Robert had one child who predeceased him. Brother David never married. The entire property was willed by David in 1816 to William.

At that time William was probably well past the age of 60. His oldest boy was 26, and the youngest was 9. It was a little late to start a successful career in farming. We don't know what the condition of the property was when William inherited it, but we do know from the county records that he sold 200 acres in 1817. The record of deeds of trust show that William and his sons placed nine separate deeds of trust on the property between 1818 and 1821. What was left of the equity interest was sold in 1821.

It is quite reasonable that William wanted a new start in 1820. Many settlers had already moved from Virginia to Saline County, Missouri. Mrs. Dabney says that David did not come until 1830, but William and his wife and the other three boys all left Virginia in 1820 or shortly thereafter.

Note that William moved to Howard County, Missouri, not Saline County (some of the family moved to Saline County later). Also, he did not move to Missouri until 1824 or ’25, though two of his sons did go earlier, about 1820. The Adair Wilson family record [77] says that William moved from Virginia to Missouri in 1824. *History of Saline County, Missouri* [46] (in the biography of William Adair Wilson) says 1825. Daughter Nancy was married in Augusta
Second Generation

County in September 1824, and her marriage bond was signed by William and son William A., showing that they were in Virginia at that time, so 1825 is probably more likely. The financial problems discussed below may explain why all of the Wilsons decided to move west to Missouri, to get a fresh start.

William was probably born in Augusta County in the Colony of Virginia, though there is no documentation of it. It is clear from his father’s will that William was under 21 at the time the will was written (9 Sep 1768). That means he was born after September 1747. In information from Katherine Bushman that was passed on by James Hotchkiss [12], in one place William is referred to as an infant, meaning under 14, at the time of his father’s death. That would mean born after September 1754. An entry for John Wilson in “California Pioneer and Immigrant Files, 1790-1950” on Ancestry.com shows his father as William Wilson (1750–1823). Death in 1823 doesn’t make sense because of the accounts of him moving to Missouri in 1824 or 1825 and his signature on daughter Nancy’s marriage bond in 1824; 1750 is possible for his birth, but doesn’t have much credibility since the death year is probably wrong. An issue of the Fayette, MO, Intelligencer newspaper dated 9 Nov 1827 contained the following death notice (obtained from the State Historical Society of Missouri, Missouri Digital Newspaper Project): “In this county, on the 14th ult. after a short illness, Mr. William Wilson, aged about 71 years.” There is currently no way of knowing if this is the right William Wilson, but it fits with what we know. It would make his birth in about 1756.

The line in the Hotchkiss manuscript that William might have been a lawyer in Augusta County is based on the following, which is from a summary of a deed in Augusta County Deed Book 40, p. 362:

27 January 1816 - Whereas I, Edward Askins OF THE COUNTY OF PERRY IN THE INDIANA TERRITORY (Note: became a State this same year) - have sold to John Buchanan of Augusta County, State of Virginia, a tract of land containing by survey 127 acres, he is to have it - which land is situated in Augusta County, Virginia on the Waters of Christians Creek and was devised to me by Will of John Askins, dec’d. I authorize William Wilson Senior of said County to be my attorney in fact to convey said land...

(The Went Thataway by Charles Hughes Hamlin [33], vol. 1, p. 7.) This one mention is not much to go by to say that William was a lawyer, but it might be significant that William was typically listed as William Willson Sr. in the Augusta County tax rolls (see “Land Tax Records” on p. 195). On the other hand, perhaps this is the William referred to as William Willson Esq. in the tax rolls.

Information from several sources indicates that William served in the Revolutionary War. A biography of Robert H. Wilson in Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri [16] says that Robert’s unnamed paternal grandfather served in the Revolutionary War. A biography of Adair Wilson in Portrait and Biographical Record of

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4 http://shs.umsystem.edu/newspaper/mdnp/index.shtml
Descendants of Robert Wilson


During the early wars Grandfather was in the Army and was ordered from Virginia to South Carolina and while there he married. He was, so history says, about the only man of his company that succeeded in getting back to Virginia, a majority of them having been killed or died from the hardship of the campaign.

Unfortunately, there is very little documentation available to confirm that William fought in the Revolution. The best that has been found so far is in a book called *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution* by John H. Gwathmey [32]. There is an entry on p. 835 for a “Willson, William (son of Robert)” from Augusta County who served in Capt. Long’s Company. Possibly there was another William Wilson/Willson in that time and place who also had a father named Robert, but there seems to be a good chance that this is our William. This also brings up that many of the old records from Augusta County for William and his sons have Wilson spelled with a double-l. It’s not very consistent, with sometimes single-l Wilson and double-l Willson in the same document. It seems to have settled down to Wilson sometime in the 1820s or 1830s, though there are census records as late as 1870 with the Willson spelling.

There was actually more than one Captain Long from Augusta County in the Revolutionary War, but the one that seems most likely referred to here is Francis Long. The discussion of the Revolution in *Annals of Augusta County* [72] has two main mentions of South Carolina: Several soldiers from Augusta County are noted to have been taken prisoner at Charleston on 12 May 1780, and units from Augusta County were involved in the battle of Cowpens in South Carolina on 17 Jan 1781. There is no indication that Capt. Long’s company was involved in those actions, but then all the information is very fragmentary. It is also possible that William was in Capt. Long’s company part of the time and in another company part of the time.

There is a lot of good information in a deed in Augusta County Deed Book 41, pp. 294–295 [5]. Following is a transcription of it (originally obtained from James Hotchkiss). Punctuation has been added to try to make it more readable, but parts of it are hard to understand.

This Indenture, made the 23rd day of June in this year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen Between William Willson and Cathar]ine his wife of the County of Augusta and State of Virginia of the one part and William Thompson of the County and State aforesaid of the other part.

Witnesseth that the said William Willson and Catharine his wife for and in consideration of the sum of three thousand dollars lawful money of the State aforesaid, to them in hand paid by the said William Thompson, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, traded [?] granted Bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said Wm. Thompson his heirs and assigns a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Augusta, on the head waters of the South river, containing by estimation two hundred acres be the same more or less, being a part
Second Generation

of the same tract of land conveyed by Samuel Willson to Robert Willson by deed bearing date the 2nd day of June 1755 and devised by the said Robert Willson to his sons Robert and David Willson by his last will and testament bearing date the 9th day of Sept. 1768, a moiety whereof fell to the sd. David by the death of the said Robert without issue, he the said David being his heir at Law, whereby the said David became possessed of the legal title to the whole tract claimed as aforesaid, and which was afterwards devised by the said David Willson to the above named William Willson by his last will and testament bearing date the 25th day of January 1804, which said deeds and wills are duly admitted to records in the County Court office of Augusta, and which said two hundred acres of land is bounded as follows, to wit:  Beginning at a white oak corner to David H... [?] and running thence with his line South twenty one and a third degrees West two hundred and Eleven poles to a Locust in Robert Tate’s line, thence with his line and a line of John Tate’s heirs South twenty one and two third degrees East one hundred and fifty two poles to a chesnut and hickory in the line of Tate’s heirs, thence a new line North twenty one and a third degrees East Two hundred and Eleven poles to a small hickory and sassafras, near a walnut pointer in Doak’s line, thence with the said Doak’s and David Strain’s line North Twenty one and two third degrees west one hundred and fifty two poles to the Beginning. Together with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto Belonging or in any wise appertaining.  To have and to hold ... said tract or parcel of Land with its appurtenances unto the said William Thompson, his heirs and assigns to the only proper use and behoof of him, the said William Thompson, his heirs and assigns forever.  And the said William Willson and wife for themselves, their heirs Execrs. and Adms. do covenant with the said Wm. Thompson, his heirs and assigns to the only proper use and behoof of him, the said William Thompson, his heirs and assigns forever.  And the said William Willson and wife for themselves, their heirs Execrs. and Adms. do covenant with the said Wm. Thompson, his heirs and assigns that they, the said Wm. Willson and wife, their heirs Execrs. & Adms. the said two hundred acres of land with its appurtenances unto the said William Thompson, his heirs and assigns against the claim or claims of them, the said William Willson and wife and their heirs, and of all and any person or persons whatsoever, shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents.  In testimony whereof the said Wm. Willson and wife have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

          Wm. Willson     (seal)
          Catharine Wilson (seal)

Augusta County, to wit [?]

We Robert Doak and Joseph Brown Justices of the peace in the County aforesaid and State of Virginia do hereby certify that Catharine Willson the wife of William Willson parties to the foregoing deed for the conveyance of real Estate to William Thompson, bearing date the 23 day of June 1817, personally appeared before us in our County aforesaid and being examined by us privily and apart from her husband, and having the deed aforesaid fully explained to her, she the said Catharine Willson acknowledged the same to be her act and deed & declared that she had willingly signed sealed and delivered the same and that she wished not to retract it.  Given under our hands and seals the 23rd day of June 1817.

          Robert Doak     (seal)
          Jos. Brown       (seal)

Augusta County Court Clerks offices June the 27th 1817. This deed of Bargain and sale from William Willson and Catharine his wife to William Thompson was presented in the Clerks office
Descendants of Robert Wilson

aforesaid, and being acknowledged before me, Vincent Tapp, deputy Clerk of the said Court, by said William Willson according to law is admitted to Record.

Test.
Vincent Tapp DCAC

At a Court held for Augusta County, July the 28th 1817, the acknowledgement of this deed of Bargain and sale being duly certified and reported to the Court is ordered to be entered in the minutes.

Test.
Erasmus Stribling CC

According to the Bushman information [12], the deed of 2 Jun 1755 referred to above was from Robert’s brother Samuel to Robert. It is in Deed Book 7, pp. 165–166 (3 Jun 1755). Samuel bought the land from George and Robert Breckenridge on 8 Feb 1745 (see below). David Wilson’s will, in which he left the land to William, is in Will Book 12, pp. 116–117 (see the notes for William’s brother David Wilson in the previous chapter).

It is hard to make sense of the angles in the description of the tract of land. Normally, “South twenty one and a third degrees West” would mean 21 1/3 degrees west of south, but if all the angles are interpreted that way, the tract is a diamond shape that will not fit within the George & Robert Breckenridge land in the map of the Beverley Patent by J.R. Hildebrand [35]. (The Beverley Patent, or Beverley Manor, was a large tract of land in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley obtained by William Beverley in 1736.) Another possibility would be to interpret it as 21 1/3 degrees south of west, but doing that consistently still results in an odd diamond shape, and if a pole is supposed to be the same as a rod (16.5 feet), then the area would only be about 137 acres. It appears that the tract is supposed to be a rectangle (or nearly a rectangle) with sides of 211 rods and 152 rods (which gives an area close to 200 acres), tilted at an angle of 21 1/3 degrees toward the east. Such a shape and orientation would fit nicely within the George & Robert Breckenridge land in Hildebrand’s map. Initially it was thought that the tract being called out was at the western end of the George & Robert Breckenridge land because the description of the boundary ends with a mention of “David Strain’s line” and there is a tract labelled D STRAIN at the northwest corner of the George & Robert Breckenridge land on the map. However, this is difficult to reconcile with the description of the whole 461 acres in the deed for Samuel Wilson’s purchase of the land from George & Robert Breckenridge. Following is a portion of the deed from George and Robert Breckenridge to Samuel Wilson, dated 8 Feb 1745 (Augusta County Deed Book 1, pp. 12–14 [5]):

This Indenture made the Eight day of February in the Year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and forty five Between George & Robert Brackenridge of the County of Augusta of the One part & Samuel Willson of the same County and Colony of Virginia of the Other part. Witnesseth that for and in Consideration of the sum of fifty pounds Current Money of Virginia to the said George & Robert Brackenridge … paid Samuel Willson at or before the sealing and Delivery of these forever the Receipt whereof he doth hereby Acknowledge and thereof doth release Acquit and discharge the said Samuel Willson his Executors and Administrators by these presents, he the said George & Robert Brackenridge Have [?] granted bargain’d sold … Released and Conf erred and by these
presents Doth grant bargain sell … Release and Confirm unto the said Samuel Willson (in his Actual possession now being by virtue of a bargain and sale to him thereof made by the said Robert Brackenridge for one whole year, by Indenture bearing date the day next before the day of the date [?] of these presents and by force of the Statute for Transferring … and his heirs four hundred and Sixty One Acres of Land on Augusta [?] and Mannor of Beverley part of a tract of Land containing seven hundred and Sixty One Acres granted by Deed of Lease and Release to George and Robert Brackenridge by William Beverley Esq. of Essex County bearing date the Twenty fifth and Twenty sixth days of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty two Declaring that the said George should have three hundred Acres of the north west end of the tract and the remainder thereof to Robert Brackenridge … by the said Deeds remaining of Record in Orange, which remainder [?] … of [four] hundred and Sixty One Acres is bounded as followeth … beginning at a red Oak [?] Corner to said land thence North Sixty five Deg’rs West three hundred and twenty Nine poles to a white Oak & two hickorys [?] Corner to the afores’d George’s land and with his line South twenty Five [?] degrees east two hundred and Sixteen [?] poles to a Locust [?] in a line of said tract thence with the lines of the same South Sixty five degrees East three hundred & thirty poles to two small Chestnuts [?] and a hickory North forty three degrees East two hundred and Eight poles to … White Oaks by the South River North Sixty One degrees West seventy [?] poles to [?] the beginning and all houses Buildings, orchards, Ways Waters, Watercourses [?], profits commodities, hereditaments [?] and appurtenances Whatsoever to the said premises hereby granted, or any part thereof, belonging or in any wise appertaining [?] and the Reversion and Revertions [?] remainder and remainders [?] … Issues and profits thereof and also, all the Estate, Right, Title … use, trust, property, claim, and Demand, whatsoever of … George & Robert Brackenridge of in and to the s’d premises and all Deed Evidences and Writings touching [?] or in any wise concerning the … To have and to hold the said tract of land and all and … Other the premises hereby granted and Released, and every part & parcel thereof, with their and every of their appurtenances … said Samuel Willson his heirs and assigns forever to the only … use and behoof of him the said Samuel Willson and of his heirs and assigns forever and the said George and Robert Brackenridge for himself his heirs Executors, and administrators …

Note that this deed says that Robert Breckenridge had the northwest end of the original 761-acre tract but Samuel’s purchase was of George Breckenridge’s portion of the land. Perhaps David Strain had moved or purchased additional land by 1817. The angles in this description are just as confusing as the ones above for the 200-acre tract. Based on the Hildebrand map [35], it seems likely that this is a not-quite-rectangular tract tilted at an angle of 25 degrees toward the east. The 200-acre tract is probably a rectangle at the western end of this tract, and since the surveying was probably more accurate in 1817 than in 1745, the tilt angle is probably more like 21 1/3 degrees rather than 25 degrees. The following figure seems to fit the two descriptions, the portion outlined in red being the 200-acre tract and the portion outlined in green being the other 261 acres. (The position of the red rectangle is only meant to be illustrative, not exact.) It can be confirmed with a spreadsheet that it is possible to interpret the angles in such a way as to get a reasonable match to the shape and orientation of the tract in the Hildebrand map. Then, with some minor tweaking of the numbers it is possible to reconcile the two tract descriptions and get the desired areas. See below.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Southwestern corner of the Beverley Patent (by J.R. Hildebrand)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land described by George &amp; Robert Breckenridge to Samuel Wilson in 1745</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>-100.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>-107.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>48.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

area1 = 68.5 sq miles
area2 = 426.96 acres
area3 = 6582.2 ac
area4 = 34.60 acres

total area = 460.84 acres

assuming 1 pole = 56.5 ft,
311 = 18411.5 feet
321 = 0.66 miles
322 = 5320.5 feet
328 = 1.01 miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land described by Wm. &amp; Catherine Wilson to Wm. Thompson in 1817</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
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<tr>
<td>----</td>
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<tr>
<td>-500.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>-377.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>-29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-159.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>-300.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

area = 8292 sq miles
area = 200.48 acres

These are the variables:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>231</th>
<th>21.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>150</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>152</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This can attempt of fitting the descriptions in both deeds. Distances and angles were modified somewhat to try to make things consistent between the deeds, with the Hildebrand map, and to make total acres of 460 acres.

The proportions seem a little different than Hildebrand. I wonder if these proportions are off a bit.

Spreadsheet to reconcile the tract descriptions
Unfortunately, William ran into financial difficulties. There is reference to this in a biography of son Robert Wilson in *Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar of Missouri* [10]. On p. 561, it says “Robert received a fair English education, and it was the intention of his father to give him a collegiate course, but, becoming financially embarrassed, he was forced to take his son from school.” The biography also says that Robert moved to Missouri in the spring of 1820, which was about the time these financial difficulties were coming to a head. The financial problems are documented in two Augusta County chancery-court cases involving William, Haupe v. Wilson and others [6] and Little & Telford v. Wilson and others plus Brown v. Little & Telford and others [7]. These financial difficulties are probably why William sold part of his land in 1817, but the problems continued to get worse after that.

The information available in the court papers and various deeds of trust seems to show the debts arising from William’s brother David and William’s sons John and David rather than from William himself. The complaint by Henry Haupe, filed on 9 Sep 1820, stated that William’s brother David, with William as security, had borrowed $676.70 from Haupe on 25 Dec 1813. At the time of David’s death, the money had not been paid back, and Haupe wanted the remaining 260 acres sold, if necessary, to pay him back, with interest. Sons John and David borrowed a considerable amount of money from several people (there is more about this in the notes for John in the next chapter), and some of the loans were secured by William’s land and personal property, all the way down to feather beds and kitchen furniture. Haupe’s complaint stated that there were already three liens on William’s land: a deed of trust to Samuel Clarke dated 29 Jul 1819 to secure a debt to James Moffett (the deed of trust shows that this was a debt of William’s sons John & David along with William’s brother David), a deed of trust to Michael Garber Jr. dated 10 Aug 1819 to secure a payment due from sons John & David to Jeremiah & James Kyle of Richmond, and a deed of trust to William Clarke dated 1 Oct 1819 to secure a payment due from John & David to Adam & Samuel Grove (note that Samuel Grove was William’s son-in-law, having married William’s daughter Mary on 16 Nov 1818). What’s worse, this wasn’t even a complete list of liens on William’s land, as a deed of trust to Preston Trotter dated 9 Oct 1819 to secure a debt by John & David to Little & Telford also listed William’s 261 acres as security. The 261 acres were apparently sold at auction by Michael Garber Jr. to Henry J. Tapp and John Garber for $1,600 (Augusta County Deed Book 45, pp. 385–387, dated 20 Nov 1820), who later sold it to John K. Moore (Augusta County Deed Book 47, pp. 72–73, dated 14 Nov 1822). For more detail on all of this, see “Augusta County Details” on p. 189. A big factor in the travails of John, David, and William is that property values crashed. This is probably reflected in the fact that William sold 200 acres of his land in 1817 for $3,000, but then the remaining 261 acres sold for only $1,600 in 1820. This crash in property values was likely because of the Panic of 1819, which was “arguably this country’s first modern business cycle” and “the first truly national depression America experienced” (p. 1 of Haulman [34]).

There is a lot of information about the Panic, in particular as it affected Virginia, in *Virginia and the Panic of 1819: The First Great Depression and the Commonwealth* by Clyde A. Haulman [34]. On pp. 25–26 Haulman states:
Contemporary observers indicate that the Panic of 1819 was a traumatic experience for the new republic. For example, John C. Calhoun, discussing the situation with John Quincy Adams in 1820, said, “There has been within these two years an immense revolution of fortunes in every part of the Union: enormous numbers of persons utterly ruined; multitudes in deep distress; and a general mass disaffection to the government.”

The young nation’s “traumatic awakening to the capitalist reality of boom-and-bust” reported by these various sources was a complex combination of financial market volatility, swings in international market demand, and federal government financial activity. The actions of the Second Bank of the United States along with those of a number of state-chartered banks have received much scholarly attention.

Of most relevance here is this from p. 63:

Table 4.3 shows the value of real property as assessed in the City of Richmond for the years 1817–25. Here the impact of the Panic of 1819 on property values is clearly evident as assessments fell 49.1 per cent between 1818 and 1819 and decreased again by 50.1 per cent between 1819 and 1820 for a total decline of 74.6 per cent in value of assessed property in the years between the peak in 1818 and the trough in 1820. By 1821 assessments had risen slightly, up 1.4 per cent, and in the following year the value of property continued to rise, up an additional 51.2 per cent. Thus, by 1822 assessed property values in Richmond had recovered somewhat from the trough reached in 1820, but assessments, despite their upward movement, still remained 61.1 per cent below their pre-Panic peak of almost $16 million in 1818. From this point until 1825, assessed real property values changed very little.

Note, however, that the timing of the real-estate crash could have been somewhat later over in the Shenandoah Valley. On p. 60, Haulman shows that the decline in commodity prices occurred somewhat later in western Virginia than in Richmond. John and David Wilson made their ill-fated land purchases in October 1818 and March 1819, possibly before land prices started to drop in Augusta County.

There were three William Wilsons in the 1820 census for Augusta Co., VA (the land tax records for Augusta County show six William Wilsons during this time period; see “Land Tax Records” on p. 195). Two of the census listings were in the area of Waynesborough (Maj. William Wilson and Rev. William Wilson); the third was in the area of Greenville, with a listing of William Wilson (S. River). Some of the deeds transcribed beginning on p. 196 state that William was living on his 260/261-acre tract of land, and deeds and tax records describe the 260/261 acres as being on the head waters of the South River, which fits nicely with the census listing near Greenville. That listing is as follows:

1820 census
Image 1 on Ancestry.com (Saunton [Staunton], Augusta Co., VA)
Listed as William Wilson (S. River). In the margin of this section, it says Greenville Augusta. Household consisted of four males (ages 45+, 26–44, 10–15, under 10) and 6 females (two aged 45+, one 16–25, two aged 10–15, and one under 10). Presumably the male aged 45+ was
William and the male aged 10–15 was William Adair. John and David were already married by this time; the male aged 26–44 might have been Robert, but if so his age was marked wrong. It is not known who the under-10 male was. Presumably one of the females aged 45+ was Catharine and the female aged 16–25 was Nancy. Mary was already married by this time. It is not known who the other four females would have been (ages 45+, 10–15, 10–15, under 10). Also, one slave was listed, a male aged 14–25.

William Wilson and Catharine Yancey were married before 1790 in Charleston, SC. Catharine Yancey was possibly born between 1761 and 1770 in SC. (Marriage and birth places are not certain, nor is the range for birth year.) She died between 1830 and 1839 in Randolph Co., MO.

Very little is known about Catharine. The Adair Wilson family record [77] lists William Wilson’s wife as Catharine Yancey (Adair was their grandson). There are three Augusta County deeds that show William’s wife’s name as Catharine or Catherine. A couple of listings for John Wilson in the “California Pioneer and Immigrant Files, 1790-1950” on Ancestry.com show his mother’s name as Yancey.

James Hotchkiss speculated that her father might have been Robert Yancey. It appears that the basis for this identification was the fact that Robert Wilson (son of William and Catharine) probated a Robert Yancey who died intestate in Howard County, MO. However, “Randolph County, Missouri Administration and Will Records 1836-1858” on Ancestry.com lists three other people who died intestate and were administered by Robert Wilson, so it may be a mistake to read too much into the connection with Robert Yancey. A Yancey researcher, Dennis Yancey, thinks that this Robert is unlikely to be Catharine’s father. He knew of one Yancey family in Augusta County, VA, but there is no information about them having a daughter named Catharine (also, as discussed below, grandsons Adair and Ben Wilson said she was from South Carolina).

In his family record [77], Adair Wilson said that Catharine Yancey was born in South Carolina and she and William were married in Charleston, SC. A couple of biographies of Robert Wilson (son of William and Catharine) have some additional clues about her. First, on p. 561 of Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar of Missouri [10], it says “His father was a very respectable farmer of English descent, and his mother was a Yancey, and belonged to the noted family of that name in the Old Dominion.” Old Dominion refers to Virginia, which seems to be in contradiction to Adair’s entry, though perhaps the family lived in Virginia before moving to South Carolina. Second, in an obituary of Robert in the New York Times on 18 May 1870, it says “His mother was a relative of the late Hon. WILLIAM L. YANCEY, of Alabama.” Unfortunately, “relative of” is too vague to clear things up very much. However, Ben H. Wilson (grandson of William and Catharine, Adair’s older brother) was a little more specific in a letter written around 1895 [78]. He said:

Grandmother Wilson was a Miss Yancey and an Aunt of Wm. L. Yancey of South Carolina – and she was a native of that State. During the early wars Grandfather was in the Army and was ordered from Virginia to South Carolina and while there he married.
This letter helps a lot by providing a reason why William happened to be married in South Carolina. The ages aren't right for Catharine Yancey to be William L. Yancey’s aunt, but possibly a great aunt? The big problem with Ben’s story, though, is the long gap between the end of the war and the birth of William’s oldest child John in 1790. It is possible that there were some older children who died young or are not known for some reason. Other possibilities are that he met Catharine during the war, but went back and married her several years later or that the trip or expedition to South Carolina wasn’t part of the Revolutionary War, but several years afterward. More research is needed.

James Hotchkiss’s contribution to the Ancestral File [18] said that Catharine was born before 1757. It is not known what basis there was for this, but that seems a bit early considering that the oldest child (John) was born in 1790. That would have made her 33 or older when John was born and 50 or older when William was born. Not impossible, but a bit on the high side. It’s hard to be sure of anything with the older censuses, but in Randolph County, MO, in the 1830 census there is a listing for Robert Wilson with a female aged 60–69 in the household. It looks right for Catharine living with her son after her husband had passed away. This age range would make her born in 1761–1770. In turn, that would make her 20–29 when John was born and 37–46 when William was born. These are more reasonable ages.

William Wilson and Catharine Yancey had the following children:


11 ii. David S. Wilson, born 12 Jul 1792, Augusta Co., VA; married Margaret G. Kinnear, 3 Jun 1819, Rockbridge Co., VA; died 8 Aug 1844, probably Saline Co., MO.


Portion of a map from *Map Guide to American Migration Routes, 1735-1815* by William Dollarhide [26]. The Wilsons lived near Staunton in the Shenandoah Valley. It is thought that Samuel and Robert Wilson probably came down the Great Valley Road from Pennsylvania, since that was a primary path for settlement. The Pioneer’s Road from Alexandria, VA, opened in 1746, so Robert Wilson could also have come that way.
Third Generation

10. **John Wilson** (William-2, Robert-1) was born on 28 Jan 1790 in Augusta Co., VA. He died on 2 Feb 1877 at the age of 87 in Suisun, Solano Co., CA. He was a lawyer and politician.

John Wilson was born in Augusta County, VA, in 1790. Little is known of his early life, but it is believed that he was married to Priscilla McCoun in Mercer County, KY, in 1812, served in the War of 1812, and then married Martha Woods in Augusta County in 1817. Presumably his first wife had passed away. And Martha seems not to have lived very long either. John moved to Howard County, MO, about 1820, and married his third wife, Ann Pulliam, in 1825. He was a lawyer and was active in the Whig party, which was a distinct minority in Missouri. After Zachary Taylor (Whig) became president in 1849, and with the California gold rush going on, John decided to move there. (By the way, it has been suggested that John was related to Zachary Taylor, but it is not known if that is true, or what the relationship might have been.) He obtained appointments as Indian agent for Salt Lake and navy agent at San Francisco. The trip to California was quite eventful, and included much difficulty getting through the mountains of northern California in late fall / early winter. He and his family had to abandon most of their belongings there (though they were able to retrieve some of them later). He did not arrive in San Francisco until 8 Dec 1849. He became a prominent lawyer in San Francisco and engaged extensively in land speculation and to some extent in politics. He died in 1877 at the age of 87.

He was known as General John Wilson, though he wasn’t really a general. Fred Rogers, in end note 171 of the third reference below [59], says that there was a John Wilson who had short service as inspector general with a few companies of Missouri militia during the Black Hawk war, and possibly that accounts for his being called “General”—but he didn’t know if this was the same John Wilson. However, John’s War of 1812 pension papers from the National Archives [81] contain a page with the following statement: “John Wilson ... was the Divission Inspector General of the 1st Division of Missouri Militia a part of which were called into the service of the United States in the summer of 1832 ... to defend against the expected attacks of the Indians under Black Hawk”. This confirms that our John Wilson was an inspector general,
though it is still speculation that this is how he came to be known as General John Wilson. (There is also a letter to Abiel Leonard in the Abiel Leonard Papers [39], dated 20 Apr 1830—or possibly 1832—that is signed “John Wilson, Division Inspector of 1st Div, Missouri Militia”.) The pension papers also contain a physical description: He was 5 ft. 11 in. tall, and had blue eyes. (The Hotchkiss manuscript [37] says he was 6 ft. 3 in.; it doesn’t say where that information is from.) At the time of his enlistment in 1814 he was a merchant. His official dates of service in the War of 1812 were from 29 Aug 1814 to 10 Dec 1814 (104 days). He was in the Virginia Militia in the company of Capt. Samuel Doak and the regiment of Col. James McDowell, and attained the rank of orderly sergeant.

Some sources say he was born in Tennessee, but that seems unlikely. There is no other information indicating that the family spent any time in Tennessee.

There are several Augusta County deeds of trust involving debts of John and his brother David to various people in the years from 1815 to 1820 [5, 12]. Their debts also figured in two Augusta County chancery-court cases, Haupe v. Wilson and others [6] and Little & Telford v. Wilson and others plus Brown v. Little & Telford and others [7]. At least some of the borrowed money was used to buy property, presumably for investment. In particular, in 1819 John and David bought property in and around the town of Waynesborough, including a tavern, from William Brown for $3,250, which they were to pay in installments up through February 1827. However, Brown’s court complaint in 1826 said that shortly after he sold the land to them the Wilsons became insolvent and abandoned the property, and they had not made any of the payments. A deed of trust dated 25 Apr 1820 from John and David to sheriff James McNutt mentions that they had been trading under the firm of John & David Wilson. That deed of trust appears to be them basically declaring bankruptcy and forfeiting loan collateral. There are affidavits along with Brown’s complaint stating that the land Brown sold the Wilsons would probably not sell for more than $2,000 in 1826, if even that much. So John and David (and father William, because he had secured some of their loans) were stuck and couldn’t make the payments even by selling the property. This drop in land value was likely caused by the Panic of 1819; see the notes for William Wilson in the previous chapter. The court papers show that the court appointed a commissioner to oversee John’s and David’s property starting in 1821. Presumably, the property finally reverted to Brown in 1827. Note that John probably moved to Missouri in 1820 or 1821, but David remained in Virginia until 1830. For more details on all of this, see “Augusta County Details” on p. 189.

John continued with land speculation throughout his life. There is quite a bit of discussion of this in the Hotchkiss manuscript [37], including how he always seemed to be short of money. He was involved in some very large deals, including the Valliere claim, which is discussed below.

There are transcriptions of a few obituaries in the John Wilson Papers of the University of California at Berkeley [80], but none with much additional information. Indeed, a report of an organization called Sons of Revolutionary Sires dated 7 Feb 1877 says (in part):
For several months we have tried to get his record for publication in our first Historic volume, but the principle of putting off till to-morrow what could be done to-day, has deprived us of the valuable incidents of his long and eventful life, unless he has left some written information among his papers. It is to be hoped this will be a warning to those whose duty it is to furnish the material for labors of the council, as we have undertaken to publish the biography of each member, with an approved genealogy of his family and interesting traditional incidents that so generally mark the character of Revolutionary Patriots.

It sure would have been nice to have that material! One of the obituaries says that he was a protégé of Thomas Jefferson when he was in Virginia. It would be nice to know if there’s anything to that. That obituary is also one of the places where it says that he was a relative of President Taylor. Another obituary just says that he was “an intimate friend of President Taylor” and also that “He was on terms of great intimacy with President Tyler, though on the refusal of the latter to sign the Bank Bill a rupture took place, which was never healed.”

A lengthy letter from John to family back in Missouri, written a few months after he arrived in San Francisco, is reproduced in:

“California Letter of John Wilson, 1850” edited by Frederic A. Culmer [21].

The letter is a very interesting portrayal of life in the early days of San Francisco, plus a little bit about his family’s difficulties getting through the northern California mountains in late 1849. More about John (and some about his family) is in three articles in the *California Historical Society Quarterly*:


“Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822–1860), with Some Related and Contemporary Art of Alexander Edouart (Concluded)” by Fred B. Rogers [60].

There is also quite a bit about John in the Hotchkiss manuscript [37].

John’s will, obtained from the Howard County [MO] Genealogical Society (some punctuation added):

In the name of God Amen: I, Genl. John Wilson of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, being weak in body but of sound and disposing [?] mind do make publish and declare this my last will and testament.
I will state first the following fact. My wife Mrs. Ann R. Wilson owns all my property in common with me, wheresoever the same may be, and out of which I desire that our common debts are first to be paid.

1st. I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Ann R. Wilson during her natural life the use of all the property or proceeds thereof we own in the State of California or Oregon, and at her death what property I have in California I leave one half to my Daughter Mary Eliza Wakeman and one half to my Son Robert Wilson as tenants in common.

2nd. The real Estate or block of Lots in the City of Astoria State of Oregon or the proceeds thereof I specially bequeath to my Daughter Mary Eliza Wakeman after the death of my wife Ann R. Wilson.

3rd. Of the property I own in the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisana, Texit, Florada [sic] or Virginia – especially the Valliare [sic] claim now pending in the United States Courts in Missouri, I give and bequeath one fourth to my Son David Wilson, one fourth to the three children of my son John Wilson, one fourth to my Daughter Mary Eliza Wakeman and one fourth to my Son Robert Wilson as tenants in common.

4th. I leave my wife Ann R. Wilson and Daughter Mary Eliza Wakeman my Executrix is [??] and will add the name of my Son David Wilson as executor – to assist them as such in administering upon the property belonging to my Estate outside of the states of California and Oregon – if the law will permit such an appointment. I desire that no bonds be required of my executrixes or executor or either of them, believing they will act fairly. I want my executrixes to call upon Mr. McElrath Atty. at law and get him to sign an agreement which he has in writing, about the property that my Wife Ann R. Wilson owens in her own right in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties in the state of California. I hereby revoke all former wills, and hope my children will be satisfied with this arrangement as I think it is under the circumstances a fair one.

John Wilson
signed sealed published and declared by the said John Wilson to be his last will and testament in the presence of us who in his presence and at his requests and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names hereto as witnesses this first day of February A.D. 1877
Saml. F. Chapin, Residence Suisun City, Solano Co., Cal.
Co. P. Reeves, Residence Suisun City, Solano Co., Cal.

Filed in the office of the Clerk of the Probate Court in & for the City & County of San Francisco, State of California this second day of March A.D. 1877
Thos. H. Reynolds
Clerk
By Chas. E. Nougnes [?]
Deputy Clerk

On a separate page, it is identified as a certified copy of the will, signed by S.F. County Clerk Thomas H. Reynolds. The copy was filed in Howard County, MO:

State of Missouri
County of Howard
I, Jo. H. Finks, Clerk of the Circuit Court & ex-officio Recorder of Deeds, within & for the County aforesaid, do certify that the within instrument of unity [?] was filed in my office on the 11th Decr. 1878 at 10 o'clock AM & is duly recorded in deed Book No. 21 at Pages 108 & 109. [Another place mentions pages 107, 108, & 109.]
Witness my hand & official seal this 30th Decr. 1878
Jo. H. Finks, Clerk
By L. Wright, D.C.

The Valliere claim, referred to in the third item above, was a huge Spanish land grant covering millions of acres in Missouri and Arkansas. The story of John’s involvement is very interesting. Following is an excerpt from a long newspaper article about the Valliere land grant in The Southern Guardian (Little Rock, AR), 22 Apr 1911, p. 2:

One account of this great land claim says that the records of this grant were accidentally discovered by a gentleman in the surveyor-general’s office, nearly forty years after the death of the grantee. This gentleman informed the Valliere heirs of the records of their deed in June, 1841. The surviving heirs gave a deed to John Wilson of Missouri for an undivided half interest in these lands. Wilson was an enterprising lawyer, who moved to Missouri when there were no land titles there except Spanish land titles. He became involved in the elucidation of such grants and spent his whole life in pursuing clues to Spanish and Mexican land grants, and it was supposed that he would be able to straighten this grant, as he had so many others. But, as before stated, the land records of Louisiana had been taken to Cuba and were not obtainable. Wilson purchased in New Orleans, for $7,000, from a Mrs. Pintard, copies of the grants, some in full and some in substance. These formed evidence of the grants made. Then, he found, in the secretary of state’s office, the governor-general’s order book, containing the first official act of the Valliere grant, in the handwriting of Baron de Carondelet. This, with the archives purchased from Mrs. Pintard, gave him the first and second official acts, and he went to Havana with a letter of introduction from Daniel Webster to try to get the third from the hidden archives. He was put off for a long time, but finally the keeper of the archives took him secretly to the old tobacco warehouse, where they were secreted. In a gloomy inner apartment, dumped on the floor, lay cart loads of records. After great labor, Wilson extracted the Valliere grant, in due form and properly signed. Of this he was permitted to take a copy. This was all done before the deed to him of half the claim was made. After this deed was made he went to New York, where he organized a company to secure confirmation of the grant. Wilson sold his claim to the undivided half of this grant to James Currie in 1842. [Not sure how to reconcile this with the fact that John’s will in 1877 indicates that he still had an interest in the claim. Maybe he sold part of his claim to Currie.] In 1843 Daniel Webster and Rufus Choate wrote a joint opinion saying that Valliere had obtained a good title to the land….

In 1860 an act was passed for the final adjustment of private land claims in Florida, Louisiana and Missouri. … Duryea, by information from Havana, was convinced of the genuineness of the claim, and filed a new petition for the land, just eighty-two years after the date of the original grant [this would be 1875]. The United States, through the attorney of the United States Court of the Western District of Missouri, interposed a demurrer, which, after the case had dragged along till February, 1878, the court sustained, declaring the grant invalid, and dismissed the bill of the claimants. The petitioners appealed to the United States Supreme Court, to which the case was submitted on printed

argument. The Supreme Court confirmed the decree of the District Court, dismissing the suit from the courts, holding that for want of an adequate description by which it can now be surveyed or identified, the claim did not come within the provisions of the section of the act of 1860, which brought the claims to the notice of the courts. [This wasn’t quite the end of the claims, but no more is needed here.]

1820 census
Image 4 on Ancestry.com (Waynesboro, Augusta Co., VA)
Listed as John Wilson. Household consisted of 1 male age 26–44 (John), 2 males age under 10 (could be David and John T.), 1 female age 16–25 (could be John’s second wife, Martha/Patsy), and 1 female age under 10 (possibly a daughter who died young?). Can’t be sure this is the right John Wilson, but he seems to fit well. This is the only John Wilson listed for Augusta County, VA. There is a John Wilson, age 26–44, living by himself in Mercer County, KY, which doesn’t seem likely. There are no John Williams listed in Howard County, MO.

1830 census
Images 57 and 58 on Ancestry.com (Howard Co., MO)
Listed as John Wilson. Household consisted of three males (one aged 30–39, two aged 20–29) and two females (ages 20–29 and under 5). The male aged 30–39 could have been John, though he probably was 40 at the time of the census (but maybe the age was supposed to be as of January 1?). One of the males aged 20–29 could have been his brother, William Adair. Could one or both of sons David and John T. have been listed as age 20–29? They were younger than that. The female aged 20–29 could have been wife Ann, and the under-5-year-old could have been daughter Susan Anne. Also, two slaves are listed, females aged 24–35 and under 10. This doesn’t seem right because son William Henry is missing, but the other John Williams in Howard County fit even less well.

John Wilson and Priscilla McCoun were married on 1 Dec 1812 in Mercer Co., KY.

James Hotchkiss listed John Wilson’s first wife as McCoun [first name not known], with no date or place for the marriage [37]. He listed her death as 1831, which does not seem likely. John’s second marriage was in 1817, and chances are that his first wife died before then.

A record on Ancestry.com in “California Pioneer and Immigrant Files, 1790-1950” lists McCoun [no first name] as the first wife of General John Wilson and says that the date of marriage is “Uncertain. About 1812 or before.” For place of marriage, it says “Supposedly Virginia. Maybe Augusta Co.”, with “Staunton” written above “Augusta Co.”

The name of John’s first wife is given as Percilla McGowen in his War of 1812 pension papers from the National Archives [81]. Note, however, that this is on a form filled out by John’s widow, Ann, after he was dead, so it isn’t surprising if it’s not quite right.

McCoun genealogies list a Priscilla McCoun/Maccoun who married a John Wilson on 1 Dec 1812 in Mercer County, KY (see James McCoun & Margaret Walker & Their Descendants by
Maurie McCoun Klimcheck [38]; in particular, this marriage is listed on p. 218 of Volume II). This was unexpected, as no other known information indicates that John lived in Kentucky for a time. However, it seems to fit, so provisionally this Priscilla McCoun is assumed to be John’s first wife. Priscilla was the daughter of John McCoun and Elizabeth Tilford. Another bit of information indicating that this might be a good fit is that Priscilla is known to have had sons David and John T. Wilson. We know from John Wilson’s will that he had sons David and John, and James Hotchkiss indicated that they were from his first marriage.

The Klimcheck book, on pp. 172–178 of Vol. II, has quite a bit about legal challenges over the estate of Priscilla’s father, John McCoun, who died intestate in December 1826. On p. 173 is a transcription of a document dated 14 Apr 1828, which was signed by (among others) “Lanty Holman, guardian to the heirs of Priscilla Wilson and John Maccoun, Jr.” The “heirs of Priscilla Wilson” having a guardian seems to imply that their father had also died, which would mean that this was the wrong John Wilson, since our John Wilson lived until 1877. However, additional information on this can be found on Mercer County guardian bonds dated 7 May 1827 for David Wilson and John Tilford Wilson, appointing Lanty Holman their guardian (copies obtained from the Harrodsburg [KY] Historical Society). The wording is a little different on the two bonds (one for David and one for John), but with the same meaning. The one for David says that Lanty Holman was being appointed a Special Guardian “for the purpose of taking care of his estate descended to him from his grandfather John McCoun, Dec’d”. Each bond describes the child as an “orphan son of John Wilson, Dec’d”, but with the “orphan” and the “Dec’d” crossed out. It is reasonable to conclude from this that their father, John Wilson, was not dead. At this time, John Wilson Sr. was long gone from Mercer County, living in Howard County, MO. Perhaps someone local was needed in Mercer County to represent the interests of the boys in settling their grandfather’s estate, so Lanty Holman was not a guardian in the sense of the person who raised them, but rather was a legal representative. It is not known whether David and John T. were living with John Sr. at this time, or perhaps with some other family member(s). However, we know that David was in Howard County, MO, as of 1835. See the notes on David in the next chapter for more about that. (By the way, we see this type of guardian elsewhere in the family as well. After David S. Wilson, the brother of John Wilson Sr., was dead, a legal challenge arose over the estate of a brother of David’s wife, Margaret Kinnear Wilson. James Reid, who was the husband of David’s daughter Eliza Jane, was named guardian of the minor children of David and Margaret for purposes of representation in the legal challenge. Margaret was still alive and raising the children, as can be seen from census records.)

John Wilson and Priscilla McCoun had the following children:

+16  i.  **David Wilson**, born 2 Nov 1813, Mercer Co., KY; married Mary Jane Almon; married Sarah Clark Hill, 1 May 1854, Howard Co., MO; died abt 1887, Bonne Femme Twp., Howard Co., MO.

John Wilson and Martha T. (Patsy) Woods were married on 24 Jun 1817 in Augusta Co., VA. Martha T. (Patsy) Woods was born in 1796 in Albemarle Co., VA.

It’s a little odd that on Ancestry.com, in “Virginia, Marriages, 1740-1850”, there are two marriages between John Wilson and Martha Woods, one day apart. One on 23 Jun 1817 in Albemarle County, the other on 24 Jun 1817 in Augusta County. It appears that those were the same marriage, recorded in two different places. The explanation is thought to be that the first date is for the marriage bond and the second date is for the actual marriage. Here is a bit of a letter from Katherine Bushman to James Hotchkiss, dated 11 Nov 1991 [12]:

The marriage bond of John Wilson and Martha T. Woods is recorded in Albemarle County, Virginia, dated 23 June 1817. The Second Marriage Record of Augusta County, Virginia, 1813-1850, page 8, married by John McCue on 24 June 1817. John McCue was pastor of Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church.

However, a copy of the bond (obtained from the Albemarle County Clerk) shows that it is actually dated 24 Jun 1817. It is for $150 and is stated to be for a marriage between John Wilson and Martha T. [?] Woods, daughter of Micajah Woods.

John Wilson and Ann Robertson Pulliam were married on 27 Nov 1825 in Saline Co., MO. Ann Robertson Pulliam was born on 10 Aug 1802 in TN. She died on 21 Aug 1886 at the age of 84 in San Francisco, CA.

Her full name of Anne Robertson Pulliam is given in a record on Ancestry.com in the “California Pioneer and Immigrant Files, 1790-1950”. Some sources, like this one, spell her first name Anne, but more spell it Ann. And she herself, in John’s War of 1812 pension file [81], spelled it Ann.

She is included (spelled Ann Robertson Pulliam) in “Cockrill Genealogy” by Granville Goodloe, in Vol. 3 of the American Historical Magazine (1898), available from Google Books. Her parents were Drury Pulliam and Ann Cockrill. Ann Robertson was her maternal grandmother.

Newspaper clipping (a handwritten note says SF Post Oct. 2, 1886) from Katherine Cooper’s scrapbook in the John Wilson Papers [80]:

... A month ago San Francisco lost two of her mothers who were held in high regard, and whose lives read like a romance—Mrs. General John Wilson and her cousin, Mrs. Colonel Bryant. Mrs. Ann Robinson [sic] Wilson was a native of Tennessee, and in her eighty-fifth year. She had no illness, and her going was simply translation—laying aside the dear body that we loved and that had served her so long as needed. To the end none of her senses were impaired—no infirmities attended her and she had her second sight. She read the most important literature and kept pace with the times, taking especial interest in national affairs. She was dignified and graceful, and while cordially hospitable and genial, proudly held to all polite forms. She was like a grand old queen, enthroned in her
rocking-chair, holding court—always to a very happy audience. She never lost her important individuality in the household, although the children of the first, second and third generation were of her home.

Even when she had ceased making conventional calls, separate invitations and calling cards were sent her—and, in fact, the cream of California people, old and young, made it their pleasure to visit her.

During the recent G. A. R. [Grand Army of the Republic] Encampment my first greeting from General Sherman was: “How is ma, and how is my good old neighbor, Mrs. Wilson? I must run up there and take her Mrs. Sherman’s messages.” Upon every return to California the latter lady always had a most enjoyable day with her. Mrs. Wilson was a cousin of Mrs. President Polk, whom she was said to resemble in dignity of manner and exalted character. General Jackson was an intimate friend of the family, and in girlhood at balls he had more than once selected her as partner in the Virginia reel. When a little child, her uncle gave a dinner to Aaron Burr, who had retired from the vice presidency when Jefferson was President, and who was then going through the Southwest. It was suspected that his journey was for the purpose of organizing an expedition to invade Mexico and establish an empire which would embrace a number of the Southwestern states of this Union. Her parents rode over on horseback, the father carrying her before him. She was perched upon a high seat at table, near the distinguished guest. She was afterward married to General Wilson, who had for years been with Thomas Jefferson and an inmate of his home. He was active in campaigns, and as lawyer and politician traveled much about the country. His wife often accompanied him down the Mississippi, sometimes in company with Henry Clay, Prentiss and Benton. This couple danced the minuet in New Orleans more than sixty years ago, and were prominent in the brilliant society of that day.

In 1849 President Taylor sent General Wilson to California on a government mission. A government train accompanied him over the plains, and beside his family, Mr. J. M. Hutchings, now of Yosemite valley, and Dr. Birdsall and daughters—one of whom married Governor Latham—were also included in the company. Mrs. Wilson was soon established in a house—new, large and convenient for the times—where she exercised an ennobling influence. It became the center for the gay and brilliant spirits of that magnificent pioneer band—the flower of the best families from every section of the union. This hospitable nature was hers to the end—happily entertaining Mrs. Thos. Brown and Mrs. Tingley at dinner but a couple of days before she died. When eighty, after the General’s death, she revisited the East, where she was accorded ovations from the highest even to some of her aged slaves, who still continue about the old plantations, and one of whom came out to California to her. She made the trip home entirely unattended.

She was a favorite among the young ladies and gentlemen, and receiving them was a great pleasure. She was a benevolent Christian character, and her long life, with all its vicissitudes, as near perfection as is often attained.

...  
POLLY IDLEWAY.
To follow up on the comments about General Sherman, according to Wikipedia he was a bank manager in San Francisco from 1853 to 1857 (before he was a general, of course). It must have been during that period that he got to know John and Ann Wilson. Their granddaughter, Katherine Wakeman Cooper, wrote an article for The Grizzly Bear magazine, November 1912 issue (available from Google Books), about the Rincon Hill neighborhood in San Francisco where the Wilsons lived. She mentioned the Shermans and said that they were friends of the Wilsons.

An issue of the Jackson, MO, Independent Patriot newspaper dated 19 Feb 1825 contained the following notice (obtained from the State Historical Society of Missouri): “Passed at the present session of the Legislature of Missouri, in addition to the ones previously published in the Patriot ... 56. An act declaring the unlawful marriage of Ann R. Pulliam with W. M. Chick, null and void.” Wonder what that was about??

John Wilson and Ann Robertson Pulliam had the following children:

18 i. William Henry Wilson died in 1851 in CA. James Hotchkiss did not have this child listed [37].

A letter from John Wilson to Abiel Leonard, dated 11 Apr 1852, quoted in “‘General’ John Wilson, Signer of the Deseret Petition: Including Letters from the Leonard Collection” by Frederic A. Culmer [22], includes the following:

I lost my son Wm. Henry last fall with Disentary, caught in the mines where the necessary mode of living leads to the encouragement of that disease.


The John Wilson Papers include a letter from W. H. Wilson to his father that looks like it is dated 5 May 1857. Based on the above, this can’t be right. Perhaps the 7 is really a 1, so that the date is 5 May 1851. At the time of the letter, William had given up on gold mining and was trying to set up a salmon-fishing business. That must have fallen through. Below is an attempted transcription of the letter (punctuation added; the original has almost no punctuation):

Klamathport May 5th 1851

Dear Father

Some few days ago Mr Thompsons men all went down and took possession of there [sic] old Claim at the Bluff and for this Reason that the company had not

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settled with them according to contract. now our hope is blasted again by paying some mean [?] men to manage the Business of the company. if it had been carried on by good honest men [several words uncertain] out of it but as it has been managed so badly we are again Blown sky high and as this has happened I have concluded to have nothing more to do with it. I have taken up a very valuable Claim near the mouth of the River for fishing which I think will pay some 30 or 40 thousand dollars yearly if properly [sic] managed by cachching [?] Salmon and salting them up in Barrels and sending them to San Francisco. I wish you to aid me in this by enquiring what they will be worth by the Barrel in your city. all that we will want will be a scin [? skein?] about 400 or 500 hundred [?] yards long and a few hundred Barrels and salt. it is an Island within 1/4 mile of the mouth. Salmon any quantity may be caught in a days work and of the finest stock. any Class of vessels can come in at this time. This is a good Business here and I hope you will give me all of the assistance you can. Business is very dull here as there is nothing to sell. applications made every day for goods. write me by the first opportunity. tell Mr [?name?] to send the [?word?] that I have written for you. make the contract with him for me what you think is [?word?] and I will be satisfied. [?I could?] have sold a great many goods If I had of had them. do all you can for me in this fishing business as it will pay a large fortune for all of us and [?word?] what you can do

I am well. I am doing a littl [sic] in my office. your Son

W. H. Wilson

P.S. I will Refer you to Capt [?name?] of the Schooner Fayanary [?] and he will explain to you the chance I have and he will have an interest in it. write me as he owns two Schooners and will Run them and as all of our shipping. yours

W H Wilson

+19 ii. Susan Anne Wilson, born abt 1830, probably MO; married Henry Lambert (Noah Eastman) Ford, 1 Sep 1851, San Francisco, CA; died 22 Jun 1852, San Francisco, CA.

20 iii. Micajah D. Wilson was born about 1831 in MO. He died on 29 Oct 1862 in Ukiah, Mendocino Co., CA. He was a lawyer and explorer. The Hotchkiss manuscript [37] says that Micajah joined an adventurer named William Walker on an expedition to Central America. Hotchkiss quotes John Wilson (Micajah’s father) as writing:

Micajah has become a wiser and I hope, a better man, having gained amongst the Walkerites a great name. He went away a wild and rather thoughtless boy weighing 220 pounds. He came back a sober, sedate and thinking man, weighing 160 pounds. He gives evidence of great maturity of manhood.

Hotchkiss says that Micajah was killed somewhere in Honduras on Walker’s second expedition. However, “Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822–1860), with Some Related and Contemporary Art of Alexander
Edouart (Continued)” by Fred B. Rogers [59], in end note 172, says that Micajah died at Ukiah, CA, on 29 Oct 1862. He gives the Mendocino Herald (Ukiah), 31 Oct 1862, as the source for that statement. A death announcement was also in the Sacramento Daily Union on 10 Nov 1862 (p. 2), which is available from the California Digital Newspaper Collection.7

Medocino Herald, 31 Oct 1862 (obtained from Fred B. Rogers’ notes in the John Wilson Papers [80]):

“Sudden Death” – M. D. Wilson, Esq., was taken ill with a cold Tuesday last. On Wednesday he was found to be laboring under an inflammation of the stomach and congestion of the lung; and on Wednesday night at 11 o’clock, he expired. Mr. Wilson was a member of the Bar, and a young man of more than ordinary talent in his profession. His loss is seriously felt in the community.

End note 172 of “Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822–1860), with Some Related and Contemporary Art of Alexander Edouart (Continued)” by Fred B. Rogers [59] says that Micajah attended the University of Missouri.

The John Wilson Papers also include a couple of short letters from Micajah to his father. Here is a transcription of one that is fairly interesting:

Trinidad [California] 26th June 1851

Dear father

I arrived here yesterday from above with the intention of going down but there being a few of our old Company here we have Concluded to raise a small party and retake the Gold Bluff. We generally believe here that the Pacific Mining Company have given up their Claim entirely and we intend to go in on our own hook. All of us were willing to do anything in our power to sustain the interests of the Company, but they have acted through-out the whole affair like a set of Jackasses and we did not determine to do this until our last hope was gone that the Pacific Company would do anything. Keep this to yourself until you hear more

Your Son
M D Wilson

iv. Mary Eliza Wilson, born 19 Apr 1836, MO; married Ferdinand Oscar Wakeman, 2 Oct 1854; died 29 Sep 1897, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co., CA.

v. Robert Wilson was born about 1844 in MO. He died between 1877 and 1893 in Denver, CO. He was an assayer in 1870.

The Reid manuscript, written by Mollie Turner Reid in 1931 [56], mentions a son of John Wilson who died unmarried (no name given). It probably refers to Robert, because Mollie didn’t seem to know about John’s children who died

7 https://cdnc.ucr.edu/cdnc
Descendants of Robert Wilson

earlier or about John’s first two marriages and the children from his first marriage.

Robert is mentioned in his father’s will, so he presumably was still alive at that time (February 1877). In end note 172 of “Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822–1860), with Some Related and Contemporary Art of Alexander Edouart (Continued)” by Fred B. Rogers [59], mention is made of a letter from Mrs. M. E. Wakeman [Robert’s sister] to H. L. Ford dated 6 Nov 1893, which said that Robert died in Denver.

Counties and towns of interest around Saline and Howard Counties (modern-day borders)

11. **David S. Wilson** (William-2, Robert-1) was born on 12 Jul 1792 in Augusta Co., VA. He died on 8 Aug 1844 at the age of 52, probably in Saline Co., MO. David was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

The biography of Robert H. Wilson (David’s son) in *Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri* [16] says that the family had eight children, three boys and five girls. If that is the case, then there is one other daughter not listed here. The Ancestral File [18] listed a son named James Patton Willson, born before 1820. That doesn’t fit with the statement about three sons, and it also doesn’t fit with David and Margaret being married in June 1819.

The children listed here are the same as listed on the Foster/Reid Family Tree web site [30]. John and Robert are listed in biographies in *History of Saline County, Missouri* [46]. Robert,
Julia, and A.G. are listed in *Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri* [16]. Margaret, Paulina, Andrew, and Juliett are in census listings. Eliza is listed in Foster/Reid but not any of those other sources. In legal papers associated with settlement of the estate of David’s brother-in-law, Givens Kinnear [58], a court hearing on 9 Aug 1848 is described, in which James Reid (husband of Eliza Jane Wilson Reid, who had already passed away) was chosen and appointed guardian of the minor heirs of David S. Wilson, deceased. Robert, Margaret, and Paulina are listed as heirs over the age of 14, and Givens and Julia are listed as heirs under 14 years of age. The guardianship was for the purpose of looking after their interests in the estate of Givens Kinnear. James Reid was also appointed guardian of his own son, David William Reid, as the heir of Eliza Jane Reid, deceased. John W. Wilson was not listed, as he was already over 21. If there was another daughter in the family, as mentioned above, she must also have already been over 21.

*History of Saline County* [46] says that David fought in the War of 1812, and moved to Saline County, MO, in 1830 (see the notes for sons John W. and Robert H. below).

There are several Augusta County deeds of trust involving debts of David and his brother John to various people in the years from 1815 to 1820 [5, 12]. Their debts also figured in two Augusta County chancery-court cases, Haupe v. Wilson and others [6] and Little & Telford v. Wilson and others plus Brown v. Little & Telford and others [7]. See the notes for David’s brother John, and additional detail in “Augusta County Details” on p. 189.

David apparently continued to have financial problems. The Library of Virginia has online copies of old chancery-court records like the ones referred to above. A couple of others are discussed briefly here, with each one identified by a file ID; for example, the case involving the estate of Givens Kinnear [58] has ID 163-1851-020, where 163 indicates Rockbridge County, 1851 is the year of the final resolution of the case, and 020 indicates that it was the 20th case for 1851. In 1835 there were two cases, Tompkins v. Willson (163-1835-004) and Stevens v. Willson (163-1835-005), which both had the purpose of subjecting “the Interest of David S Willson & Margaret his wife, in the Estate of Nancy Kinnear dec’d to a debt due the Plaintiff”. Nancy Kinnear was a sister of David’s wife, Margaret. When Margaret’s brother, Givens Kinnear, died in 1838, he said in his will “the interest of the sum of fifteen hundred dollars is to be given yearly to my Sister Margaret Wilson & her offspring, for ten years[,] the principle to be given to her heirs”. The executor of Givens’ estate, William Davidson (husband of Givens’ and Margaret’s sister, Susan), in a statement dated 4 Oct 1844 at the beginning of the Kinnear v. Thompson case [58], said that “his [Givens’] object was to provide to the extent of his means for the support, and comfortable maintenance of his sister and her children. The Husband of Mrs Wilson had for years been deeply embarrassed, and was in fact hopelessly insolvent, and [Givens] knew well that if the money went into his hands, his sister and her family would receive no benefit therefrom.” There is no indication of the cause of the insolvency. It sounds like he incurred additional debts after the ones with his brother John.

David S. Wilson and Margaret G. Kinnear were married on 3 Jun 1819 in Rockbridge Co., VA. *Margaret G. Kinnear* was born on 20 Feb 1798 in Rockbridge Co., VA (there is some question
about this date). She died on 26 Aug 1872 in Saline Co., MO. She was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

Margaret was also known as Peggy in some records. In *Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri* [16], she is listed as Marguerite, but most sources give her name as Margaret.

Some sources say she was born in 1796, but Find A Grave [28] (listing for Margaret G Kinnear Wilson) says she died on 26 Aug 1872 at age 74 yrs 6 mos. 6 ds., which agrees with a birth date of 20 Feb 1798.

David S. Wilson and Margaret G. Kinnear had the following children:


24  ii. **John W. Wilson** was born on 17 Jun 1825 in Lynchburg, Campbell Co., VA. He died after 1880. He was a farmer and a merchant.

*History of Saline County, Missouri* (1881) [46], p. 586:

> JOHN W. WILSON, P. O., Gilliam. Is a brother of Dr. Robert H. Wilson, and was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, June 17, 1825. When quite a child he came with his parents to Missouri, in the fall of 1830. The entire family located in Saline county. He was raised on a farm, and after gaining his majority, and after his father’s death, he took charge of the farm and continued on it until a few years ago, when he commenced a general mercantile business in the new town of Gilliam, where he may now be found by all his old friends and associates.

It doesn’t look like John ever married (or if he did, it wasn’t for very long). He was living on the farm with his mother and other family members in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. In the 1880 census, he was living with his sister Juliette’s family. No record of him after 1880 has been found as yet.

However, there is an entry for J. W. Wilson in the Slater City Cemetery on Find A Grave [28], which might be him. The birth date is shown as 25 Jun 1825, which is different from the above biography, but close. The death date was shown as 26 Sep 1985, but has recently been changed to 26 Sep 1885. He is not listed in the biography of his brother Robert in *Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri* [16], which probably means that he was already dead by the time that book was published in 1893.

25  iii. **Robert H. Wilson** was born on 4 Mar 1829 in Rockbridge Co., VA. He died on 6 Dec 1906 at the age of 77 in Saline Co., MO. He was a doctor. Robert was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

*History of Saline County, Missouri* (1881) [46], p. 609:

Sam Houston was born, and on the same day on which Gen. Jackson was inaugurated president the second time. He was the second son of David S. Wilson, of Augusta county, Virginia, who was raised to manhood, and was married to Miss Margaret Skinner, in Rockbridge county, and moved to this county when the subject of this sketch was but fifteen months old. Dr. Wilson has spent the principal part of his life in Saline county, except six years, from 1849 to 1857, which he spent in California. Dr. Wilson attended the National Medical College of Washington City, and graduated there in 1861. He is of Scotch-Irish descent. His grandfather, William Wilson, had four sons who came to the west, viz.: Gen. John Wilson, now of San Francisco, California; Robert Wilson, formerly of St. Joseph, Missouri; Col. William A. Wilson, deceased, of this county, and David S. Wilson, the doctor's father, who, with Gen. John Wilson, were soldiers of the war of 1812, and were known in the old times as old Virginia gentlemen.

Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri (1893) [16], pp. 326–327:

[First part skipped] Our subject was one of a family of eight children, five sisters and three brothers. A. G. Wilson was born in Saline County in 1837, and continues his residence here. Julia, born in Saline County in 1842, married G. A. Cannon, and with her husband resides in her native locality. One of our subject’s brothers served in the Confederate army for three years under Gov. Shelby. Dr. Wilson attended the common schools of Missouri, and at ten years of age began farming upon his father’s land, and until nineteen years old gave his time industriously and successfully to the duties of agriculture. His first departure from home was made to the distant State of California, where he remained six years, when on account of failing health he returned to the farm in Missouri.

After a time our subject began the study of medicine under Dr. Alexander, and afterward completed a course of study in the Nathan Medical College at Washington, where he remained two years, graduating with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1861. Immediately after receiving his diploma he began the duties of his profession, and soon enjoyed an excellent practice in Cambridge, Mo., where he remained for a full score of years. In 1880 he came to his present home in Gilliam.

Attention to his medical duties and other business of his active life have absorbed the time of Dr. Wilson, but he is nevertheless willing to aid all public measures of known value. He is a valued member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is ever ready to assist in social, benevolent or religious enterprises of his neighborhood or vicinity. Dr. Wilson is an ardent advocate of educational progress and reform. He has never aspired to official positions, nor been a politician in the wider significance of the term, but is a sturdy Democrat, his father having been a Whig. He takes a lively interest in the conduct of local and national affairs. An excellent and skillful physician, ministering to the wants of suffering humanity, he has long since won and worthily retains the confidence of the general public.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

From the above biographies, it looks like he never married. He was living with his mother and other family members in the 1850 and 1860 censuses. It appears that he was living as a boarder with a Grove family in the 1870 census and living by himself in the 1900 census.

iv. **Margaret A. Wilson** was born about 1831 in MO. She died on 1 Jul 1859 in Saline Co., MO. She was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

v. **Paulina E. Wilson**, born 10 Jun 1833, Saline Co., MO; married John Bell; married Thomas A. Swinney, abt 1868; died 2 Mar 1891, Fayette, Howard Co., MO.

vi. **Andrew Givens Wilson** was born in Mar 1838 in Saline Co., MO. He died after 1900. He was a farmer and a merchant. He is listed as Andrew G. Wilson in the 1850 and 1900 censuses, Givins in the 1860 and 1870 censuses, and Andrew in the 1880 census. His middle name is listed as Givens in the Foster/Reid Family Tree. His mother (Margaret Kinnear Wilson) had brothers named Andrew and Givens; it seems likely that he was named for them. The name Givens could be an indication that they were close to the Givens family, which also had marriage connections with the Donley and Reeves families.

In the biography of Robert H. Wilson in *Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri* [16], it says that one of his brothers “served in the Confederate army for three years under Gov. Shelby.” *History of Saline County, Missouri* [46] has lists of Confederate and Union soldiers in the Civil War, but there is no Wilson listed under Col. Joseph Shelby. There is, however, an A. G. Wilson listed in the Saline Jackson Guards of the Missouri State Guards (Confederate), which it says later became part of the 1st Cavalry of the Missouri State Guards. Additional support that this was Andrew Givens Wilson is from a passage in a letter from James W. Reid to his son, David W. Reid, dated 21 Nov 1864 (obtained from the Foster/Reid Family Tree web site [30]), which says:

I received a letter from your Aunt Pine [Paulina] this morning stating that her and Givens would start on the first Boat from Glasgow for St Louis, and wished me to remain here untill she came down. I suppose I will. ... I cant tell you whether Givens will be released or not when he gets to Saint Louis. Ed is here a prisoner tho’ I have not seen him yet, he & Bob Harvey. Mr. Wm H Porter is here to see what he can do for them. I suppose they will all be Exchanged.

It looks like Andrew never married (or if he did, it wasn’t for very long). He was living on the farm with his mother and other family members in the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. In the 1880 and 1900 censuses, he was living with his sister Juliette’s family.


37
12. **Mary (Polly) Wilson** (William-2, Robert-1) was born on 2 Aug 1796 in Augusta Co., VA. She died on 6 Jun 1854 in Saline Co., MO. She was buried in Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, MO.


Mrs. MARY GROVE, wife of Sam’l Grove, Esq., was born in Augusta county, Va., in the year 1797; was married in 1818, joined the Presbyterian Church the year following, and emigrated to Howard county in 1825;—three years after to Saline, where she died on the 6th inst., being one of the first settlers of that now flourishing county.

Mrs. Grove was universally known and esteemed. Particularly characteristic for her kindness and attention to the sick and afflicted, she most faithfully exercised those noble and endearing virtues of the heart. Strangers realised from her a mother’s tender attentions in affliction; and the bereaved and disconsolate ever found in her unostentatious ministrations, that soothing sympathy which came warm and free from a generous heart. It was pertinently remarked by one of her neighbors that “the mother of the neighborhood was gone.” How great indeed, then, must be the loss of her own immediate family. Would that we could breathe words of consoling sympathy into their hearts. We need not tell them that their loss is her gain—of that they are well assured by her uniformly pious life, and her peacefully triumphant death.

Husband, a few more brief days of toilsome sojourn, and thou shalt join thy lost one, where there are no partings—no tears to wipe away. Think that in mercy God took her first, for her gentle nature might not have brooked the storms of bereavement if thou hadst been the victim.

Sons, daughters, think of your mother’s virtues and graces, and make them the rules of your lives, that death to you may be but the happy re-union with her whose undying love for you was all that bound her to earth. Deep and pure were the last breathings of prayer for you, her sons on the Pacific shore. And may the beautiful life of thy mother cheer thee, thou lone one, into pious resignation to God’s holy will. And when life’s toils and afflictions are over, may all meet her in Heaven.

Birth in 1797 does not agree with the information from James Hotchkiss [37] and the Adair Wilson family record [77], but it is not known for sure which is correct.

Mary (Polly) Wilson and Samuel S. Grove were married on 16 Nov 1818 in Augusta Co., VA. **Samuel S. Grove**, son of Johann Wendel Graff and Anna Elizabeth Brecht, was born about 1794 in Augusta Co., VA. He died on 25 Apr 1858 in Cambridge, Saline Co., MO. He was a farmer. Samuel was buried in Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, MO.

Glasgow, MO, *Weekly Times*, 29 Apr 1858 (obtained from Find A Grave [28], listing for Samuel Grove):

Sudden Death.—Mr. Samuel Grove of Cambridge, died very suddenly, last Sunday. He was in usual health at dinner, ate hearty as usual, retired to his room, and some hours afterwards he was found on the floor, dead. His spectacles were on, and an open book laying on the floor, close to where he was
found. He was some sixty years old—an old and highly esteemed citizen, and at the time of his death, was residing with his son, John H. Grove, Esq.

Note that the Sunday before 29 Apr 1858 was 25 Apr 1858, in agreement with other sources.

Samuel S. Grove and Mary Wilson had the following children:


31 ii. **William I. Grove** was born about 1823 in Augusta Co., VA.

The John Wilson Papers [80] include a letter from W. Grove to John Wilson. This is a transcription of it:

**Guymas June 23rd 1860**

Dr Uncle

We arrived here on the tenth of this month. and expect to leave on this afternoon. we have been detained in changing to [sic] Flag of the Vessel. also her name from “Pontiac” to that of “Alamos” Guymas is a very pleasant place. the thermometer stands at about 90°. the Country presents a very barren appearance– at least so far as I have seen. altho I understand there is a large amount of fine Country interior [sic]– they raise all kinds of tropical fruit in this state – the mines are said to be Very Rich. all they want is American protection and enterprise to develop the Country. the Mexicans and Yaqui Indians are fighting all the time within a few miles of this place the Indians routing the Mexicans all the time. word come in town the morning that the Indians were coming in to take the City to day. which causes some little excitement among the Natives. however [?] I have no fear as the Am. Sloop of War “Lancaster” is lying here and will afford Succor if necessary – the Indians say they intend to take the City before the Americans get it I have no news to write I am well give my love to Aunt Ann- Mary Eliza- and little “Kate” also all the family - when you write to me please direct to (Cau [?] of Dr W. I. Hill

Alamos - State of Sonora)

Your Nephew

W. Grove

P S I am well I have gained fifteen pounds since I left home– tell Kaj [? not sure what the word is, but maybe refers to Micajah?] I will write to him from the mine


33 iv. **Susan J. Grove** was born about 1832 in Saline Co., MO.

+34 v. **Belinda C. Grove**, born abt 1834, Saline Co., MO; married Henry Clay Hayden, 17 Nov 1857, Saline Co., MO; died 2 Feb 1899, DC.
13. Robert Wilson (William-2, Robert-1) was born on 6 Nov 1800 in Augusta Co., VA. He died on 10 May 1870 at the age of 69 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO. He was a lawyer, politician, and farmer.

A History of Northwest Missouri (1915) [75], pp. 1462–1463:

GEN. ROBERT WILSON. Among the stalwart men who helped to shape the destinies of the state, few have played a more important part than Gen. Robert Wilson, who spent the latter years of his life on his farm in Andrew County, a short distance north of St. Joseph. Sympathetic with the needs and aspirations of the people, clear and fixed in his own ideas of expediency and right, and giving expression to his ideals both by precept and example with force and dignity, his was a character of inestimable usefulness during the formative and tempestuous years of the state’s first half century.

Born near Staunton, Virginia, November, 1800, Robert Wilson lived there until he came to Missouri in 1820. Settling in Howard County, he taught school for a time and later found employment in the office of the Circuit Clerk. Subsequently he was appointed postmaster of Fayette and in 1823 was elected Judge of the Probate Court. In 1828 he was elected clerk of the Circuit and County Court, which office he continued to hold until 1840. Meantime he had studied law under his brother General John Wilson and had been admitted to the bar. In 1837 on the outbreak of the so-called Mormon war, he was appointed brigadier general of the state forces by Governor Boggs and was instrumental, by his firm and judicious conduct of affairs, in ridding the state of a population so generally obnoxious to its citizens. In 1844, Randolph County having been formed and he having removed to Huntsville, he was sent therefrom to the State Legislature. Removing thence to Andrew County in 1852, he was elected in 1854 to represent that district in the Senate and re-elected in 1858, although he was a whig and the district strongly democratic.

In the early part of 1861, General Wilson was chosen as a union delegate to the convention called by the state to determine its attitude regarding secession and at its first session, February 28th, he was elected vice-president with Sterling Price as president. Subsequently Price having fled to join the Confederacy, General Wilson succeeded to the presidency and presided over the convention’s deliberations until its close. In January, 1862, he was appointed by Acting Governor Hall to the United States Senate to fill the unexpired term of Waldo P. Johnson expelled, and discharged the duties of that office for two sessions until the election of B. Gratz Brown.

After retiring from the Senate, General Wilson though keeping in close touch with public affairs devoted himself to agriculture, in which his interest was intense. While on a visit to his old surroundings in Central Missouri, he was stricken with pneumonia and passed away May 10, 1870, at the home of his nephew, Capt. Ben Wilson, at Marshall, leaving behind a record that was
unblemished as to both public and private life and one that was unusually rich in evidences of the highest usefulness to his fellow-men.

In 1825 General Wilson was married to Margaret Snoddy who died in 1836, leaving him three children, John, who was graduated from Yale in 1847 and who died in St. Joseph in 1858; James, who was educated at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, and who died in St. Joseph in 1906, and Mary Ann who in 1855 was married to Rufus L. McDonald of St. Joseph and who still survives.

Obituary from the New York Times, 18 May 1870 (obtained from the Sloboda/Estes/Haynie/Calkins/White/Leonard/Dabney Tree site [65]):

Gen. Robert Wilson, of Missouri.
The St. Joseph (Mo.) Herald records the death in that City of pneumonia, on the evening of the 9th inst., of Gen. ROBERT WILSON, who was born in Virginia in 1803. His mother was a relative of the late Hon. WILLIAM L. YANCEY, of Alabama. At an early age he removed to Franklin, Mo., and subsequently to Fayette, in the same State, and of that town he was the first Postmaster. In 1838, being a Brigadier-General in the State Militia, he was directed by the Governor to hear and determine all the questions of dispute between the citizens and the Mormons, then residing in Caldwell County, and this difficult matter he accomplished to the entire satisfaction of the people and the authorities of the State. In 1840 he entered upon the practice of law, and although a Whig in politics, and living in a Democratic district, was elected to the Legislature in 1844, and again in 1845. In 1854 he was elected to the State Senate by a handsome majority over his Democratic opponent, though the district was strongly Democratic, and he was re-elected in 1858. He was a good stump speaker, and in 1860 he made many noble speeches in favor of BELL and EVERETT. While in the State Senate he was the acknowledged leader of the Whigs, and to his activity and vigilance was due, in great measure, the defeat of the bill for the sale of the free negroes in Missouri. In the last Legislature of which he was a member, while CLAIB. JACKSON was Governor, he opposed and fought to the end the Military bill and every other act of that body looking to the forcible secession of the State. As the contest waxed warm, he and JOHN SCOTT of St. Joseph, with Dr. MORRIS of St. Louis and Mr. GORDON of Boone were the only open, outspoken, fearless Union men in the Senate. In 1861 he was elected to the State Convention, called to consider the relations of Missouri with the Federal Government. This Convention was called by the Secessionists, but the Unionists elected a majority of the delegates. In the organization of that body—the most important one that was ever held in Missouri, for it deposed the Governor, turned out the State officials and installed a Provisional Government throughout, with HAMILTON GAMBLE for Governor, and WILLARD P. HALL for Lieutenant-Governor—the Unionists voted for STERLING PRICE, then an avowed Union man, for President, and Gen. WILSON for Vice-President. Both were elected. STERLING PRICE went off with CALIB. [sic] JACKSON into the rebellion, and Gen. WILSON became President of the Convention. That body was composed of the ablest men in the State, including Hon. John B. Henderson, Willard P. and Wm. A. Hall, Uriel Wright, James O. Broadhead, Hamilton Gamble, Samuel M. Breckinridge, and many others. Before adjourning, the country was plunged into civil war, and the two United States Senators, WALDO P. JOHNSON and TRUSTEN POLK, having wandered off into the Confederacy, were expelled, and the Governor appointed Gen. WILSON to fill one of the vacancies. He took his seat in the Senate of the United States in 1861 and served till his successor, Hon. B. GRATZ BROWN, was elected by the Legislature in December, 1863. Since that time Gen. WILSON has for the most part resided with his son-in-law, RUFUS L. MCDONALD, of St. Joseph. He owned a farm in Andrew County, but he never resided upon it after the commencement
of the war. The rebels stole from him nearly $25,000 worth of horses, cattle and other personal property, and having never married again, he let the old farm go, and made his home with his daughter. The St. Joseph Herald, from which we glean the foregoing facts, continues: “In 1860 his friends throughout this part of the State were enthusiastic in the determination to run him for Governor against CLAIBORNE F. JACKSON, and many of the Bell and Everett journals [sic] hoisted the name of their favorite and praised the virtues of ‘The Farmer of Andrew.’ He has been President of the Northwestern Agricultural and Mechanical Society ever since its organization. As a presiding officer over a deliberative parliamentary body, he had very few equals—ever cool and calm, never thrown off his guard by excitement or passion, and prompt to decide every question which came before him. He was proverbially upright, and of the strictest honesty and integrity of character. Kind, gentle and very affectionate in his family, he bore the troubles and trials of life with a calm patience and resignation which gave him many warm friends, and not an enemy in the world. His early education and habits fitted him peculiarly for a certain kind of legal labor, and we have often heard our best lawyers say that no man in the State of Missouri could draw up a difficult contract or a complicated legal paper, with a correctness, conciseness and perfection which characterized every such act of his. He was a man of plain exterior, but gifted with most excellent judgment and the best practical sense. He was emphatically an honest man.”

As can be seen in the two biographies above, some sources show 1800 for his birth and some show 1803. The case for 1800 seems better because this is what is given by family sources (the Adair Wilson family record from 1902 [77] and Ben H. Wilson’s letter from around 1895 [78]). There also is some uncertainty about his death date; Various sources have May 8, 9, and 10. The case seems best for May 10, once again because this is what is given by the two family sources. Ben’s letter also confirms what is stated in the first bio above—that Robert died at Ben’s home in Marshall. Note also that the two biographies differ on where Robert resided after he left the Senate. The first one says that he “spent the latter years of his life on his farm in Andrew County”. However, the NYT obituary says that he “never resided upon it [his farm] after the commencement of the war”, and instead lived with his daughter in St. Joseph. Robert is not listed with the McDonald family in the 1870 census, but has not been found in Andrew County, either. Perhaps the enumeration took place after Robert’s death.

Another biography of Robert, in Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar of Missouri by W.V.N. Bay [10], on p. 561 says that he was familiarly known as General Bob Wilson. It also says that he moved to Missouri in the spring of 1820.

1830 census
Images 5 and 6 on Ancestry.com (Randolph Co., MO)
Listed as Robert Wilson. Household consisted of three males (one aged 20–29, two under 5) and two females (ages 60–69 and 20–29). The male aged 20–29 was presumably Robert, and one of the males under 5 was presumably son John. It is not known who the other under-5 male was; perhaps a child who died young? The female aged 20–29 was presumably wife Margaret, and the female aged 60–69 could have been Robert’s mother, Catharine. Also, five slaves were listed, males aged 10–23 and under10, two females aged 10–23 and one female under 10. Can’t be sure this is the right Robert, but it fits well.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Robert Wilson and Margaret (Martha) Snoddy were married on 18 May 1826 in Howard Co., MO. Margaret (Martha) Snoddy was born before 1804 in Madison Co., KY. She died about 1836.

From a posting to the SNODDY-L mailing list by Joann Tortarolo dated 28 Mar 1999:

I found in the book, Old Saint Jo: Gateway to the West 1799-1932, written in 1979 by Sheridin A. Logan the following:

Armstrong Beattie (mayor of St. Joseph, MO) married Eliza Snoddy 1841 (in Howard Co., MO), and they moved to Huntsville in Randolph Co., MO where he was a merchant for 10 years..and then moved on to St. Jo.

The sister of Mrs. Armstrong Beattie was Margaret Snoddy who married Robert Wilson (US Senator 1861-1873). [Note, RW was only a US Senator from 1862–1863.]

Armstrong Beattie took their son, James M. Wilson into partnership in his bank, and after the death of Mrs. Wilson, her daughter Mary Ann was taken to live with the Armstrong Beatties at their home at Main and Auguste Streets, now the Memorial Home. It was there that Mary Ann Wilson was married to Rufus L. McDonald in May 1855.

Robert Wilson and Margaret Snoddy had the following children:

35  i. John Wilson was born in 1827. He died in 1857 in St. Joseph, MO. He was a lawyer. John was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

The biography of John’s father, above, says that John graduated from Yale in 1847. That biography also says that John died in 1858, but the cemetery information for Mount Mora Cemetery [49] says 1857.

36  ii. James Madison Wilson was born in 1831 in Howard Co., MO. He died on 7 Jun 1906 in St. Joseph, MO. He was a banker. James was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

The 1900 census said he was born in April 1832, but the biography below says that he was born in 1831. The web site for Mount Mora Cemetery [49] also says 1831, including a picture of his gravestone, which says 1831 - 1906, so that is assumed here. The Mount Mora web site also gives his age at death as 74, which might mean that he was born after June 7 in 1831. In addition, it gives his cause of death as cancer of face.

History of Buchanan County and the City of St Joseph and Representative Citizens (1904):

JAMES MADISON WILSON, who is practically retired from business life, is a director of the Merchants’ Bank of St. Joseph, and has been engaged in the banking business here almost continuously since 1853. Of the bankers now in business in this city, he was the first to engage in the banking business here. A

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8 http://members.aol.com/buchanancomo/wilsonja.html (downloaded July 2004; link no longer works)
man of superior ability and attainments, he ranks among the foremost business men.

James M. Wilson was born in Howard County, Missouri, in 1831, and is a son of Robert Wilson, who was a distinguished member of the Missouri bar in the pioneer days.

Robert Wilson removed to Howard County, Missouri, about 1820, and later located in Randolph County, the lines of which he laid off. He was a member of the Union Convention of 1860, was appointed United States Senator during the War by Governor Gamble, and served one term as a member of that honorable body. He came to St. Joseph and lived in retirement until his death in 1870. He was born in Abingdon, Virginia, and was a boy when he came to this State, where he was reared and educated for his profession. He married a daughter of Col. John W. Snoddy, who was a prominent citizen and extensive farmer of Howard County, Missouri, where he died. She was born in Madison County, Kentucky, and was young in years when she removed with her parents to Howard County, in 1819. This union resulted in the birth of five children, three sons and two daughters, of which number our subject and one sister, Mrs. R. L. McDonald, are now living. The eldest son, John Wilson, was a lawyer and was associated until his death, in 1857, with J. M. Bassett, of St. Joseph.

James M. Wilson was but a boy when he came to St. Joseph in 1852 and engaged as a clerk in the general store of Donald, Saxton & McDonald. In 1853 Armstrong Beattie came to St. Joseph and started a private bank, the first bank in the city, and employed our subject to keep his books. The latter continued in this position until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, then went West to Montana where he remained until the close of the war. He then returned and has since made his home in St. Joseph, having been identified with many banks as stockholder and director and having engaged in the loan business. It devolved upon him to close up Mr. Beattie’s estate in the early “seventies”, but 20 years past he has been treasurer of Mount Mora Cemetery, probably the most beautiful cemetery in the State. Although it is in the nature of a charity, as it depends largely on gifts, it has been self-sustaining for a number of years, all money received being expended toward beautifying the grounds and making substantial improvements.

Mr. Wilson is independent in politics, and although frequently importuned has steadfastly refused to accept of city or State offices. He is a man without family, never having married, and belongs to no secret orders. He is liberal in religious views, although greatly interested in church work.

+37 iii. Mary Ann Wilson, born 2 Jul 1835, Howard Co., MO; married Rufus Lee McDonald, 16 May 1855, St. Joseph, MO; died 9 Feb 1920, St. Joseph, MO.
14. **Nancy M. Wilson** (William-2, Robert-1) was born on 23 May 1803 in Augusta Co., VA. She died on 26 Aug 1882 at the age of 79, probably in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH. She was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, OH.

Several sources give her birth date as 23 May 1803, but her gravestone (from Find A Grave [28], listing for Nancy Wilson Loop) says 3 May 1803. It is uncertain which is right, but 23 May is assumed for now.

Nancy M. Wilson and Lewis Loop were married on 15 Sep 1824 in Augusta Co., VA. **Lewis Loop** was born on 13 Feb 1797 in Augusta Co., VA. He died on 23 Feb 1846 at the age of 49 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, OH.

He was the son of Simon Loop and Mary Elizabeth Heck, according to the Loop1 family tree on Ancestry.com [42].

James Hotchkiss said he was born in Berks County, PA, but the above family tree says Augusta County, VA.

There is conflicting information about his birth and death dates. The ones from Find A Grave [28] (listing for Lewis Loop) are adopted here. Find A Grave includes a picture of his gravestone, with the dates shown here.
Lewis Loop and Nancy M. Wilson had the following children:

+38 i. **William Wilson Loop**, born abt 1829, OH; married Elizabeth Mahalia Boner, 9 May 1858, Preble Co., OH; died 20 Jul 1898, Preble Co., OH.

+39 ii. **Lavinia Catherine Loop**, born abt 1829, OH; married John McChristy, 21 Mar 1850, Preble Co., OH.


+41 iv. **Julia Ann Loop**, born 14 May 1835, Camden, Preble Co., OH; married ? Lamm; died 5 May 1910, Preble Co., OH.

42 v. **Susanna Loop** was born about 1838 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH. She died on 3 Oct 1910 in Hamilton, Butler Co., OH.

43 vi. **Robert Loop** was born on 20 Mar 1839 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH. He died on 5 Dec 1887 at the age of 48 in Preble Co., OH. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, OH.

The Loop1 family tree [42] gives his death date as December 11, but his gravestone (on Find A Grave [28], listing for Robert Loop) shows December 5 (text on Find A Grave says December 3, but the gravestone says December 5).

15. **William Adair Wilson** (William-2, Robert-1) was born on 17 Dec 1807 in Augusta Co., VA. He died on 28 Aug 1865 at the age of 57 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He is buried in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO. He was a lawyer and judge.

*History of Saline County, Missouri* (1881) [46], pp. 415–416:

JUDGE W. A. WILSON.

The subject of this sketch—the youngest of four brothers, John, Robert, David, and Wm., sons of Wm. Wilson—was born, December 17, 1807, in Augusta county, Virginia. He, with his brothers, came to this state, locating in Howard county, in 1825. He afterwards located in this county. His brother David died many years ago, and Gen. John Wilson removed to California, filled quite a number of high official positions, and died in San Francisco, some two years since. Robert located in St. Joseph, Missouri, represented his county and district for many years in the state legislature and senate, and other offices, and served out the unexpired term of one of our U. S. senators.

In June, 1835, Judge Wilson married Miss Mary E. Reeves, daughter of the late ex-Governor Reeves, of Missouri. His wife survives him and resides on the old homestead, in Marshall, Missouri. The result of this marriage was five sons and two daughters, all living, except Martha C., who married Dr. Grove, of this county, and died in 1865, in Fayette, Indiana, the present home of her husband; Annette married the Hon. John R. Vance, and now resides in Marshall, as does also Leonard Wilson, our present efficient postmaster. Col. Ben. H., Hon. W. A. and Bird L. Wilson now reside in Colorado; and Horace E. Wilson resides at St. Joseph, Missouri.

Judges Wilson and Leonard, having located in Howard county about the same time, and having married sisters, there sprung up between them a very strong social, personal and political attachment, which lasted during their lives. Both were staunch whigs, and both consistent, firm and uncompromising Union men, and cordially supported the national government during the late conflict.

In 1835, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of militia, by Gov. Dunklin. In August, 1836, he moved to Saline, and in 1838 was elected county judge, serving with Judges Brown and Field. On February, 6, 1850, appointed county and circuit clerk, and ex-officio recorder, vice John A. Trigg, resigned, and in March following was elected to said offices for unexpired term, extending to 1854, when he was re-elected and filled said offices for the term of six years.

In 1862, Judge Wilson was appointed by Gov. Gamble, circuit and county clerk of the county, and in the same year, provost marshal, with rank of major. When the 71st regiment, E. M. M. [enrolled Missouri militia—Union], was organized, he was made lieutenant-colonel of same. It is not saying too much to say, that no one in this county was better or more favorably known at Union or Federal headquarters of this state, or at Washington City, than Judge W. A. Wilson. He filled the clerkships of the county up to the time of his death, August 18, 1865 [should be August 28]. Judge Wilson was
a lawyer by profession, and, except while in office, practiced that profession. He was, for a time, law-partner of Col. T. W. B. Crews and Hon. W. H. Letcher. He, like his brothers, Robert and John, was a man of more than ordinary ability, and possessed, in a remarkable degree, that foresight and confidence, so well calculated to lead and inspire any party with which he might become connected. In the discharge of all his official duties, he was honest and efficient, and never betrayed the trusts confided to him. For more than twenty years prior to his death, perhaps, no man was more generally or prominently known to the people here. As a public spirited citizen, he was ever ready to contribute to every laudable enterprise. A man of excellent judgment—having once made up his mind, was determined and invincible. Duty and right outweighed all other considerations with him. He was a Union man in the broadest sense of that term. It is not saying too much, when we say, he formed the nucleus around which the Union element of this county rallied, more, perhaps, than any one else. Of a pure, positive and unsullied character, his opinions were ever sought and respected by his friends. He was faithful in all the relations of life; as a husband, parent, friend, the same integrity of character and goodness of heart were manifested, and gained for him that love and confidence he possessed to such an eminent degree. He was unwaveringly true to his principles and to the instincts of his generous and manly nature. In his friendship he was faithful; in his susceptibilities, tender and emotional; in disposition and temperament, genial in a very high degree. In all the relations of life, he bore himself as a “man among men.” His memory to us is precious, and his virtues remain a legacy to his surviving co-laborers in the cause to which he gave the strength and power of his manhood. Upon that brow, now cold in death, honors thick had clustered; and as he went forth from our ranks, many eyes were dim with tears, and many hearts were full of sighs. In the cemetery, at Mount Olive, “may his ashes requiescat in pace.”

Note that he has a gravestone in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO. Perhaps the cemetery changed names or his remains were moved to Ridge Park Cemetery.

The above biography of William Adair Wilson says that he came with his family from Augusta County, VA, to Howard County, MO, in 1825; he then moved to Saline County in August 1836. When he moved to Saline County, he initially moved to Old Jefferson, which no longer exists; it was on the Missouri River in the northeastern part of the county near present-day Cambridge. Later, he moved to Marshall; from letters in the Abiel Leonard Papers [39], it looks like he moved from Old Jefferson to Marshall in late 1844.

According to History of Saline County [46], William lost the positions of county and circuit clerk in the election of 1859. Then, according to the above, he was re-appointed to them in 1862. Presumably, the election winners had run off and joined the Confederates.

From a biography of his son Adair in Portrait and Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity, Colorado (1898) [17]:

The youngest of his large family was William A., a native of Augusta County, Va., and in early life a merchant, but later a student of law with his brother, Gen. John Wilson, who had preceded the family to Missouri and had served in the war of 1812. William was admitted to the bar in Saline County and opened an office in Marshall, where he was a pioneer and prominent attorney. For years he was clerk of all the courts there. When the Civil war broke out he was somewhat advanced in years, but
Descendants of Robert Wilson

enlisted in the state militia and was made lieutenant-colonel of a regiment, serving until the close of the war, but the exposure of camp life caused his death soon afterwards. He was then about fifty-seven years of age. Fraternally he was a Mason.

There is an interesting letter in the Abiel Leonard Papers [39] from John Wilson (William’s oldest brother) to Abiel Leonard, dated 13 Nov [?] 1852, in which John says (some punctuation added):

I have been thinking much of of [sic] my brother Wm & his family, & am exceeding desirous to get them here [i.e., California] – To remain at Saline, even with his clerkships, he can only live, & not gather any thing. His family is large & growing & he ought in some way if he can provide better means for their support & education. if he was here with only a couple of thousand Dollars to begin with he wd. on that day be richer than he can by any possibility be at the end of 20 yrs. The question is how is that to be effected? I have written to my brother on the subject & I take the liberty to write to you and have made to my brother this suggestion & hope I shall not offend you by laying it before you. I suppose, for I do not know the fact, that he could not do more than make a decent outfit to get here over the plains, & nothing left to begin on here after he came, & without money is rather a bad fix here, but even that will be better for him & his family than to stay where he is. If my brother & you will endorse for him for about 3000 [$ is probably cut off] for two years or 18 months interest at 10 per cent, letting the lender take out the first year’s percentage at the paying of the money & the other years interest & the debt to be paid at the end of the two years or 18 months as it shall be agreed, & let him lay that money out in either cattle & sheep & bring it over the plains, he can pay the debt when due & int. & have a fund in cattle worth 20000 $ (indeed far more) to go on—I will stand his security to you & my brother that he pays the debt when it is due. the arrangement if made cannot fail to place him in easy circumstances. I shall be able by the time he gets here to give him a farm & I can say to you & my brother both that whatever you may say I shall be good security unless all signs fail.

John’s proposal is very similar to what Rufus McDonald and James Wilson (nephew-in-law and nephew to John and William) actually did in 1864—they took a lot of mules from Missouri to California and made a big profit on them (see the notes for Rufus Lee McDonald). William must not have liked the idea, though (or the deal fell through).

According to the McGrew letter [44], during the Civil War, friends and neighbors who sympathized and fought with the Confederacy made so many threats against his life (even coming to his home with ropes to hang him) and also threatened the lives of his wife and children, that to protect his family he moved them to Ohio for the duration of the Civil War. In History of Saline County [46], it says that 90% of the citizens of Saline County were from Virginia, Kentucky, or Tennessee, and most were Confederate sympathizers (this part of Missouri has sometimes been called “little Dixie”). William A. Wilson was an important leader of the Union sympathizers. Marshall was occupied by the Union during most of the Civil War; Lt. Col. William A. Wilson was in command of the post part of the time (in 1862 and 1863). For more about this, see “William Adair Wilson and Family During the Civil War” on p. 213.

William’s will, from his probate case file (obtained from the Saline County probate clerk; it is difficult to read in places, and poorly punctuated, so some may not be quite right):
In the name of God Amen, I William A. Wilson of the County of Saline in the State of Missouri, do make and declare this my last will and testament hereby revoking all others or former wills by me made.

First I will that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid of whatever kind.

Second I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary E. Wilson all the remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to hold and use during her natural life for her support and the support and education of the younger children. All money arising from the sale of land or otherwise which may not be necessary for the current expenses of the family, according to the judgment of my executrix hereinafter named, I will, may be loaned or invested for the benefit of the estate as my executrix may think best.

Third I give and bequeath to my son Benjamin H. Wilson, one thousand dollars, it being money loaned to and expended for me, at different times, and I will that no account be made of it at the final distribution of my estate.

Fourth I give and bequeath to my daughter Kate Grove five dollars.

Fifth I have given to my son Adair Wilson, one thousand dollars which I wish to have charged to him and taken from his distributive share of the estate at the final distribution.

Sixth I give and bequeath to my daughter Annett Wilson five dollars.

Seventh I give and bequeath to my sons Leonard Wilson, Horace E. Wilson & Bird Wilson, each the sum of five dollars, as they arrive at the age of twenty one years respectively prior to distribution.

Eighth I hereby appoint my beloved wife, Mary E. Wilson sole executrix of this my last will and testament with full power to execute the same, and to make such distribution to the heirs of my estate as she in her judgment may think best at any time.

Ninth At the final distribution of the residue of my estate among the heirs thereof, after paying the legacies heretofore named I will that all the surviving heirs as children share and share alike, and if any said heirs should die leaving issue they are to receive the distributive share of said deceased heir.

In witness whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix my seal this 24th day of August A.D. 1865 W. A. Wilson.

The estate inventory is listed as $10,892.12 personal and $10,135 real.

In a letter dated 15 Aug 1865 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers [39]), son Leonard wrote “I would have sent it [a deed] sooner but Father has been so unwell that I was was [sic] unable to attend to it. he is not improving any. we have sent for Mother She will be here in a few days.”

There is a little more about his passing in a death notice in the Glasgow, MO, Howard Union, 7 Sep 1865, p. 2 (obtained from Newspapers.com):
Col. William A. Wilson died at the Missouri Hotel, in Marshal [sic], on the 28th ult., after a painful illness of more than three weeks of typhoid fever. The deceased was an old and valued citizen of Saline county.

1830 census
William Adair might have been living with brother John Wilson in Howard Co., MO. There were two 20–29-year-old males in the household; one of them could have been William Adair.

1840 census
Images 6 and 7 on Ancestry.com (Marion Twp., Saline Co., MO)
Listed as William A. Wilson. Household consisted of three males (ages 30–39, 20–29, under 5) and two females (ages 20–29 and under 5). Presumably the male aged 30–39 was William A., the female aged 20–29 was Mary E., and the two under-5-year-olds were Benjamin and Kate. Don’t know who the 20–29-year-old male was. Also, two slaves are listed, a male aged 10–23 and a female aged 10–23. Everything else is blank (for example, nothing indicated in the employment section).

1850 census
Image 143 on Ancestry.com (District 90, Saline Co., MO)
Listed as William A. Wilson, age 39 [should be 42], born in Virginia. Occupation, clerk ct. [court clerk]. Value of real estate listed as $1200. Household consisted of William A., Mary E., Benjamin H. B., Catherine, Adair, Annett, Leonard, and Mary L. Wilson; Sophronia Doak; and William B. Simmons.
Image 32 on Ancestry.com slave schedules (District 90, Saline Co., MO)
Listed as William A. Willson. Four slaves: male age 56; females ages 30, 14, 8.

1860 census
Image 13 on Ancestry.com (Marshall, Saline Co., MO)
Listed as Wm. A. Wilson, age 51 [should be 52], born in Virginia. Occupation, lawyer. Value of real estate listed as $5000, value of personal estate listed as $3000. Household consisted of William A., Mary, Benjamin, Adair, Annette, Leonard, and Horace Wilson.
Image 2 on Ancestry.com slave schedules (Marshall, Saline Co., MO)
Two slave houses, seven slaves: males ages 44, 5, 2; females ages 24, 14, 6, 1.

William Adair Wilson and Mary Elizabeth Reeves were married on 4 Jun 1835 in Fayette, Howard Co., MO. Mary Elizabeth Reeves, daughter of Benjamin Harrison Reeves and Martha Donley, was born on 25 Mar 1817 in Christian Co., KY. She died on 9 Aug 1902 at the age of 85, probably in Marshall, MO. She was buried in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO.

In a letter from Catherine Rinker McGrew and Leonie Wilson Rinker to Michael Wilson dated 16 Nov 1966 [44], they wrote “William Adair & Mary Elizabeth Wilson were the parents of nine children, seven of whom were Catherine, Benjamin, Leonard, Annette, Adair, Byrd, Horace Everett.” Mary L. was listed in the 1850 census (only 8 months old), but not listed in the 1860 census, so she probably died young. In a letter from Mary E. Reeves Wilson to Jeanette Reeves
Leonard dated 17 Mar 1848 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers [39]), she mentioned a child named William David; he might be another child who died young, born between Leonard and Mary L. This would make nine children. However, In another letter from Mary Wilson to Jeanette Leonard, dated 12 Feb 1856 (also from the Abiel Leonard Papers), she wrote “it has pleased our kind and heavenly Father to take from me four dear little ones”, so it sounds like Mary had at least 11 children, of whom 4 died young. Perhaps two of them were stillborn and not included in Leonie’s count.

In information from Ridge Park Cemetery in Marshall, MO [57], her cause of death is listed as “flux - old age”.

1850 census
Listed as Mary E. Wilson, age 32, born in Kentucky. Living with her husband, William A. Wilson, and family.

1860 census
Listed as Mary Wilson, age 44, born in Kentucky. Living with her husband, Wm. A. Wilson, and family.

1870 census
Listed as Mary E. Willson, age 53, born in Kentucky, living with son B.H. Willson and family. Value of personal estate listed as $150.

Mary’s father, Benjamin Harrison Reeves, was quite distinguished, so it seems worth including a short biography for him. From *History of Todd County, Kentucky* (1884) [9], pp. 328–30:

> [From the biography of Crittenden Reeves] Of his father, an obituary notice says: “Benjamin H. Reeves, the eldest son of Brewer and Martha Reeves, was born in Augusta County, Va., March 21, 1787, and moved with his parents to Christian County, Ky., about the commencement of the present century, and settled on the West Fork of Red River. Shortly after their arrival in Kentucky his father died, leaving his widow and infant children in comparatively a wilderness, surrounded by the red men of the forest. His mother, a lady of uncommon energy, firmness, and fine powers of mind, richly stored with the truths of the Gospel, in the absence of anything like good schools, laid the foundation for his future elevation in life by her industry, and, with his assistance, they managed to support the younger members of the family. To them he was both a parent and an elder brother; his heart seemed to be entwined around them during life. By his own generous worth and energy of character he soon acquired the esteem and confidence of his countrymen. On the declaration of war by the United States against Great Britain in 1812, he took up arms in defense of his country’s rights, and was, on the fourth day of July in that year, elected Captain of the first company of volunteers from Christian County, and in a short time joined the army in the then Territory, now State, of Indiana, stationed at Vincennes; was shortly after promoted to the rank of Major; commanded an escort to the relief of Zachary Taylor, the present President of the United States. In November, 1812, he returned to Kentucky, having been, at the August election previous, elected a member of the Legislature of Kentucky from Christian, and took his seat as a member of that body on the first Monday in December thereafter, and continued a member of that body, with the exception of one or
two years, until 1818, when he moved to the then Territory of Missouri. In 1821 he was elected a Delegate from the county of Howard to assist in framing a Constitution for that State, and was, a few years thereafter, elected Lieutenant-Governor of Missouri. In 1826 [should be 1825] he was appointed by the Government of the United States a Commissioner to survey and mark out a road from Missouri to the Spanish provinces in a direction to Santa Fe. In the recent Indian wars on the frontiers of Missouri, he again took up arms in defense of his country. In 1836 he returned from Missouri, and settled in Todd County, Ky. The partiality of his countrymen soon called him to represent them in Legislature in several successive years. He filled many civil and military offices in Missouri and Kentucky. In private life his virtues shone most conspicuous—a dutiful child, a kind husband, a fond parent, a devoted friend. Warm-hearted, generous, and devoted in his sentiments, he had many personal and devoted friends. About the first of January last his health began to decline rapidly, and on Monday, the 16th day of April, 1849, at his residence in Todd County, having, as his friends fondly hope, made his peace with God, with a smile on his countenance, and without a struggle or a groan, fell asleep in Jesus, universally lamented by his family, relations and friends.”

Brewer’s sons were: Benjamin H., Willis L., Ottaway and Archibald. Subject’s mother was Virginia T. (Garth) Reeves, who died in 1850. Col. Benjamin’s children are: William L., Jennette (Leonard), Mary (Wilson), Benjamin, Missouri (Ainslie), Eugenia (Griffin) and our subject.

There is much information about some of Ben’s ancestors and relatives in the *Family Record* [53] by Dr. Thomas Davis Parks, who was a first cousin of Ben.

William Adair Wilson and Mary Elizabeth Reeves had the following children:

+45   i.  **Benjamin Harrison Wilson**, born 10 May 1836, Fayette, Howard Co., MO; married Olive Agnes Powell, 27 May 1868, Howard Co., MO; died 10 May 1904, Denver, CO.

+46   ii.  **Martha Catharine (Kate) Wilson**, born 1839, probably Old Jefferson, MO; married John Bright Grove, 6 Oct 1859, Marshall, Saline Co., MO; died 25 Jan 1866, Columbus, IN.


+50   vi.  **Mary L. Wilson** was born about 1849, probably in Marshall, MO. Mary L. is listed in the 1850 census (only 8 months old), but not listed in the 1860 census, so most likely she died young. She was not listed in the McGrew letter [44], presumably because it only listed the children who grew to adulthood. It’s likely that she was named Mary Leonard Wilson, for her cousin, Mary Leonard.


Unfortunately, this map does not show the trails on to Missouri. However, it is possible that the Wilsons travelled most of the way to Missouri by river: Ohio River to Mississippi River to Missouri River. Howard and Saline Counties are both on the Missouri River in north-central Missouri. Such travel by river was made much easier by the introduction of the steamboat, and the first steamboat up the Missouri River to Howard County was in 1819.
Fourth Generation

16. **David Wilson** (John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 2 Nov 1813 in Mercer Co., KY. He died about 1887 in Bonne Femme Twp., Howard Co., MO. He was a teacher and a farmer.

The only place a birth date has been found for David is from James Hotchkiss [37]. His source is not known.

The big question about David Wilson is whether the David Wilson who was a son of John Wilson (mentioned in his will) is the same as the David Wilson who was a son of Priscilla McCoun Wilson and grandson of John McCoun and the same as the David Wilson who married Sarah Clark Hill. There is so far no definitive proof that these are all the same person, but there is fairly good evidence. The evidence that Priscilla McCoun was the first wife of John Wilson (and therefore John’s son David was also Priscilla’s son and John McCoun’s grandson) is discussed in the notes for Priscilla McCoun. A few other items are discussed here.

Some circumstantial evidence is in the family names. First of all, David was likely named for his uncle, John Wilson’s brother David. The oldest daughter of David and Sarah, Priscilla, could have been named for David’s mother, Priscilla McCoun Wilson. Priscilla was not all that common a name, so this might be meaningful. It is also suggestive that the next two daughters, Mary Eliza and Susan Ann, are the same as names of two of David’s half-sisters (daughters of John Wilson and Ann R. Pulliam Wilson). And finally, David’s oldest son, John, could have been named for David’s father, John Wilson.

Another item is a Power of Attorney, which shows that David Wilson, grandson of John McCoun, was living in Howard County, MO, in 1835. Howard County is also where John Wilson had moved in about 1820 and where David Wilson and Sarah Hill Shipp were married in 1854.

*James McCoun & Margaret Walker & Their Descendants* by Maurie McCoun Klimcheck [38], on p. 218 of Volume II, has the following transcription of the Power of Attorney:

I, David Wilson of the County of Howard & State of Missouri for good causes to me moving do hereby constitute and appoint Samuel McCoun my uncle of the county of Mercer & State of Kentucky my true and lawful attorney in fact for me and in my name to ask for demand sue for and receipt for all monies or other effects that may be coming to me in any manner from the executor or administrator or the estate of Lanty Holman - now deceased who was my Guardian in the sd County of Mercer. also to demand receive and receipt for monies & other property coming to me from the estate of my Grandfather John McCoun who lived and died in the sd County of Mercer & I also
authorize my said attorney in fact to bargain sell and convey make all needful deeds bargains etc to
all the true estate that fell to me from the estate of my said Grandfather and to receive all money &
receipts for the same that may bring making however the said real estate no other deed to the
purchaser than a special warrantee conveying all my right and covenanting agt. myself and heirs and
I further authorize my said attorney in fact to do all needful acts to carry the above powers into effect
hereby ratifying and confirming all the sd acts of my sd attorney in fact in persuance (sic) of this
power the same as if I were personally present & did the same myself.

Given under my hand and seal this 17th day of July Eighteen hundred and thirty five.

DAVID WILSON (Seal)

For information about Lanty Holman as guardian of David Wilson, see the notes for Priscilla
McCoun.

Perhaps the most important evidence comes from a deed in Howard County Deed Book 21, pp.
190–92 (obtained from Shanna Tait and Harold Kerr). The deed concerns the sale in February
1879 of some land that had been acquired by Robert & John Wilson in 1824. The sellers were
four couples: David and Sarah C. Wilson of Howard County, MO; David W. and Rosa B. Wilson
of Randolph County, MO; Edward T. and Elizabeth M. Wilson of Randolph County, MO; and
William N. and Mary G. Reed of Chicot County, AR. There is a notation that says “David W.
Wilson, E. Wilson, & Mary G. Reed being children of John Wilson dec’d, who was a son of
Gen’l John Wilson” (punctuation added). With this context, it is pretty certain that David
Wilson, husband of Sarah C., was also a son of General John Wilson.

A settlement document that was received with the guardian bonds for David and John T. Wilson
(see notes for Priscilla McCoun) is interesting but hard to decipher. The document is dated
5 Nov 1833, and has a list of incomes and expenses. It is not clear whether it pertains only to
David or to both boys, but several of the items listed as expenses were apparently purchased for
David on 20 Oct 1827, including a horse and saddle. One expense of $10.00 says “By Cash pd.
Robt. Wilson to ---- David’s expences to Mo.” (That one word is unclear.) It looks like David,
at least, was in Mercer County in October 1827 and was outfitted for a trip to Missouri. Perhaps
he had been living with relatives (or Lanty Holman) in Mercer County and this was when he
went west to join his father. Or perhaps he was just visiting. Robt. Wilson might be David’s
uncle—younger brother of John Wilson Sr.

David Wilson and Mary Jane Almon were married. Mary Jane Almon died in 1848. This
marriage is uncertain (that is, it is not certain that the marriage to Mary Jane Almon was for our
David Wilson).

David Wilson and Sarah Clark Hill were married on 1 May 1854 in Howard Co., MO. Sarah
Clark Hill was born about 1826 in MO. She died after 1886 in MO. She was a midwife.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

From Karen Levin [41], Sarah had two previous marriages, to Alfred L. Amick (5 Jun 1845, Howard County, MO) and to Stephen Shipp (4 Jan 1852, Howard County, MO). She had two daughters, Sarah Ann and Emily E. Amick, who were living in the Wilson household in the 1860 census.

David Wilson and Sarah Clark Hill had the following children:

+53 i. **Priscilla David Wilson**, born 1855, Fayette, Howard Co., MO; married Eugene E. Ewers, abt 1876, MO; died 7 Apr 1936, Portland, OR.

+54 ii. **Mary Eliza Wilson** was born in 1856 and died in 1859.

+55 iii. **Susan Ann Wilson** was born in Nov 1858 in MO. She died after 1920 (she is listed in the 1920 census). She was a teacher. She never married, according to Karen Levin. In the 1880 census (Howard County, MO), she was still living at home with her parents. In 1900 (Clark County, AR) she was living with her brother James (and mistakenly identified as James’ wife); in 1910 (Adair County, MO) she was living with her brother John; and in 1920 (Lane County, OR) she was living with her sister Priscilla.


+58 vi. **James Wesley Wilson**, born 2 Jun 1865, Bonne Femme Twp., Howard Co., MO; married Annetta Eliza Duncan, 2 Aug 1887; married Lillian Alma Edwards, aft 1912; died 2 Feb 1951, Homer, Claiborne Par., LA.

17. **John Tilford Wilson** (John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1815, probably in Mercer Co., KY. He died between 1841 and 1846.

His father’s will mentions a son named John (actually it mentions three children of son John, and doesn’t name the children). *James McCoun & Margaret Walker & Their Descendants* by Maurie McCoun Klimcheck [38] lists John T. Wilson as son of John Wilson and Priscilla McCoun. A Mercer County, KY, guardian bond dated 7 May 1827 lists him as John Tilford Wilson.

His children’s names come from an 1879 deed in Howard County Deed Book 21, pp. 190–92, which was discussed above in the notes for brother David. Three of the couples named in the deed were David W. and Rosa B. Wilson of Randolph County, MO; Edward T. and Elizabeth M. Wilson of Randolph County, MO; and William N. and Mary G. Reed of Chicot County, AR. David W., Edward T., and Mary G. were stated to be children of John Wilson and grandchildren of General John Wilson. Those three couples have been found in the 1870 and 1880 censuses, but so far only Mary has been found in the 1860 census (more distinctive because she was
already married by then). In 1850, they probably should have still been together as a family. There is a listing that is thought to be them living in Randolph County with H.B. Owen, who would have been their grandfather. There is a record of a marriage between John Wilson and Mary Owen on 14 Jul 1834 in Howard County, MO. It is not certain that this is our John Wilson, but it seems likely. See additional notes under Mary S. Owen and Edmund/Edward T. Wilson.

Mary Owen Wilson remarried on 12 Apr 1846, so presumably John died before that. Edmund/Edward was born on 23 Jan 1842, so presumably John was still alive nine months before that.

John Tilford Wilson and Mary S. Owen were married on 14 Jul 1834 in Howard Co., MO. **Mary S. Owen** was born on 28 Oct 1819 in Henry Co., KY. She died on 1 Aug 1883 at the age of 63 in Moberly, Randolph Co., MO. She was buried in Oakland Cemetery, Moberly, MO.

There are several marriage records for John Wilson in Missouri during the right time period. The choice of Mary Owen for John’s spouse is not certain, but seems right for two reasons.

First, Mary and children are listed with her father (H.B. Owen) in the 1850 census (she is listed as Mary Fray, having already remarried and probably having already lost her second husband since he is not listed with her). The children’s names and ages are a little off, but seem too close to be a coincidence: David T. Wilson, age 16; Mary G. Wilson, age 12, and Edmund T. Wilson, age 8—plus an additional child, John H. Wilson, age 10. David’s middle initial is off, and age 12 is high for Mary compared to other censuses, but errors like that occur in censuses all the time. John H. presumably died relatively young, but whether as a child or as an adult is not known; what we know is that only David, Mary, and Edmund/Edward were still living at the time their grandfather, John Wilson, wrote his will.

Second, and what seems to clinch it, are records for Edmund/Edward T. Wilson over the years. See his notes for details.

The Pittman/Hill/Lentz Family Tree on Ancestry.com [64] has quite a bit of information on Mary Owen, and shows three marriages for her: to John Wilson on 14 Jul 1834 in Howard County, MO; to Thornton Fray on 12 Apr 1846 in Randolph County, MO; and to Robert Currin on 15 Nov 1850 in Randolph County, MO. (Find A Grave [28], listing for Mary S. Owens Curran, shows the spelling Curran on her gravestone.)

John Tilford Wilson and Mary S. Owen had the following children:

- **ii. Mary G. Wilson**, born abt 1838, MO; married William N. Reed, 4 Aug 1859, Randolph Co., MO.
- **iii. John H. Wilson** was born about 1840 in MO. He died before 1877.
This child is not named in the 1879 deed. Information about him comes only from the 1850 census. He must have been dead before his grandfather, John Wilson, made out his will in 1877 because John mentions only three children of his son John.


19. **Susan Anne Wilson** (John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1830, probably in MO. She died on 22 Jun 1852 in San Francisco, CA.

A newspaper notice reproduced in “Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822–1860), with Some Related and Contemporary Art of Alexander Edouart (Concluded)” by Fred B. Rogers [60]:

Died—At the residence of her father, Gen. John Wilson, on the evening of the 22nd inst. Mrs. Susan Anne Ford, wife of Henry Ford Esq., aged 22 years. Mr. Ford was absent upon his farm in the country, preparing a future home of his family. The deceased was a lady of superior mind and accomplishments, of most amiable and lovely disposition, kind to all, and desiring to see everybody happy. She retained her faculties to the last and bad [sic] adieu to her weeping relatives and friends, without a murmur, her countenance beaming with resignation to the decree of the all-wise Disposer. Also on the same day, John Henry, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ford. The friends and acquaintances are invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of Gen. John Wilson, Rincon Point, on Friday morning, at 10 o’clock.

Susan Anne Wilson and Henry Lambert Ford were married on 1 Sep 1851 in San Francisco, CA. **Henry Lambert (Noah Eastman) Ford** was born on 24 Aug 1822 in North Conway, VT. He died on 2 Jul 1860 at the age of 37 in Round Valley, Mendocino Co., CA. He was buried in Round Valley, Mendocino Co., CA.

Henry was born Noah Eastman Ford, but after deserting from the U.S. Army when he was young, he assumed the identity of his brother Henry, who had died. He played an important part in the California Bear Flag Revolt of 1846, and there is a great deal about him in a series of articles by Fred B. Rogers titled “Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822–1860), with Some Related and Contemporary Art of Alexander Edouart” in the *California Historical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 29 Nos. 2–4 and Vol. 30 Nos. 1–2 (1950–51). He first met the Wilson family when he was part of a rescue party helping them and other groups through the mountains of northern California in late fall and early winter of 1849. He had a ranch in Colusi County, CA, and was elected to the state legislature from there.

From the concluding section of “Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822–1860), with Some Related and Contemporary Art of Alexander Edouart (Concluded)” by Fred B. Rogers [60]:

59
Fourth Generation

Ford entered the valley on July first, intending to drive some stock back to his reservation. The next morning at about nine o’clock, while the saddle cover was being placed on his horse, a pistol attached to the horn of the saddle was accidentally discharged, and the ball which struck Captain Ford in the neck killed him almost instantly.

There, in a small frontier burying-ground in the valley of Nome Cult, between the Sacramento and the Mendocino coast, was interred the body of Henry L. (Noah Eastman) Ford.

Henry Lambert Ford and Susan Anne Wilson had the following child:

   63    i. **John Henry Ford** was born in 1852. He died on 22 Jun 1852 in San Francisco, CA.

21. **Mary Eliza Wilson** (John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 19 Apr 1836 in MO. She died on 29 Sep 1897 at the age of 61 in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co., CA.

Newspaper clipping (newspaper and date not identified) from Katherine Cooper’s scrapbook in the John Wilson Papers [80]:

Locations of interest in Northern California (modern-day borders)
Peaceful Death of Mrs. Wakeman.

Mrs. Mary E. Wakeman, the mother of Mrs. Harry C. Cooper, died suddenly about three o’clock this morning.

Mrs. Wakeman has been living alone in her cottage at Seabright, surrounded by the flowers she loved so well, and exchanging visits almost daily with her daughter and family.

On Monday evening she dined with the Coopers and was in her usual health, though she has for many years been aware that there was some trouble with her heart, and had often said that she expected and hoped to die suddenly.

Mrs. Wakeman’s death was discovered about 11 o’clock this forenoon and when a physician was called, it was his judgment that death had occurred at 3 o’clock or soon after and was caused by heart failure. As the door of the cottage was found unlocked, it is believed that the heavy shock of the powder mill explosion, which occurred about 2:45, aroused and frightened her, that she went to the door to look out and, possibly, that the shock and fright brought the end suddenly. She was lying in bed, with no evidence of struggle or suffering in her attitude or expression.

The grief and the suddenness of her loss have quite prostrated Mrs. Cooper, who was Mrs. Wakeman’s only daughter, and whose three children were her only grandchildren.

The deceased was the daughter of Gen. John Wilson, who was appointed by President Zachary Taylor the first naval officer of San Francisco. The family came to California in the early part of ’49, when Mrs. Wakeman was a young girl, and in that city she married and became a widow. She was acquainted with nearly all the well-known Californians of early days and could relate many interesting reminiscences. She and her daughter, then Mrs. Kate Dennis, came to Santa Cruz to reside over ten years ago and a few years later Mrs. Dennis married Harry C. Cooper.

Mrs. Wakeman was a lady of genial disposition, exceedingly fond of flowers and successful in their culture, and enjoyed to the utmost her quiet life and the daily intercourse with those she loved and by whom she was beloved. Her many friends and those of the Coopers will extend sympathy to them in their bereavement.

There are questions about her birth year. In the John Wilson Papers [80] there is a page of notes by Fred B. Rogers of dates taken from the bible of Mary Eliza Wilson Wakeman. It gives her birth date as 19 Apr 1836. This is consistent with ages given in the 1852 California state census and the 1880 federal census. However, at least two sources say that she was 65 years old at her death, including a death notice in the San Francisco Chronicle dated 29 Sep 1897. This would make her birth in about 1832. It is assumed here that the bible record is correct and the age 65 at death is wrong.
Mary Eliza Wilson and Ferdinand Oscar Wakeman were married on 2 Oct 1854. **Ferdinand Oscar Wakeman** was born about 1825 in PA. He died between 1871 and 1880. He was a land agent.

Mary E. Wakeman (Ferdinand’s wife) is listed as a widow in the 1880 census. Ferdinand is also not listed with the family in the 1870 census. There are some harsh words in an 1871 letter written by John Wilson (Ferdinand’s father-in-law), as quoted in the Hotchkiss manuscript [37]:

He had the reputation of being a moral businessman and had been well raised in Philadelphia. He came here with two brothers who then were also clever moral businessmen. Both afterwards became drunkards. Of course, the family remained with us. Mary Eliza never left us.

Gradually, all three brothers took to drink to excess. One of them is already dead as a drunken vagabond. The third is on the verge of the grave from the same cause. F. O. continued to get worse and worse till about three years ago I told him he could not stay here at my charge any longer. He left then and has been some times in the police stations, sometimes in the Home of Inebriate, and is now in prison on a charge of forgery. I have just been to see some influential friends to see if they can not aid in getting him out that he may leave the country. His crime, if he really committed it, was his drunkenness.

Ferdinand Oscar Wakeman and Mary Eliza Wilson had the following children:

+64  
  i. **Katherine Inge Wakeman**, born 1 Aug 1856, San Francisco, CA; married William Johnston Dennis, 4 Mar 1879; married Harry Clay Cooper, 16 Feb 1890, Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA; died 17 Feb 1929, Oakland, CA.

65  
  ii. **Maude Campbell Wakeman** was born on 5 Feb 1866 in CA. She died on 5 Jun 1871 at the age of 5 in San Francisco, CA.

From a letter by John Wilson, quoted in the Hotchkiss manuscript [37]:

We that remain of our family are all in good health, but the prettiest and smartest child of her age (5 years 4 months) ever produced in any of our families, Maude Campbell Wakeman, died about two months ago. Playing in our yard with her little associates, how or why we know not, her clothes got on fire from matches at about 1 P.M., and before any of the family knew it, her clothes were literally burned off her. Several doctors were on the ground in a few minutes, who did all they could, but at half past 7 P.M. she fell as it were on sleep, seemingly without pain, and was dead and her spirit in heaven before the sun’s rays had fully withdrawn themselves from the tops of the Sierras. This of all others has been our most terrible misfortune of our lives, which has certainly furnished us many, too many misfortunes to name. This will be with us always. She possessed the most remarkable matured mind. She was the preferred leader of all her associates of her own age and was a welcome associate of all who knew her of the girls of 15 or 16 years old.

Had death in his ordinary rounds taken her off, our grief would have been almost inconsolable. As it is, nothing will assuage our grief till we follow after.
23. **Eliza Jane Wilson** (David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in 1820. She died on 15 Aug 1847 in MO. She was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

Eliza Jane Wilson and James William Reid were married on 2 Jun 1843 in Saline Co., MO. **James William Reid** was born on 5 Feb 1802. He died on 14 Dec 1883 at the age of 81. He was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO. James was a doctor.

James William Reid and Eliza Jane Wilson had the following children:

- **+66 i. David William Reid**, born 13 Apr 1845, near Cambridge, MO; married Annie Beeding, 25 May 1870, Saline Co., MO; married Mary Turner, 21 Apr 1880, Boonville, Cooper Co., MO; died 16 Jan 1929, Wichita, KS.
- **67 ii. Ada Reid** was born about Aug 1847 and died about Dec 1847. She was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO. The Reid manuscript [56] says she died in infancy; in a couple of places it says she died at 4 months.

27. **Paulina E. Wilson** (David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 10 Jun 1833 in Saline Co., MO. She died on 2 Mar 1891 at the age of 57 in Fayette, Howard Co., MO (another source says she died on March 1). She was buried in Fayette City Cemetery, Fayette, MO.

Her name is listed as Paulina E. in the 1850 census, Pauline in the 1860 census. The Foster/Reid Family Tree [30] and the Reid manuscript [56] have Paulina. Find A Grave (listing for Pauline E Wilson Swinney) has Pauline. Since Mollie Turner Reid (author of the Reid manuscript) actually knew her, Paulina is used here. The Reid manuscript also refers to her as Aunt Pine.

Paulina E. Wilson and **John Bell** were married. No further information is known about him.

Paulina E. Wilson and Thomas A. Swinney were married about 1868. **Thomas A. Swinney**, son of Thomas Swinney and Jane Harris, was born on 31 May 1823 in Campbell Co., VA. He died about 29 Sep 1882 at the age of 59 in Fayette, Howard Co., MO. He was buried in Fayette City Cemetery, Fayette, MO.

From Find A Grave [28] (listing for Thomas A Swinney):

SWINNEY, Thomas A., fourth son of Thos. & Jane Swinney, was born in Campbell Co, Va., in 1823. Came to Mo. in 1848 and engaged in business for his cousin, Wm. D. Swinney, at one time near Glasgow, and later in Fayette, Mo. In 1854 went to Calif. for his health, where he prospered; returned in 1865 and settled in Fayette. Died there, Sept 30, 1882. Married firest [sic], Mollie Burrus, of Va., by whom he had a daughter, still living. After several yrs as a widower, he married Mrs. Bell of Saline Co, Mo. by whom he also had a daughter. By J.O. Swinney. (published 10/25/1882)
Taken from the book “Missouri Obituaries 1880-1881-1882”, abstracts of obituaries published weekly in the “St Louis Christian Advocate”

The above obituary gives his death date as 30 Sep 1882, but Find A Grave says 29 Sep 1882 in another place. Not only that, but another source listed his death date as 28 Sep 1882. So there is some uncertainty about which day he died.

Thomas A. Swinney and Paulina E. Wilson had the following child:

+68 i. Margaret Kring Swinney, born 25 Sep 1871, Fayette, Howard Co., MO; married Harvey McKinney Bryan; died 11 Mar 1941, Gainesville, FL.

29. Juliette W. Wilson (David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in Jan 1843 in Saline Co., MO. She died in 1918 and was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

Her name is listed as Julia W. Wilson in the 1850 census, Julia in the 1900 census, Juliett in the 1860–1880 censuses, and Juliette W. in the 1910 census. She is also called Julia in Robert H. Wilson’s biography in *Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri* [16]. She is listed as Juliette in the Foster/Reid Family Tree [30] and on the gravestone pictured there. *Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri* says she was born in 1842, but her gravestone says she was born in 1843. January 1843 is from the 1900 census.

Children Maggie, Belle, and Mamie are listed in the 1880 census. The Foster/Reid Family Tree lists children Margaret, Belle, and Juliette.

Juliette W. Wilson and George A. Cannon were married about 1875. George A. Cannon was born in Mar 1853 in KY. He was a farmer.

George A. Cannon and Juliette W. Wilson had the following children:

+69 i. Margaret Cannon, born Jan 1876, MO; married ? Quinn.
70 ii. Belle Cannon was born about 1877 in MO.
71 iii. Mamie L. Cannon was born on 20 Dec 1879 in MO. She died on 2 Jul 1880 in MO. She was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

30. John Henry Grove (Mary Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1821 in VA. He died before 1870. He was a merchant.

John is not listed with his family in the 1870 census, so he had probably died before then. In 1880 Agnes is listed as a widow, but they didn’t include that information in 1870.
John Henry Grove and Agnes W. Lewis were married on 21 Dec 1849 in Howard Co., MO. Agnes W. Lewis was born about 1825 in VA. She died after 1880 (she is listed in the 1880 census).

It appears that the youngest daughter of this family, Bettie, is the only one who married. Other than Bettie, they all continued to live together as a family unit. After Agnes passed away, Harry, Mary, and Jennie continued to live together until Harry passed away. Bettie’s husband passed away a couple of years after Harry, and she came and joined her sisters. Then, one by one, they passed away, first Mary then Jennie then Bettie. Some of the death certificates mention senility, so some of them had to be cared for by the others.

John Henry Grove and Agnes W. Lewis had the following children:

73  i.  **Henry Clay (Harry) Grove** was born on 28 Oct 1854 in Cambridge, Saline Co., MO. He died on 6 Aug 1934 at the age of 79 in Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. Harry was a druggist. He was buried in Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. The name on his death certificate is Harry Clay Grove. Cause of death was acute heart failure. It also mentions senility. Place of death is listed as Glasgow, Chariton Twp., Howard Co., MO, and it says he lived in that town for 70 years. It also says that he was a druggist for 48 years, up to 1918. He was single, and apparently never married.

74  ii.  **Mary Willie Grove** was born on 22 Mar 1855 in Saline Co., MO. She died on 23 Jun 1940 at the age of 85 in Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. She was a teacher when she was young. Mary was buried in Lewis Cemetery, Glasgow, MO. The name on her death certificate is Mary Willie Grove. Can’t make out the cause of death, though part of it looks like burns on back and arms. Place of death is listed as Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. She was single and apparently never married.

75  iii.  **Jane Isbell (Jennie) Grove** was born on 11 Oct 1856 in Saline Co., MO. She died on 7 Feb 1949 at the age of 92 in Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. Jennie was buried in Lewis Cemetery, Glasgow, MO. The name on her death certificate is Jane Isbell Grove. Can’t make out the cause of death, but part of it says senility, and it also mentions senile dementia. Place of death is listed as 508 5th St. (home). It says that she lived there for 82 years (not sure if that refers to the house, or just to the town). It also says that she never married.


32.  **Robert W. Grove** (Mary Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 30 Jan 1828 in Saline Co., MO. He died on 30 Jul 1863 at the age of 35 in Saline Co., MO. He was a merchant. Robert was buried in Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, MO.
Soon after this affair [a fight with guerillas], two young men, Grove, a nephew of Colonel Wm. A. Wilson, and Gilliam, a son of A. W. Gilliam, Sr., of the northeastern part of the county, were captured on the Miami road by a scouting party of Federal soldiers from Marshall. Major Kelly, then in command of the post, says they were taken straggling in the rear of a band of Quantrell’s [sic] guerillas, whom they had recently joined. The relatives of these unfortunate men contend that they had not joined any guerilla band, and did not intend to, but they were making their way to the Confederate army. On the night of the 29th of July, about midnight, a party of soldiers in Marshall, without the knowledge of their officers, took Grove and Gilliam from the guard, with or without the connivance of the guard, dragged them into the woods north of town, and there hung them. The bodies of these two ill-fated men were found the next morning, quite dead, and buried by the citizens.

It is unfortunate that they didn’t give the first name of the accused Grove, but it must have been Robert, who is known to have died on 30 Jul 1863. Quantrill’s Raiders, of course, was a famous/infamous guerilla group.

Robert W. Grove and Susan V. Duggins were married on 19 Jan 1858 in Saline Co., MO. Susan V. Duggins was born on 9 Jan 1833 in Saline Co., MO. She died on 28 Apr 1877 at the age of 44. She was buried in Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge, MO.

Her middle initial is given as B in information from James Hotchkiss and in a posting to the BRECHT-L mailing list by Harold Bright on 15 Apr 2000. It is given as V on Find A Grave [28] (listing for Susan V. “Sue” Duggins Cannon). From Find A Grave, her second marriage was to William A. Cannon on 20 Oct 1869.

34. Belinda C. Grove (Mary Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1834 in Saline Co., MO. She died on 2 Feb 1899 in DC. She was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

Cause of death was pneumonia (from the Peterson-Case_Update tree on Ancestry.com [15]).

There are a lot of questions about this family. The names of the children come from censuses and the Peterson-Case_Update tree. Some of the information in the Peterson-Case_Update tree appears to be incorrect, but the information for Mabel and Marie looks like it is probably right. It doesn’t look like any of them had children, with the possible exception of Susan, who has not been found in censuses after 1880.

Belinda C. Grove and Henry Clay Hayden were married on 17 Nov 1857 in Saline Co., MO. Henry Clay Hayden was born about 1833 in MO. He died on 7 Aug 1873 in St. Louis, MO. He was a lawyer. Henry was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Henry Clay Hayden and Belinda C. Grove had the following children:

77  i.  **Ida Lou Hayden** was born in May 1860 in MO.
    She is not listed with her family in the 1870 census, so she probably died before that.

+78  ii.  **Mabel Hayden**, born 1862, MO; married Henry William Mellen, 19 Dec 1893, Washington, DC; died 5 Aug 1926, Seattle, WA.

79  iii.  **Susan Hayden** was born about 1864 in MO.

+80  iv.  **Marie Hayden**, born abt 1867, MO; married Wilford Bacon Hoggatt, 12 Jan 1893, Washington, DC; died 31 Dec 1900, Seattle, WA.

81  v.  **Henry Clay Hayden Jr.** was born about Jul 1870 in MO. He died on 3 Mar 1873 in St. Louis, MO. He was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery, St. Louis, MO.

Find A Grave [28] has a listing for a Henry C Hayden who died on 3 Mar 1873. The death date and burial above assume that this is the right person, but that is not certain.

37.  **Mary Ann Wilson** (Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 2 Jul 1835 in Howard Co., MO. She died on 9 Feb 1920 at the age of 84 in St. Joseph, MO. She was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

The name on her death certificate is Mary Ann McDonald. Cause of death was chronic bronchitis followed by terminal bronchial pneumonia. Place of death was at home (811 North 9th).

Mary Ann Wilson and Rufus Lee McDonald were married on 16 May 1855 in St. Joseph, MO. **Rufus Lee McDonald** was born on 19 May 1832 in Harrodsburg, Mercer Co., KY. He died on 5 Jan 1923 at the age of 90 in St. Joseph, MO. He was a merchant and manufacturer. Rufus was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

*History of Buchanan County, Missouri (1881)*: 9

R. L. McDonald was born near Harrisburg, Kentucky, May 19, 1832. His father was a farmer of that neighborhood, and here the subject of our sketch resided till he was nineteen years of age, when he left his home for the West, and settled in St. Joseph, Missouri, where he engaged as a clerk in the store of Donnell & Saxton. In 1853, he was received as a partner in the business. A short time previous to the breaking out of the civil war, he purchased the interest of his partners, and became sole proprietor of the concern, a general retail dry goods house, then located on the corner of Fourth and Felix Streets. In 1865, he associated with himself C. H. Buckman and F. L. McLain, and under the name and style of R. L. McDonald & Co., engaged in the wholesale trade. In 1867, F. L. McLain retired from the partnership for the purpose of engaging in the retail business alone. He was succeeded by George Henderson. In 1872, Colonel J. H. Dayton became a member of the firm. In

9 http://genforum.genealogy.com/mo/buchanan/messages/715.html (link no longer works)
January, 1877, Dayton and Buckman both retired from the partnership, and W. A. P. McDonald became a partner. Since that period, this gentleman and George Henderson, Jr. have composed the Co. of the concern. In December, 1880, the elegant structure of the present business house of this firm, a brick faced with cut stone, on the northwest corner of Fourth and Francis streets, was completed and occupied. This is the largest structure of the kind in the city, having a frontage of one hundred feet on Fourth Street, running back one hundred and forty feet on Francis Street, and is four stories high, with an elegantly lighted basement, opening on the grade of Francis Street. The floor space of the entire building includes 70,000 square feet. The stories are of unusual height, the basement being twelve feet, the first floor twenty feet, the second seventeen feet, the third sixteen, and the fourth story twelve feet. This house, the largest west of St. Louis, distributes its sales over twelve states and territories, employing constantly about twenty traveling salesmen, besides the sixty of seventy engaged in the house. R. L. McDonald was married May 16, 1857, to Miss Mary A. Wilson, daughter of General Robert Wilson, formerly United States Senator from Missouri, and niece of Armstrong Beattie, deceased. They have had seven children. Of these, John, Maggie, Mattie, Robert, Annie and Marie survive.

There is some interesting history in the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Walnut Park Farm Historic District [73], including this bit (Section 8, p. 27):

As a pioneer St. Joseph businessman in 1864, McDonald assembled and dispatched to California a wagon train of supplies and around a hundred young mules bought on-the-cheap. McDonald’s brother-in-law James Wilson was in charge of the wagon train, which McDonald joined in Salt Lake City after traveling there by stagecoach. McDonald accompanied the procession to San Francisco where the mules, now fully grown, were sold to the U.S. government at a large profit. With the proceeds, McDonald traveled via the Panama Canal [sic – the Panama Canal did not yet exist at that time] to New York City where he purchased vast quantities of new merchandise for his store. The entire episode was “highly successful...though one fraught [mainly the trek to California] with much danger.”

Note that the first comment in brackets is by the author of this book, but the second was already in the text of the application. There is some information about Walnut Park Farm in the notes for Marvin Middleton Davis (husband of Rufus’s daughter Annette).
The name on his death certificate is Rufus Lee McDonald. Can’t read the cause of death. Place of death was at home (811 North 9th).

Rufus Lee McDonald and Mary Ann Wilson had the following children:

82  i. **Maggie Beattie McDonald** was born on 11 Mar 1856 in St. Joseph, MO.
+83  ii. **John Irving McDonald**, born 11 Jun 1858, St. Joseph, MO; married Frank Haskell Fanning, 17 Nov 1880, Buchanan Co., MO; died 1939.
84  iii. **Mattie Lee McDonald** was born on 8 Apr 1864 in St. Joseph, MO.
87  vi. **Rufus Lee McDonald Jr.** was born on 25 Jul 1871 in St. Joseph, MO. He died in 1873 and was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO. The biography of Rufus Lee McDonald Sr. says that he had seven children, and then lists six who were still living. This is the unlisted child who died young. There is a cemetery listing at Mount Mora Cemetery [49], which has no name; just “Child of Rufus Lee McDonald”. The name and birth date come from a family tree by Sharon Fleiner Smith Kindron on Ancestry World Tree [3], which no longer exists (accessed April 2009). The AWT page stated that the data came from “Genealogy of the MacDonald Family” by Frank V. McDonald, Feb 1876 Edition B, which included an acknowledgement to Rufus McDonald.
88  vii. **Marie McDonald** was born on 14 Jul 1875 in MO. She died on 21 Jul 1964 at the age of 89. She was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

38. **William Wilson Loop** (Nancy M. Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1829 in OH. He died on 20 Jul 1898 in Preble Co., OH.

William Wilson Loop and Elizabeth Mahalia Boner were married on 9 May 1858 in Preble Co., OH. **Elizabeth Mahalia Boner** was born in Mar 1840 in IN.

William Wilson Loop and Elizabeth Mahalia Boner had the following children:

89  i. **Anna Loop** was born in OH.
90  ii. **Charles A. Loop** was born in Sep 1866 in OH.

39. **Lavinia Catherine Loop** (Nancy M. Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1829 in OH.
Her name was spelled Lavina Catharine Loop in information from Katherine Bushman that was passed on by James Hotchkiss [12]. Spelling of Lavinia Catherine is from the Loop1 family tree on Ancestry.com [42].

Lavinia Catherine Loop and John McChristy were married on 21 Mar 1850 in Preble Co., OH. **John McChristy** was born about 1828 in IN.

40. **Eliza Jane Loop** (Nancy M. Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 31 Jan 1833 in Mercer Co., OH. She died on 13 Nov 1913 at the age of 80 in Camden, Preble Co., OH. She was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, OH.

She was called Eliza Pana Loop in the Bushman information [12]. Name of Eliza Jane is from the Loop1 family tree on Ancestry.com [42]. She is listed as Elizabeth Jane Loop Whitson on Find A Grave [28], though her gravestone says Eliza Whitson.

Eliza Jane Loop and Milton Thomas Whitson were married on 17 Feb 1863 in Preble Co., OH. **Milton Thomas Whitson** was born on 26 Feb 1836 in Columbia, Lancaster Co., PA. He died on 29 Dec 1913 at the age of 77 in Preble Co., OH. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, OH.

Milton Thomas Whitson and Eliza Jane Loop had the following children:

+91  i. **Helen W. Whitson**, born 19 Jan 1865, Camden, Preble Co., OH; married Milo Jenkins Harris; died 18 Dec 1946, Dayton, OH.

92  ii. **Lurton H. Whitson** was born on 27 Feb 1872 in OH. He died on 8 Jun 1885 at the age of 13. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, OH.

41. **Julia Ann Loop** (Nancy M. Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1842 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH. She died on 21 Sep 1886 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH. Her name was Julian Loop in the Bushman information [12]. Name of Julia Ann is from the Loop1 family tree on Ancestry.com [42].

Julia Ann Loop and ? **Lamm** were married.

44. **John Anderson Loop** (Nancy M. Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1842 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH. He died on 21 Sep 1886 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

John Anderson Loop and Anna R. Lehman were married on 1 Dec 1874 in Preble Co., OH. Anna R. Lehman was born on 15 Jan 1848 in PA. She died on 12 Jan 1884 at the age of 35 in Preble Co., OH.

John Anderson Loop and Anna R. Lehman had the following children:

93 i. Mary S. Loop was born on 19 Mar 1876 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH.
94 ii. John A. Loop was born on 5 Dec 1877 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH.
95 iii. Lucy L. Loop was born on 5 Dec 1877 in Somers Twp., Preble Co., OH.

45. Benjamin Harrison Wilson (William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 10 May 1836 in Fayette, Howard Co., MO. He died on 10 May 1904 at the age of 68 in Denver, CO. He worked as a clerk for various companies and government organizations, including being elected court clerk in Saline Co., MO. He was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Denver, CO.

He was obviously named for his grandfather, Benjamin Harrison Reeves.

From History of Saline County, Missouri [46], he was the captain of company F, 7th regiment, Missouri state militia (Union; pp. 278, 288, 350, 489). He was elected circuit clerk in 1866 (p. 359). In the “Marriage Records of Saline County” on Ancestry.com, there are lots of marriages performed or recorded by Ben H. Wilson in the period of 1868 to 1870.

Some additional information on his military service is available at the web site of the Missouri Secretary of State, which has old soldiers’ service cards online.10 The card for Benj. H. Wilson shows that he enlisted 12 Feb 1862 at Marshall, mustered in on 17 Apr 1862 at Georgetown (Missouri), and mustered out on 22 Apr 1865. It also has a physical description of him (5 ft. 11½ in., dark hair, hazel eyes, dark complexion), gives his occupation as clerk, and says he was a native of Fayette, Howard Co., Mo.

The Web site of the Missouri Secretary of State also shows B.H. Wilson elected to the state house of representatives in 1864, with a note that he resigned.11

10 http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers/
Much more information on Ben’s service during the Civil War was obtained from some descendants of his. On the Vaughan Family Tree on Ancestry.com there is a photo of a coat of arms made for Ben, which contains text summarizing all he did during the war:

![Colonel Benjamin H. Wilson coat of arms](image)

The text is not readable in the photo, but Debbie and Mike Vaughan provided additional information. The text follows, with some punctuation added/changed to make it more readable, plus a couple of spelling corrections.

Descendants of Robert Wilson


Debbie and Mike Vaughan also provided a transcription of a letter about family history written by Ben [78]. The transcription was not dated, but it indicated that the letter was written about 1895.

Ancestry.com has a database called “Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1879-1903”, which includes images of records from the National Archives. There is one for Benj H Wilson, which gives his death date as 11 May 1904. However, his headstone at Riverside Cemetery correctly shows his death as 10 May 1904 (image on Find A Grave [28], listing for Ben H Wilson). Supposedly, the worn headstone was replaced by Harry Powell Wilson Jr. sometime in the 1980s or 1990s. Perhaps it was corrected at that time.

The name on his death certificate is Benjamin Wilson. Cause of death was cerebral thrombosis. He died at the Denver City & County Hospital.

1850 census
Listed as Benjamin H. B. Wilson, age 14, born in Missouri. Attended school within the year. Living with his parents.

1860 census
Listed as Benjamin Wilson, age 24, born in Missouri. Occupation clerk. Living with his parents.

1870 census
Image 2 on Ancestry.com (Marshall Twp., Saline Co., MO)
Listed as B.H. Willson, age 34, born in Missouri. Occupation, clerk of court. Value of real estate listed as $17000, value of personal estate listed as $3000. Household consisted of B.H., Olive A., William A., and Bernice Willson; Mary E. Willson [Ben’s mother], Horace E. and Byrd L. Willson [Ben’s brothers]; two apparent boarders, Jacob Vandike and Wm. Johnston,
who look like they also worked for Ben in the court clerk’s office; E. and Mary Gilmore (domestic servant and her baby); and Henry Bryd, a farm laborer (another boarder?).

1880 census
Image 37 on Ancestry.com (District 66, Marshall, Saline Co., MO)
Listed as Ben H Wilson, age 44. Born in Missouri, father born in Virginia, mother born in Kentucky. Occupation, bank clerk. Household consisted of Ben H., Ollive A., Wm. A., Berenice, Maud, and Genevieve Wilson; Emily A. Powell, listed as a boarder [Olive’s sister]; and Hannah Ashby (servant).

He is listed in the 1885 Colorado census [20] in Denver, CO, along with wife Olive; children William, Maud, Genevieve, and Harry; and brother Byrd (B. L.). His occupation is listed as stock grower.

1900 census
Listed as Benjamin Wilson, divorced. Age 64, born in May 1836. Born in Missouri, father born in Virginia, mother born in Kentucky. Occupation, clerk in surveyor general [?]. Living with brother Leonard Wilson and his family.

Benjamin Harrison Wilson and Olive Agnes Powell were married on 27 May 1868 in Howard Co., MO. They were divorced on 20 Feb 1894 in Denver, CO. Olive Agnes Powell was born about 1849 in MO. She died about 1936.

The Adair Wilson family record [77] shows the marriage between Ben and Olive in May 1868. Ancestry.com (“Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002”) shows a marriage between Benjamin Wilson and Alice Pouell on 27 May 1868 in Howard County, MO. They have an image of the marriage book, and the bride’s first name is definitely shown as Alice; it’s not a transcription error. This is odd, but it must be the marriage of Ben and Olive; there is no other reasonable record for May 1868. Perhaps the person entering the information mis-heard “Olive” as “Alice”. Information on their divorce was obtained from an online Colorado divorce index that is no longer available. The divorce was listed as taking place in Denver County, but Denver County did not exist until 1902, so presumably it was really Denver, Arapahoe Co., CO.

Some sources have Olive’s birth date as 21 Jun 1851. However, this birth date can’t be right because she is listed in the 1850 census (Saline County, MO; she was 9 months old at the time of the census). She is also listed as 11 years old in the 1860 census (also Saline County, MO). Additional evidence that this is the right Olive Powell in 1850 and 1860 is that she had an older sister named Emily, and there was an Emily Powell living with Ben and Olive Wilson in the 1880 census.

This is a bit confusing... She is listed in the 1930 census as Olive E. Goodwin, widow, living with daughter Genevieve Wilson in White Plains, NY (Genevieve is listed as a social worker, so it’s definitely the right family). They are also listed together in the 1925 New York State census,
in New York City (listed as Olive A. Goodwin this time). She is listed as Olive A. Goodwin, widow, in the 1920 census in East Orange, NJ, boarding with the family of Chas. Malloy. In *History of the Long Island College Hospital and Its Graduates* [55], there is a listing for Henry Timrod Goodwin, whose second wife was Olive Agnes Powell of Missouri (married 1894). They are listed together (she as Olive E. Goodwin) in the 1900 census in Richmond County, NY, along with two sons who are presumably from Henry’s first marriage. Olive’s birth is given as June 1852 there, which isn’t right (she was listed in the 1850 census, see above). Henry T. Goodwin is listed as divorced in the 1910 and 1920 censuses. So it looks like Olive tended to fib about her age and didn’t want to tell people she was divorced. The Vaughan Family Tree [70] and the CG Miller Family Tree [45] say she died in 1936, but the Benjamin Harrison Wilson family tree [79] says 1937.

1870 census
Listed as Olive (?) A. Willson, age 21, born in Missouri. Living with her husband, B.H. Willson, and family.

1880 census
Listed as Ollive A Wilson, age 31, born in Missouri, father born in Kentucky, mother born in Louisiana. Living with her husband, Ben H. Wilson, and family.

Benjamin Harrison Wilson and Olive Agnes Powell had the following children:

+96  i. **William A. Wilson**, born 15 Apr 1869, Saline Co., MO; married Lila E. Boyce, abt 1897; died aft 1940.

97  ii. **Berenice Wilson** was born on 22 May 1870 in Saline Co., MO. She died on 14 Apr 1884 at the age of 13 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. She was buried in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO.

Her name is spelled Bernice in some records (1870 census, Ancestral File [18]) and Berenice in others (1880 census, birth record in *Missouri Pioneers* [36]).

The death date and place may not be correct. Her family had already moved to Colorado before this time. Is she being confused with another Berenice Wilson? The Missouri Secretary of State office has the death record on-line for a Bernice Wilson who died 14 Apr 1884 in Saline County, but the birth date and place do not fit for our Berenice. However, she is not listed with her family in the 1885 Colorado census, so it does seem likely that she died before that time.


99  iv. **Genevieve Wilson** was born about 1874 in Saline Co., MO. She died after 1930 (she is listed in the 1930 census). She was a social worker.

From *Woman’s Who’s Who of America* (1914) [40]:

WILSON, Genevieve, 39 E. Thirty-first St., N.Y. City.

100 v. Benjamin Powell Wilson was born on 11 Oct 1874 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He died on 3 Nov 1875 at the age of 1 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He was buried in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO.


46. Martha Catharine (Kate) Wilson (William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in 1839, probably in Old Jefferson, MO. She died on 25 Jan 1866 in Columbus, IN.

The name Martha Catharine comes from Ancestral File [18]. She is listed as Catherine in the McGrew letter [44] and the 1850 census. William Adair Wilson’s biography in History of Saline County [46] lists her as Martha C. Martha Catharine looks to be a combination of her two grandmothers’ names.

1850 census
Listed as Catherine Wilson, age 11, born in Missouri. Attended school within the year. Living with her parents.

1860 census
Listed as Mrs. Kate Grove, age 19, born in Missouri. Married within the year. Living with her husband, Dr. J. B. Grove.
Martha Catharine (Kate) Wilson and John Bright Grove were married on 6 Oct 1859 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. **John Bright Grove**, son of Adam Grove and Anne Seawright Rankin, was born on 2 Aug 1829 in Augusta Co., VA. (Adam Grove was a brother of Samuel S. Grove, the husband of Mary Wilson.) He died on 27 Jan 1882 at the age of 52 in Columbus, IN. He was a doctor.

*Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana* (1880) [74]:

GROVE, JOHN B., of Columbus, was born in Augusta County, Virginia, on the 2d of August, 1829, and is the son of Adam and Anna S. (Rankin) Grove, well-to-do farmers of that state. He received an academic education at Shemariah Academy, in Virginia, and at the age of seventeen began the study of medicine under a private tutor. In 1846 he entered the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1849, receiving a premature examination, to enable him to remove to California. He took his departure on the third day of May, acting as surgeon of the vessel, and sailed around Cape Horn, visiting several of the South American states, and arriving at San Francisco November 6, 1849. Here he immediately entered upon the practice of his profession, which he continued until the next spring. He then accepted the position of inspector in the custom-house at San Francisco; but this proving less lucrative than he had anticipated, he resigned the office in 1850. Allured by the “gold fever” into the interior, he removed to Long Bar, on the Yuba River, in Yuba County, where he engaged in the practice of medicine and in mining operations. In 1851 he was made the Whig candidate for the Lower House of the state Legislature, and, although his party was in the minority by six hundred, his personal popularity was such that he came within eighteen votes of receiving the election. In 1854, the Whig party having attained the majority, its nomination became equivalent to an election, and his friends urged his name for the office of county treasurer. In the convention they were universally admitted to be largely in the majority, but so corrupt were political affairs in those primitive days that one of his opponents, in open market, shamelessly purchased enough delegates to secure the nomination. In the spring of 1856 he received the appointment as resident physician of the Yuba County Hospital, a position of honor and trust, which he held for a period of eighteen months. At the end of that time he resumed the practice of medicine at Marysville, and continued it until the spring of 1858, when he returned to the States, and in the fall of that year settled at Marshall, Saline County, Missouri, where he married his first wife, Miss Kate Wilson, daughter of Judge William A. Wilson. In the spring of 1862 he received the important appointment of post surgeon for the Union army at Marshall, the duties of which position he discharged with skill, and to the entire satisfaction of all who came under his care. That part of the state, becoming the field of operation for both the contending armies, was neither safe nor pleasant as a residence, and in 1864, when General Price overran the country with his devastating army, Dr. Grove determined to seek a more peaceful locality. He accordingly removed to Columbus, Indiana, where he still resides, and where he soon acquired a large and remunerative practice. On the 25th of January, 1866, he met a sad misfortune in the death of his estimable wife, who left two children—Ada and Florence. June 6,
1868, he married Louise Westfall, by whom he has two sons—Albert Sidney and John Clifford. In 1872 he was elected a member of the city council, a position which he ably filled; in the spring of 1874, he was nominated as state Senator for the counties of Bartholomew and Brown, by the Democrats of the district. After a hot contest against a combination of Republicans, Grangers, Temperance men, and Greenbackers, in which nearly the entire Democratic ticket was defeated by heavy majorities, he was triumphantly elected. The three sessions of which he was a member were the most important and exciting that had been held for years. At this time the temperance question, which had been an exciting issue among the people, was pacifically adjusted by the repeal of the so-called “Baxter law,” and the enactment, in its stead, of the present well devised, closely guarded, and satisfactory license law. In bringing about this result, none were more active and influential than Senator Grove, whose effective speeches were largely commented upon by the press. At this time, also, the gravel road question was attracting considerable attention, and many important measures in regard to it were brought before the Legislature. So conflicting and intense were these interests that the clearest judgment was required to insure just and proper legislation. The responsibilities resting upon Senator Grove were delicate and arduous, and yet, with tact of no ordinary kind, he discharged this duty to his constituents in so able a manner as to receive the warmest commendation of all. Through his instrumentality some meritorious laws were enacted upon this subject, and some very bad measures were effectually defeated. No legislator can do all that he hopes. The selfishness of mankind, the greed of corporations, the sluggishness with which new impressions are received, are so many barriers in the way of a really painstaking law-maker. At the close of his term, his constituents in Bartholomew County were unanimous for his return; but party usages had alternated the office between the two counties composing the district, and, with a magnanimity truly commendable, he refused to break in upon this custom, and peremptorily declined the nomination. Doctor Grove sympathized with the old national Whig party in his earlier days, and up to its abandonment; afterward he supported Fillmore, and, at the next election, Bell and Everett. In 1863 he became identified with the Democratic organization, of which he has since been an earnest and consistent member, taking a deep interest in its welfare, and contributing to its successful management. As a physician he stands at the head of the profession. In religious faith he is an Episcopalian, and gives that denomination his aid and support.

In this biography, it says that he became post surgeon for the Union Army at Marshall, MO, in the spring of 1862. Note that his father-in-law, Lt. Col. William A. Wilson, became commander of the post in the fall of 1862.

There is a great deal of Grove family history in *The History of a Grove Family: The First Two Centuries in America* [31] by Robert Neil Grove, who was a descendant of John Bright Grove by his second wife, Louise Westfall.

1860 census
Image 13 on Ancestry.com (Marshall, Saline Co., MO)
Listed as Dr. J. B. Grove, age 32, born in Virginia. Value of real estate unreadable, value of personal estate listed as $2500. Household consisted of J. B. and Kate Grove and Benj. Sandidge. Married within the year.

John Bright Grove and Martha Catharine Wilson had the following children:
Descendants of Robert Wilson

102  i. Ada Grove was born on 29 Nov 1860 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO.
103  ii. Florence Grove was born on 26 Aug 1862 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO.
104  iii. Katie Grove was born on 11 Jan 1866 in Columbus, IN. She died shortly after birth.

47. Adair Wilson (William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 16 Nov 1841 in Old Jefferson, Saline Co., MO. He died on 7 Jan 1912 at the age of 70 in Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA. He was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, CA. Adair was a lawyer and a judge.

*Portrait and Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity (1898)* [17]:

HON. ADAIR WILSON, associate judge of the Colorado State Court of Appeals, was born in 1841 in what is now Cambridge, Saline County, Mo., and is of Scotch-Irish lineage. His paternal great-grandfather emigrated from Ireland to the United States and after a short sojourn in Pennsylvania went to the Shenandoah Valley, of Virginia, where he was engaged as a planter until his death. He had a brother, James, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, also of the Constitution, by profession an attorney, and under appointment by President Washington chosen to fill the position of justice of the supreme court of the United States.

The grandfather of our subject, William Wilson, was born in Virginia, and took part in the Revolution when a young man. Many years later, in 1824, he removed to Missouri and settled upon a farm near Glasgow, Howard County, where he lived retired until his death. The youngest of his large family was William A., a native of Augusta County, Va., and in early life a merchant, but later a student of law with his brother, Gen. John Wilson, who had preceded the family to Missouri and had served in the war of 1812. William was admitted to the bar in Saline County and opened an office in Marshall, where he was a pioneer and prominent attorney. For years he was clerk of all the courts there. When the Civil war broke out he was somewhat advanced in years, but enlisted in the state militia and was made lieutenant-colonel of a regiment, serving until the close of the war, but the exposure of camp life caused his death soon afterwards. He was then about fifty-seven years of age. Fraternally he was a Mason.

Our subject’s mother was Mary E. Reeves, a native of Todd County, Ky., and now living in Marshall, Mo. She is the descendant of English and Scotch-Irish ancestors, who early settled in Virginia. Her father, Col. Benjamin H. Reeves, was born in Augusta County, Va., but about the close of the eighteenth century, when in infancy, he removed to Kentucky with his parents. His father had served in the Revolution and he took part, as a captain, in the war of 1812, being of the greatest assistance to the cause in Indiana and Kentucky and relieving Zachary Taylor when the latter was besieged near Lafayette. During his residence in Kentucky he was for many years a member of
the legislature. In 1818 he removed to Missouri, where he was a member of the constitutional convention, later state senator from his district, and afterward lieutenant-governor of the state for one term. He was one of the commissioners appointed by the president of the United States to locate the Santa Fe trail. Both while in Kentucky and Missouri he was active in the skirmishes with the Indians, and during the Iowa Indian war he was colonel of a regiment. He died in 1849, at the age of sixty-two years. Politically he had been an ardent supporter of Henry Clay and the Whig party.

The family of which our subject is a member consisted of seven children, he being third in order of birth. One brother, Benjamin H., was a captain in a Missouri regiment during the Civil war and is now a resident of Denver. Our subject was reared in Marshall and received his education in the Masonic College, from which he graduated with the degree of A. B., in 1858, when less than seventeen years of age, being the youngest member of his class. He studied law under an uncle, Judge Abiel Leonard, who was at one time judge of the supreme court of Missouri. In 1860 he was admitted to the bar at Marshall and in the spring of the following year came to Denver, making the trip overland with teams. After a few weeks he proceeded westward to California and located in San Francisco, where his uncle, Gen. John Wilson, was a prominent attorney. The uncle and nephew practiced together for two years, then the latter went to Virginia City, Nev., and embarked in the newspaper business as city editor of the Virginia City Union, at the same time that Mark Twain was city editor of the Enterprise. After one year he went to Austin, Nev., where he was the first editor of the Reese River Reveille, a paper that is still being published. Resigning his position a year later, he went back to San Francisco and resumed the practice of law. His father dying in 1867 [actually in 1865], he returned to Missouri to look after the estate, and opened an office in Marshall, where he practiced until 1872.

Coming again to Colorado in 1872, our subject located in Pueblo, where he practiced for a year. He was among the earliest settlers in the San Juan mining region and located at Del Norte, which became the county seat. In 1875 he was elected the first member of the territorial council from the San Juan country, comprising five or six counties, and served during the last session of the legislature of the territory, being chosen as president of the body. In 1876 he was a delegate to the national Democratic convention at St. Louis that nominated Samuel J. Tilden for president, and during the ensuing election was one of the Democratic candidates for presidential elector voted for by the legislature of Colorado. During the same year he was nominated for judge of the fourth judicial district, but declined the nomination. In 1880 he was tendered the Democratic nomination for governor, in the convention held at Leadville, but refused to accept. Six years later he was nominated on the Democratic ticket for state senator from the San Juan district and was the only one on the Democratic ticket elected, the district being Republican. His term of service covered the years 1887–90, during which time he introduced many bills of importance. In 1887 he opened an office in Durango, where he has since resided. At the convention in Chicago in 1896 he was elected a member of the Democratic national committee. In April, 1897, Governor Adams appointed him to the position he now holds, that of associate judge of the court of appeals. He is a member of the Pioneers’ Association of San Juan, and fraternally is connected with the Masonic lodge of Del Norte. In Arrow Rock, Saline County, Mo., he married Miss Margaret E. Edwards, who was born in Pettis County, that state, being the daughter of Philip W. Edwards, who was born in Kentucky in 1800, removed to Missouri in an early day and engaged in business there until his death. This union was blessed with the following children: Katharine W., who married Austin H. Brown; Edwards Adair, Alva Adams and Margaretta.
Some of the earlier information in this biographical sketch is not correct. Adair’s paternal great-grandfather was Robert Wilson (First Generation above), who was probably not a brother of James Wilson; see the notes for Robert Wilson. Also, the biography says that the unnamed brother of James came from Ireland, but James was from Scotland.

The bio above says that Adair moved to Colorado in 1872 and it mentions elected positions in 1875 and 1876. Interesting, then, that Edwards and Alva were both born in Marshall, MO, in 1874 and 1879 (and this is according to Adair’s own bible [76] and family record [77]). Was Bettie going home to Marshall each time for the births?

From one of his obituaries (newspaper and date unknown):

Adair Wilson, former judge of the Colorado court of appeals, is dead. In Berkeley, Cal., at the home of his daughter [presumably Kate Wilson Brown], where he went three years ago on account of illness, he passed away at noon Sunday and there he will be buried on Tuesday. Mr. Wilson had not abandoned Colorado as his home and only recently talked of returning to Denver this spring. He suffered a paralytic stroke soon after going to California and since that time has been an invalid.

The obituary also says, about his time as editor of the Virginia City Union:

At that time Mark Twain was editing the Virginia City Enterprise, and while the two were business rivals they were fast personal friends. This friendship endured until Mr. Twain’s death two years ago.

A copy of a 1907 letter from Adair to Mark Twain was obtained from Todd Adair Wilson, a great-great grandson of Adair. The original letter is believed to be in the Mark Twain Papers at the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley. Adair’s letter was typed, but a handwritten note on the letter, presumably by Mark Twain, says that Adair Wilson “was a man who justified Horace Greeley’s remark go west, young man, go west. He was a reporter & then student of law with a shyster lawyer & then practiced & finally became a judge.” Could the “shyster lawyer” comment refer to John Wilson?

In the biography of William Adair Wilson in History of Saline County, Missouri [46], Adair is mentioned as “W. A.” Could his full name have been William Adair Wilson Jr.?

There is quite a bit about Adair in the Hotchkiss manuscript [37] (James Hotchkiss Jr. was Adair’s grandson).

1850 census
Listed as Adair Wilson, age 9, born in Missouri. Attended school within the year. Living with his parents.

1860 census
Listed as Adair Wilson, age 17, born in Missouri. Occupation, law student. Living with his parents.
1870 census
Image 3 on Ancestry.com (Marshall Twp., Saline Co., MO)
Listed as Adair Wilson, age 28, born in Missouri. Occupation, attorney at law. Value of real estate listed as $3000, value of personal estate listed as $500. Household consisted of Adair, Margaret E., and Mary E. Wilson; and Mariah and Harriet Allen (domestic servant and her baby).

1880 census
Image 5 on Ancestry.com (District 098, Del Norte Twp., Rio Grande Co., CO)
Listed as Adair Wilson, age 38, born in Missouri. Household consisted of Adair, Bettie, Katie T, Eddie A., and Alva Wilson; Kate Letcher, listed as a niece; and Maria and Fannie Allen (servant and her baby).

Adair Wilson and Margaret Eliza (Bettie) Edwards were married on 9 Jun 1868 in Arrow Rock, Saline Co., MO. Margaret Eliza (Bettie) Edwards was born on 5 Oct 1844 in Pettis Co., MO. She died on 18 Jul 1931 at the age of 86 in Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA. She was a daughter of Philip Williams Edwards and Margaret Rector.

1870 census
Listed as Margaret E. Wilson, age 24, born in Missouri. Living with husband Adair Wilson and family.

1880 census
Listed as Bettie Wilson, age 34, born in Missouri, keeping house. Living with husband Adair Wilson and family.

Adair Wilson and Margaret Eliza Edwards had the following children:

105  i. Mary Eleanor Wilson was born on 18 Oct 1869 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. She died on 11 Mar 1872 at the age of 2 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. She was buried in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO.


48. **Annette Wilson** (William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 25 Nov 1843, probably in Old Jefferson, MO. She died on 14 Aug 1918 at the age of 74 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. Annette was buried in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO.

The name on her death certificate is Annette W. Vance. Can’t read the cause of death. The place of death is given as Marshall, Saline Co., MO. In information from Ridge Park Cemetery in Marshall, MO [57], her cause of death is listed as “enterscolitis”.

1850 census
Listed as Annett Wilson, age 7, born in Missouri. Attended school within the year. Living with her parents.

1860 census
Listed as Annette Wilson, age 16, born in Missouri. Living with her parents.

1870 census
Listed as Anna W. Vance, age 25, born in Missouri. Living with her husband, John R. Vance, and child.
Annette Wilson and John Randolph Vance were married on 8 Apr 1869 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. **John Randolph Vance** was born on 22 Aug 1835 in Knox Co., OH. He died on 16 May 1898 at the age of 62. He was a lawyer. John was buried in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO.

*Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri* (1893) [16], pp. 357–359:

JOHN R. VANCE, a prominent member of the Saline County Bar, and a leading and influential citizen of Marshall, Mo., received in 1892 the distinguished and deserved honor of being appointed from the Seventh District as delegate to the National Republican Convention held in Minneapolis. For over a quarter of a century closely identified with all the best interests of his county and State, our subject ably represented his constituents in the great political gathering in Minnesota, and through his fidelity and energetic service in behalf of their instructions has won the esteem and confidence of the general public.

The paternal grandfather of John R. Vance was born in the North of Ireland, and was the purser of the first vessel which sailed after the close of the Revolutionary War. James Vance, this worthy ancestor of our subject, built the first house erected in Martinsburgh, Va., and there engaged at his trade of cooper. Later, he became one of the early settlers of Ohio, and named Martinsburgh, Knox County, where he gave his time to agricultural duties until far advanced in life. An energetic, enterprising, and upright man and worthy citizen, he passed peacefully away in his eighty-seventh year.

James Vance was a consistent member of the Scotch Presbyterian Church all his life, and gave to all religious duty and work the conscientious and earnest effort of a true Christian. His son, Andrew Vance, was born in Martinsburgh, Va., April 29, 1808, and removed to Martinsburgh, Ohio, when that country was little more than a wilderness. He was trained in agricultural duties upon his father’s farm, and, arriving at manhood, improved a homestead of his own. He held official positions in the county, discharging the duties with honor, and served as Captain in the militia in the boundary trouble between Ohio and Michigan. Politically, he was a Democrat, and in religious affiliation a Presbyterian. He died October 8, 1887, of old age.

Mary J. Agnue, his wife, was born in Pennsylvania April 27, 1809. She was the daughter of Capt. Agnue, who was born in Ireland, and who was a sailor in his youth, and also a master of a vessel, and who settled in Knox County in a very early day, and was engaged in farming when he died. This grandfather of our subject was of Scotch descent, and possessed a strong and earnest character. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Vance were the parents of six children: Joseph M., the eldest son, lives in McLean County, Ill.; James S. is a resident of Ohio; William was killed by the Indians on the plains in 1858; John R. is our subject; Rowland is a broker in the grocery business in Columbus; and B. Eastburn is a resident of Columbus, in a general merchandise business. The mother of these sons died September 11, 1886, just thirteen months prior to the death of her husband. The excellent couple both attained an advanced age, and commanded the respect and esteem of all who knew them.

Our subject was born July 9, 1835, upon a farm in Knox County, Ohio, near Mt. Vernon. He attended the district school of the neighborhood when a little child, and afterward studied in Hayesville, and taught school, meantime ambitiously preparing himself for college. In 1862, after a full classical course in Kenyon College, at Gambier, Ohio, he graduated with the degree of A. B.,
and immediately began the study of law in the Buckeye State. After a time he accepted the superintendence of the schools of Columbus, Ind., and was thus engaged one year, when he entered the law department of the University of Ann Arbor, Mich., and graduated in 1865 with the degree of LL. B. Mr. Vance then began the study of law in Columbus, but upon July 9, 1865, located in Marshall, and has practiced his profession here with great success ever since. A part of the time he has been in partnership with T.J. Yerby, associated in the general practice of law, his office being on North Street.

Upon April 9, 1868, Mr. Vance was united in marriage with Miss Annette Wilson, a native of Marshall, and a daughter of William A. Wilson, a Colonel in the Federal army, and attached to the Seventy-first Regiment, E. M. M. Mrs. Vance was reared and educated at her home, and possesses a large circle of friends and acquaintances. She is the happy mother of three bright, promising young people, all preparing to fill positions of honor and usefulness. Minnie is a Post-graduate of the High School; Rufus A. is in his junior year in the Missouri Valley College; and Berenice is at home. Our subject is Trustee and Vestryman in the Episcopal Church, and has been Superintendent of the Sunday-school. He and his interesting family are among the important factors in the social, benevolent and religious enterprises of Marshall, and are universally respected and esteemed. Mr. Vance has always taken an active part in the national and local conduct of political affairs. He has represented his constituents at State and county conventions, as well as at the National Convention of 1892, and in all the duties of each position has clearly demonstrated his ability, energy, intelligence and integrity of character.

Note: the dates given in this biography for John’s birth and marriage do not agree with other sources.

In information from Ridge Park Cemetery in Marshall, MO [57], his cause of death is listed as “paralysis”.

1870 census
Image 3 on Ancestry.com (Marshall Twp., Saline Co., MO)
Listed as John R Vance, age 32, born in Ohio. Occupation, lawyer. Value of real estate listed as $800, value of personal estate listed as $800. Household consisted of John R., Anna W., and Mary M. Vance.

John Randolph Vance and Annette Wilson had the following children:

110 i. **Mary M. (Minnie) Vance** was born in Jan 1870 in MO. She died on 18 Nov 1938 at the age of 68. She was a school teacher. Minnie was buried in Ridge Park Cemetery, Marshall, MO. In information from Ridge Park Cemetery in Marshall, MO [57], her cause of death is listed as “plural pneumonia & cardiac failure”.

There is a letter in the Abiel Leonard Papers [39], from Leonard Wilson to Reeves Leonard, dated 13 Jan 1870, which says “Annie has a daughter.”

111 ii. **Rufus A. Vance** was born about 1872 in MO.
iii. **Berenice W. Vance** was born on 15 Aug 1884 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. She was a bank clerk. Her middle initial W comes from the 1920 and 1930 censuses, in which she was living in New York City and working as a bank clerk (can’t be certain it’s the same Berenice Vance, but the information fits). Since Benjamin H. Wilson’s daughter, Berenice Wilson, died earlier in the year that this Berenice was born, it seems very likely that she was named for her deceased cousin—Berenice Wilson Vance.

49. **Leonard Wilson** (William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 13 Jan 1846 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He died on 22 Nov 1905 at the age of 59 in Denver, CO. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, CO. He worked as a clerk for various companies and government organizations, and for a number of years he was postmaster of Marshall, MO.

*History of Saline County, Missouri* (1881) [46], p. 754:

LEONARD WILSON, postmaster, P. O., Marshall. Mr. Wilson is a native of this state, also of this county, and was born in Marshall on the 13th of January, 1846. At the age of fifteen he commenced clerking in the store of Q. O. Striker, in Marshall, and from 1862 to 1864 he was deputy postmaster of Marshall. In 1865 he was deputy circuit clerk. In 1870 he was engaged in the grocery business in Marshall, which he continued to 1873, when he was appointed by President Grant, postmaster of Marshall, re-appointed in 1877 by President Hayes, and in 1881 by President Garfield. In 1864 he served in Capt. Bingham’s company E. M. M. [enrolled Missouri militia—Union], and was taken prisoner at Glasgow, which ended his military service. On the 6th of October, 1868, he was married to Miss Mary Sandidge, daughter of John Sandidge, of Saline county, and has had three children, only one, Leonie, living.

In 1870, Leonard ran to succeed his brother Ben as circuit clerk, but he was defeated in the election (*History of Saline County*, p. 365).


From a 1905 Nance County, Nebraska, newspaper clipping file, transcribed by Linda Berney:

Brother of Prominent Denver Jurist Dead -
The following notice of the death of Leonard Wilson is taken from the Denver Post. Deceased was well known to many of our readers, having been in business here with his brother H. E. Wilson a number of years:

Leonard Wilson of 1641 Franklin street, brother of Adair Wilson, formerly of the court of appeals, died yesterday afternoon of a complication of kidney and heart troubles.

He came to Denver from Marshall, Mo., in 1884, and for the past seven years had been a clerk in the Western Union Telegraph office. He is survived by his widow, a daughter, Mrs. J. E. Rinker of
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Cripple Creek, a son, A. G. [sic – should be H. E.] Wilson, employed at the Denver Union depot and two brothers besides Judge Wilson.

The middle initial of W in the Find A Grave listing is questionable. No record is known with this (or any other) middle initial.

It is likely that Leonard was named for his uncle, Abiel Leonard. It is even possible that his full name was Abiel Leonard Wilson, but that has never been seen in any record. Both of the children of Leonard and Mary Wilson were born in Marshall, Missouri: Leonie in 1873 and Horace in 1882. According to the McGrew letter [44], they moved to Colorado in 1884, Denver in 1885. From the short obituary above, he lived for a time in Nance County, NE; perhaps that was between Missouri and Colorado. Brother Horace apparently stayed there longer; he was married in Nance County in 1886. Alternatively, perhaps Leonard did business in Nance County when he was in the grocery business in the 1870s, but never lived there.

The web site of the Missouri Secretary of State has old military service cards online. The one for Leonard Wilson partially agrees with the information in the short biography above (it mentions Capt. Bingham and E. M. M.), but it seems to indicate that he did not serve because of disability. Another mystery.

The name on his death certificate is Leonard Wilson. Can’t read the cause of death. He died at home (1641 Franklin).

1850 census
Listed as Leonard Wilson, age 4, born in Missouri. Living with his parents.

1860 census
Listed as Leonard Wilson, age 14, born in Missouri. Living with his parents.

1870 census
Image 3 on Ancestry.com (Marshall Twp., Saline Co., MO)
Listed as Leonard Wilson, age 24, born in Missouri. Occupation, clerk of court. Value of real estate listed as $4000 [? – hard to read], value of personal estate listed as $300. Household consisted of Leonard, Mary W., and William Wilson.

1880 census
Image 18 on Ancestry.com (District 67, Marshall, Saline Co., MO)
Microfilm: roll 716; Vol. 30, Sheet 18, E.D. 67, Saline Co., MO
Listed as Leonard Wilson, age 34. Born in Missouri, father born in Virginia, mother born in Kentucky. Occupation, postmaster. Household consisted of Leonard, Mary, and Lennie [Leonie] Wilson; and Minnie Sandidge, listed as a niece [probably the daughter of Mary’s brother, Micajah C. Sandidge].

http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers/
1900 census
Image 9 on Ancestry.com (District 64, Denver, Arapahoe Co., CO)
Microfilm: T623 roll 118; Vol. 2, Sheet 3, E.D. 64, Arapahoe Co., CO

Leonard Wilson and Mary Wood (Mollie) Sandidge were married on 6 Oct 1868 in Johnson Co., MO. Mary Wood (Mollie) Sandidge, daughter of John Wood Sandidge and Maria Louisa Brents, was born on 12 Sep 1850 in Saline Co., MO. She died on 29 Jan 1929 at the age of 78 in Denver, CO. She was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, CO.

From the McGrew letter [44]: “...the first Sandidge came to this country from Ireland ... before the Revolutionary War. She was the daughter of an Irish nobleman and she eloped with a commoner.” This story is unlikely to be true. Also, the letter said that two sons of Leonard and Mary died in infancy.

There is much information about the Sandidge family in History Of The Sandidge Family Of Virginia And Their Descendants, Generations 1 Through 6 by Martin Sandidge [61] (Mary is not in this document, but her father is part of Generation 6).

The name on her death certificate is Mary W. Wilson. It is hard to read the cause of death; maybe acute cardiac dilatation? She died at Presbyterian Hospital.

1850 census
Image 60 on Ancestry.com (Saline Co., MO)
Listed as Mary W. Sandridge. The entry for age looks like 3 years, but she should have been one month old on the day they were visited by the census enumerator (listed as 12 Oct 1850). She really shouldn’t even have been included, because the census was supposed to be as of 1 Jun 1850. Living with her parents and family.

1860 census
Images 1 and 2 on Ancestry.com (Black Water Twp., Saline Co., MO)
Listed as Mary W Sandidge, age 9, born in Missouri. Attended school within the year. Living with her mother and family.
1870 census
Listed as Mary W. Wilson, age 19, born in Missouri. Living with her husband, Leonard Wilson, and child.

1880 census
Listed as Mary W. Wilson, age 29, born in Missouri, both parents born in Kentucky [this isn’t right]. Living with her husband, Leonard Wilson, and family.

1900 census

Leonard Wilson and Mary Wood Sandidge had the following children:

113 i. William Wilson was born on 22 Apr 1870 in Saline Co., MO. Died in infancy. (According to the McGrew letter [44], Leonard and Mary had two sons who died in infancy.)

51. Horace Everett Wilson (William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 12 Oct 1855, probably in Marshall, MO. He died on 8 Sep 1940 at the age of 84 in Alameda Co., CA. Horace was a salesman, then was in the U.S. Army.

Horace Everett Wilson was apparently named for Horace Everett, who married into the extended family (he was married to Mary Leonard, Horace’s much older first cousin). Perhaps the Wilsons had a close relationship with Horace Everett, though maybe another possibility is that they were especially close to Mary Leonard Everett. In a letter from Mary Reeves Wilson to Jeanette Reeves Leonard dated 12 Feb 1856 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers [39]), Mary wrote “…I don’t believe I have a child that I love any better than I did little Mary Leonard.” In fact, the child before Horace, Mary L. Wilson (who died young), was probably Mary Leonard Wilson.

From Find A Grave [28] (listing for MAJ Horace Everett Wilson):

1900 Serving in Philippines. Army paymaster.
1910 - In New York City with wife May
Fourth Generation

1920 - In Philadelphia
1930 and 1940 - In Berkeley, Alameda Co., California

Wife May is also with him in the 1920, 1930, and 1940 censuses. It is perhaps worth noting that Horace’s occupation is given as paymaster, U.S. Army, in the 1910 census, and he is described as a paymaster in the U.S. Army in obituaries for his brother Adair, who died in 1912.

Horace’s probable listing in the 1880 census (H. E. Wilson in St. Joseph, MO; note that the biography of William Adair Wilson in the 1881 History of Saline County [46] says that son Horace E. Wilson was living in St. Joseph) lists his occupation as traveling salesman. In fact, it appears that he is listed twice in the 1880 census, at two different addresses in St. Joseph. A brief obituary of Horace’s brother Leonard, in the Find A Grave [28] listing for Leonard W. [sic] Wilson, says that Leonard was in business with his brother H. E. Wilson in Nance County, NE, for a number of years (see the notes for Leonard Wilson). Perhaps this was in the early 1880s. Leonard moved to Denver by 1884 or 1885, but Horace must have stayed longer since he was married in Nance County in 1886. He must have joined the army relatively late in life, since he was apparently in business in Nance County till at least 1886, when he was 31 years old, but then he was a paymaster in the army in 1900, when he was 45 years old.

The Army Register of 1940, available on Fold3.com, shows that he was a paymaster’s clerk from 6 Jun 1898 to 23 Aug 1912 and then a pay clerk in the quartermaster corps from 24 Aug 1912 to 17 Jul 1916. After that, he was promoted to second lieutenant in the quartermaster corps. He reached his final rank of major in the quartermaster corps on 7 Apr 1919. The final entries are confusing. It says he was honorably discharged on 13 Oct 1919, but there are additional entries after that, ending with being relieved from active duty on 30 Jun 1921. In the 1920 census, U.S. Army is listed for his occupation. He was in the army during World War I, but it is not known when or where he was deployed. Being in the Philippines in 1900 probably implies that he went there for the Spanish–American War in 1898; since he joined the army in 1898, it looks like he probably joined because of the war. His entry in the 1930 census indicates that he was a veteran of the U.S. military mobilized for a war or expedition, and for “What war or expedition” it indicates WW SA, which presumably means he was mobilized for the World War and the Spanish–American war.

1860 census
Listed as Horace Wilson, age 4, born in Missouri. Living with his parents.

1870 census
Listed as Horace E. Willson, age 14, born in Missouri, living with brother B.H. Willson and family. Attended school within the year.

Horace Everett Wilson and May Mulford were married in 1886 in Nance Co., NE. May Mulford was born on 23 Jan 1866 in IA. She died on 19 Jun 1946 at the age of 80 in Alameda Co., CA.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

It appears that they never had children. She is listed as May M. Wilson in the 1930 and 1940 censuses, but the M might just be for Mulford. This is confirmed by the “California Death Index 1940-1997” on Ancestry.com, where she is listed as May Mulford Wilson.

52. **Byrd Lincoln Wilson** (William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 12 Jul 1860 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He died on 5 Jan 1931 at the age of 70 in Fruita, Mesa Co., CO. He was buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Fruita, CO. Byrd was a newspaper printer and editor.

Unknown newspaper (possibly the *Fruita Times*), 7 Jan 1931, pp. 1, 4 (obtained from Richard & Lauretta Gillen):

**FUNERAL FOR B. L. WILSON, WIDELY KNOWN NEWSPAPER MAN, AT FRUITA TOMORROW**

Funeral services for the late B. L. Wilson, pioneer newspaper man of Colorado, who for many years edited the Mesa County Mail at Fruita, and later was engaged in the grocery business in the lower valley town, will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o’clock at the Starks-DeYarman funeral home in Fruita. Interment will be in Elmwood cemetery near Fruita.

The death of the veteran newspaperman, who enjoyed a wide acquaintance throughout the entire western slope and also in Denver, and many other Colorado points, occurred suddenly Monday night at the Park hotel in Fruita, where he had boarded for several years. After eating his supper, he had gone to a bathroom in the hotel, and it was there his lifeless body was found. Death was attributed to heart disease. He had been in ill health following an influenza attack suffered about three months ago. He was 70 years old.

Coming to Colorado in the early 70’s, when he was but a boy, Byrd Lincoln Wilson virtually grew up with the newspaper industry of the state. As a boy, he worked in the mines of the San Juan district, and later worked in farming districts around the present location of Durango, which had not then been established as a city.

His entry into the printing business came to Mr. Wilson as a helper in newspaper offices of the mining camps of western Colorado. Among the shops in which he was employed was the Ouray newspaper edited by David S. Day, one of the most famous of the earlier Colorado editors.

In 1880, Mr. Wilson went to Leadville, working in mines there during the “boom” days. From there he went to Denver, where, according to friends at Fruita, he was employed for nearly 30 years in the composing department of the Rocky Mountain News, serving as foreman of the advertising composing room. For about 10 years he was employed in the mechanical department of the Denver Post.

Mr. Wilson came to Fruita about ten years ago, taking over the editorship of the Mesa County Mail. He continued in that post until about two years ago when that paper was sold to new owners. He then entered into partnership with L. E. Gredell in a grocery business in Fruita, the partnership continuing until his death.
Mr. Wilson is survived by his widow, who was in the hotel at the time of his death. The only other survivor among his immediate relatives, so far as could be learned today, was a brother in Texas, whose address is not known. An older brother who died a few years ago, was Judge Adair Wilson, who many years ago served as district judge in the southwestern part of the state and later as judge of the state court of appeals.

During his long residence in Denver, Mr. Wilson served at one time as president of the Denver local of the typographical union and was the leader in organizing a benefit association in connection with the union, the association still being in existence. He was a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias lodges. He was prominent in political circles in Mesa county for several years.

Mr. Wilson was born in Saline county, Missouri, on July 12, 1860.

The name on his death certificate (obtained from Richard & Lauretta Gillen) is Byrd Lincoln Wilson. Cause of death is listed as arteriosclerosis myocarditis. Place of death is just listed as Fruita, Mesa Co, CO. Occupation is listed as grocer. Headstone says Byrd L. Wilson, 1860 - 1931.

In the 1930 census, Byrd’s age at first marriage is listed as 38, which would be about 1898. In the 1910 census, he and Mamie are listed as having been married for two years, which would make their marriage about 1908. It seems to indicate that it was Byrd’s first marriage (and Mamie’s third), in which case the two censuses are inconsistent. Since the Adair Wilson family record [77] did not list a wife for Byrd, it seems likely that Byrd was not yet married in 1902, when it was written. For this reason, marriage about 1908 is tentatively assumed here.

1870 census
Listed as Bird L. Willson, age 10, born in Missouri, living with brother B.H. Willson and family. Attended school within the year.

Byrd Lincoln Wilson and Mary Elaine (Mamie) Ryall were married about 1908. Mary Elaine (Mamie) Ryall was born on 12 Mar 1869 in LaSalle, IL. She died on 18 Apr 1933 at the age of 64 in Fruita, Mesa Co., CO. Mamie was buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Fruita, CO.

The 1910 census says she had only one child. She was previously married to Samuel H. Elbert in about 1886, and she had a daughter named Evelyn Frances Elbert from that marriage. It doesn’t appear that Byrd and Mamie had any children together.

The name on her death certificate is Mary E. Wilson. Cause of death is listed as uremia. Headstone says Mary E. Wilson, 1869 – 1933.
Fifth Generation

53. **Priscilla David Wilson** (David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in 1855 in Fayette, Howard Co., MO. She died on 7 Apr 1936 in Portland, OR. Priscilla was buried in River View Cemetery, Portland, OR.

She is listed in the Hotchkiss manuscript [37] as Priscilla David Wilson. She is listed in the Allen Family Tree [11] as Priscilla Catherine Wilson, which makes more sense. On the other hand, she is listed as Pricilla D. Ewers in the 1920 census. The 1920 and 1930 censuses and the marriage certificate for Carl F. Ewers and Lillie A. Raffety all spell her first name as Pricilla, but her gravestone on Find A Grave [28] (listing for Priscilla Wilson Ewers) spells it Priscilla. Carol Rawles, a descendant, says her name was Priscilla David Wilson.

It looks like she may have been married by 1876. She and Eugene appear to be listed together in the 1876 Missouri state census [47], right below her family (which included David, Sarah C., Susan A., Jno. D., and Jas. W. Wilson). It’s not very readable, but it looks like Edward E. and P. D. Eures (middle initial is uncertain for Priscilla; it doesn’t look like the other D’s on the page, but not sure what other letter it would be.)


EWERS – In this city, April 7, late of 1136 SW Jefferson, Priscilla Ewers, mother of Mrs. Pearl Ray, Mrs. Mida Matkin and Carl Ewers, sister of Dr. James W. Wilson. Funeral services will be held Thursday, April 9, at 1 P.M., from Holman & Lutz, S.W. 3d and Salmon. Interment Riverview cemetery.

Note that many places call this cemetery Riverview, but Find A Grave lists it as River View.
Priscilla David Wilson and Eugene E. Ewers were married about 1876 in MO. Eugene E. Ewers was born in 1851 in Mount Vernon, OH. He died on 31 Dec 1935 in OR. He was buried in River View Cemetery, Portland, OR. Eugene was a wagon maker and a house painter.

From Karen Levin via Rebecca Betz [41], he was a son of David Ewers and Sophie Pond.

Eugene E. Ewers and Priscilla David Wilson had the following children:

+117  i. **Mida Ewers**, born 1877, MO; married Charles Marcus Matkin, 20 Oct 1900, Kirksville, Adair Co., MO; died 9 Apr 1959, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA.

   +118  ii. **Murlie Ewers** was born about 1879 in MO.


   +120  iv. **Clark David Ewers** was born on 29 Feb 1884 in MO. He died before 1936 (he is not listed in his mother’s death notice). He was a blacksmith.

   +121  v. **Carl Fort Ewers**, born 3 Nov 1888, Huntsville, MO; married Lillie Agnes Raffety, 24 Jul 1920, Walla Walla, WA; died 23 Sep 1971, Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., CA.

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*Locations of interest in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho (modern-day borders)*
56. **Elizabeth Talbot Wilson** (David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1861 in Higbee, Randolph Co., MO. She died in Jul 1881 in Salt Springs, Randolph Co., MO.

Her middle name is from James Hotchkiss [37]. Other sources did not have a middle name for her.

Elizabeth Talbot Wilson and John Thomas Allen were married on 2 Mar 1876 in Chariton Co., MO. **John Thomas Allen** was born in 1845 in Sturgeon, Boone Co., MO. He died on 9 Aug 1895 in Higginsville, MO. John was buried in Confederate Cemetery, Higginsville, Lafayette Co., MO. He was a farmer and a coal miner.

According to Denise Crumpton, he fought in the Civil War and was wounded at Pea Ridge. According to Rebecca Betz, he had an injury to a facial nerve from the war and eventually lost his sight. He spent his last years in a Confederate Home in Missouri.

There are papers on Find A Grave [28] (listing for John T Allen) about his enlistment and units in the Civil War. He was a private in Company I of the 3rd Missouri Volunteer Infantry under Capt. McIlvain. He enlisted on 11 Jan 1862 in Greene County, MO. On 1 Apr 1863 he transferred from Company F. He served in the Missouri State Guard in Poindexter’s regiment, 4th division. It mentions battles in Altoona, New Hope Church, Ga.

John Thomas Allen and Elizabeth Talbot Wilson had the following children:

1. **Elizabeth Lois Allen** was born in May 1878 in Renick, Randolph Co., MO. She is listed as Elizabeth Lois Allen in the Allen Family Tree [11]. Her name is spelled Loise, Eloise, and Eloize in various other places. She is listed as Lizzie L. Allen in John Thomas Allen’s application for residence at the Confederate Home.


57. **John David Wilson** (David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 22 Aug 1862 in Bonne Femme Twp., Howard Co., MO. He died on 6 Feb 1934 at the age of 71 in Memphis, TN. He was a teacher. John was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis, TN.

*One Hundred Twenty-Three Biographies of Deceased Faculty Members* of Northeast Missouri State Teachers College (1963) [63]:

WILSON, J. D. Professor of Psychology, 1903–1912

J. D. Wilson was born in Howard County, Mo., August 22, 1862, son of David and Sarah Wakeman [sic] Wilson. He attended a log school two or three weeks [should be months] per year for eight
years or more. He entered the Kirksville State Normal School, attending perhaps thirty months, graduating in 1886. For each of four years he taught in the fall and attended the Normal School for the remainder of the year. He belonged to the Zetosophian Literary Society and served as secretary, treasurer, and president. He attended the University of Michigan for a year and later took special work for two years at the University of Missouri. The Normal School gave him the degree of bachelor of scientific didactics.

He was superintendent of schools at Cameron for two years and principal of the high school at Sedalia for ten years. He joined the faculty at Kirksville in 1903 and remained till 1912. He was a teacher of Education, but his subject matter was chiefly psychology. He mastered the science of hypnotism and often gave amateur shows around the campus.

He left Kirksville to become superintendent of the Missouri Training School for Boys at Boonville, but remained there only a year. He then was county agricultural agent for Cooper County for two years and then held a similar position at Bentonville, Arkansas, for one year. During World I he was a lecturer at Camp Pike, Arkansas. He moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he was principal of Pope School for six years.

Professor Wilson married Miss Clara Carroll on June 18, 1890. They had six children: Edna (Mrs. Charles A. Walz), Mabel (Mrs. Virgil D. Wall), Clara (Mrs. R. K. Brommer), Carroll (Mrs. Wier), John and Sam. He belonged to the Christian Church and the Republican Party.

He died at Memphis, Tenn., February 6, 1934, and was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis.

John David Wilson and Clara M. Carroll were married on 18 Jun 1890 in Ralls Co., MO. Clara M. Carroll was born on 30 Sep 1869 in West Hartford, Ralls Co., MO. She died on 15 Oct 1965 at the age of 96. She was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis, TN. Clara was a school teacher.

From Karen Levin [41], she was the daughter of W. Carroll and Volumnia Alford.

John David Wilson and Clara M. Carroll had the following children:

124 i. infant son Wilson was born on 12 Jun 1891 and died on 13 Jun 1891.
+125 ii. Edna Wilson, born 12 May 1892, MO; married Charles A. Walz, 28 Feb 1922; died 24 Oct 1987, Memphis, TN.
+126 iii. Mabel Wilson, born 18 Feb 1894, MO; married Virgil D. Wall, 20 Jun 1921.
127 iv. infant son Wilson was born on 6 Jul 1896 and died on 7 Jul 1896.
Descendants of Robert Wilson


+130 vii. John W. D. Wilson, born 7 Jun 1902, MO; married Josephine Bullock, 4 Jun 1923, Benton Co., AR.


58. James Wesley Wilson (David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 2 Jun 1865 in Bonne Femme Twp., Howard Co., MO. He died on 2 Feb 1951 at the age of 85 in Homer, Claiborne Par., LA. He was a doctor. James was buried in Salem Cemetery, Athens, LA.

Notes on Doctor James Wesley Wilson from Karen Levin [41]:

Family was noted for its doctors, lawyers, educators and statesmen. Graduated from the College of Physicians & Surgeons in St. Louis, MO on 08 March 1889.

Practiced medicine for two years while at college. He also taught school for 4 yrs. in the Wilson School House where his father had taught before him.

After his graduation from college he practiced medicine in 3 states: Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana. He practiced medicine for more than 62 years; almost 46 of these years were practiced in Louisiana. He was a reader and student until the day of his death.

He was a licensed physician and he was certified by Law to practice Medicine and Surgery by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners - for year ending 31 December 1951 (the year of his death).

He died of pneumonia at the Homer Memorial Hospital at Homer, LA at 7:22 a.m. friday, 2 February 1951/ He was formerly connected with the Bastrop, LA Optical Company and was also a former resident of both Bastrop and Epps, LA.

He came to Louisiana in 1905, and had been a resident of Athens, LA since 1922.

Per my father (but sketchy) he was previously married, a widower, and he brought with him a daughter. His new wife, Lillian a widow, was supposedly the same age as his daughter when they were married. He and Lillian had one child each from a previous marriage, two natural children and also adopted two children.

Ancestry family trees also list Fritz Capples as a child; he was adopted by Dr. & Mrs. Wilson. Karen Levin lists Fritz Rubin and Harry J. Wilson as adopted children.

James Wesley Wilson and Annetta Eliza (Nettie) Duncan were married on 2 Aug 1887. Annetta Eliza (Nettie) Duncan was born on 19 Mar 1867 in Mexico, Audrain Co., MO. She died on 14 Oct 1912 at the age of 45.
From Karen Levin [41], she was the daughter of Jerome Duncan and Mary George.

James Wesley Wilson and Annetta Eliza Duncan had the following children:

132 i. Carrie Ruth Wilson was born on 12 Apr 1888 in MO. She died on 21 Nov 1902 at the age of 14 in AR.

+133 ii. Lillian Wilson, born 22 Jul 1897, MO; married Phillip James Murphy, 11 Nov 1919, Alexandria, Rapides Par., LA.

James Wesley Wilson and Lillian Alma Edwards were married after 1912. Lillian Alma Edwards was born on 16 May 1890 in Haynesville, Claiborne Par., LA. She died on 24 Jan 1980 in Claiborne Par., LA. She was buried in Salem Cemetery, Athens, LA.

Notes from Karen Levin [41]:

She was the daughter of Josiah Edwards and Alice Holt.

Obituary (Date and paper unknown, original clipping in possession of W. D. Roach and he believes the year to be 1980):

Lillian E. (sic) Wilson, 90 of Pilgrim Manor Nursing Home are set for 2:30 p.m. today in the Pineland Funeral Home Chapel in Homer. Burial will be at Salem Cemetery in Athens. Died at 9 a.m., Thur. at Pilgrim Manor after a lengthy illness. Resident of bissier City for more than 14 years. Widow of the late Dr. J. W. Wilson of Athens. Survivors include: Harry J. Wilson (adopted son) of Tulsa, OK, 2 daughters, Omega Shelton of Bossier City, and Ophelia Harkness of Athens, 2 grandsons and several great grandchildren.

Karen Levin gave her birth date as 16 May 1889, but her gravestone (shown on Find A Grave [28], listing for Lillian Edwards Wilson) shows 16 May 1890.

James Wesley Wilson and Lillian Alma Edwards had the following children:


+135 ii. Ophelia Wilson, born 30 Nov 1916, LA; married William Roland Harkness; died 1 Feb 1980, Shreveport, LA.
59. **David W. Wilson** (John Tilford-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1835 in MO. He was a carpenter.

His age is given as 16 in the 1850 census, 33 in the 1870 census, and 45 in the 1880 census.

His children’s names come from the 1880 census.

David W. Wilson and Rosa B. Jones were married on 5 Mar 1868 in Randolph Co., MO. **Rosa B. Jones** was born about 1849 in MO.

David W. Wilson and Rosa B. Jones had the following children:

136 i. **Ada Lee Wilson** was born about 1869 in MO.  
In the 1880 census, she is listed as Ada Lee, age 11. In the 1870 census, she is listed as L. B. (maybe; hard to read), age 1. Is this the same child?

137 ii. **Annie F. Wilson** was born about 1872 in MO.

138 iii. **Mamie G. Wilson** was born about 1876 in MO.
Mary G. Wilson (John Tilford-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1838 in MO.

Her age is given as 12 in the 1850 census, 19 in the 1860 census, 28 in the 1870 census, and 36 in the 1880 census.

Her children’s names come from the 1880 census.

Mary G. Wilson and William N. Reed were married on 4 Aug 1859 in Randolph Co., MO. William N. Reed was born about 1832 in ME. He was a railroad worker.

His last name is spelled Read in some records and Reed in others. In the marriage record, his middle initial looks like A; in the 1860 census, his middle initial is M. It looks like N in the 1880 census and in the 1879 deed (see the notes for John Tilford Wilson).

William N. Reed and Mary G. Wilson had the following children:

139. i. **David Reed** was born about 1863 in MO.
140. ii. **Walter E. Reed** was born about 1866 in MO.
   
   His name looks like Walker in the 1870 census.

Edmund/Edward T. Wilson (John Tilford-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 23 Jan 1842 in MO. He died on 29 Apr 1928 at the age of 86 in San Antonio, TX. He was a railroad conductor. Edmund/Edward was buried in Mission Park, San Antonio, TX.

His name is given as Edmund in the 1850, 1910, and 1920 censuses and on his death certificate. He is listed as Edward in the 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses and in his two marriage records (and in the 1879 deed that gave his name in the first place).

Edmund/Edward is one of the keys to identification of Mary Owen as John T. Wilson’s wife. Edmund T. Wilson was listed living with H.B. Owen in the 1850 census, and there is a death certificate for Edmund T. Wilson with parents listed as John Wilson and Mary Owen. The obvious question is, is this the right John Wilson? Well, the 1879 deed (see notes for John Tilford Wilson) lists him as Edward T. Wilson, with wife Elizabeth M., of Randolph County, MO. There are listings of Edward and Lizzie Wilson in the 1870 census and Edward (?) T. and Elizabeth M. Wilson in the 1880 census, both in Randolph County, MO, so it is fairly certain that they are the right people. In both of those censuses, Edward’s occupation is given as railroad conductor. Then, in the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses, there are listings for Edward or Edmund T. Wilson with wife Bettie C. (in 1910, his name was listed as Edward, which was scratched out and changed to Edmund or Edmond) living in San Antonio, TX. It’s not certain that this Edward/Edmund is the same as the previous one, but what ties them together is that his occupation is again railroad conductor in 1900 and 1910 (no occupation in 1920, presumably
Descendants of Robert Wilson

retired. This makes it likely to be the same person. Another confusing factor is that the wife had changed. In 1870 and 1880, Lizzie/Elizabeth was born in New Jersey; in 1900, 1910, and 1920, Bettie was born in Kentucky. There is a marriage record on Ancestry.com for Edward Wilson and Bennie Harrison on 15 Dec 1885 in Denton County, TX; presumably that is a mistranscription for Bettie. A possible problem is that the 1900 census says that they had been married 30 years and the 1910 census says they had been married 45 years. In all of those censuses, by the way, he is never shown with children, so he probably did not have any children.

The name on his death certificate (obtained from “Texas Death Certificates 1903-1982” on Ancestry.com) is Edmund T. Wilson. Cause of death was myocarditis (?). Place of death was 1015 Broadway, San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX (home). It says that he had been living in that city for 38 years, which would imply that he moved to San Antonio about 1890.

Edmund/Edward T. Wilson and Elizabeth M. Scott were married on 27 Aug 1865 in Cooper Co., MO. Elizabeth M. Scott was born about 1849 in NJ. She probably died before 1885. She was a dressmaker.

Her age is given as 21 in the 1870 census, 29 in the 1880 census.

There is a marriage record for Edward Wilson and Elizabeth Scott on 27 Aug 1865 in Cooper County, MO. It is not certain that this is the right marriage for the Edward T. Wilson of interest, but it seems likely.

Edmund/Edward T. Wilson and Bettie Crafton Harrison were married on 15 Dec 1885 in Denton Co., TX. Bettie Crafton Harrison was born on 11 Feb 1841 in KY. She died on 20 Sep 1933 at the age of 92 in San Antonio, TX. She was buried in Mission Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

There is a marriage record for Edward Wilson and Bennie Harrison on 15 Dec 1885 in Denton Co., TX. It is not certain that this is the right Edward Wilson, but it seems likely. Bennie is assumed to be a mistranscription of Bettie.

The 1910 census says that she had no children.

The name on her death certificate (obtained from “Texas Death Certificates 1903-1982” on Ancestry.com) is Betty Crafton Wilson. Cause of death was senility. Place of death was 725 So. Presa, San Antonio, Bexar Co., TX (home). It says that she had been living in that city for 45 years, which would imply that she moved to San Antonio about 1888.

64. Katherine Inge Wakeman (Mary Eliza Wilson-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 1 Aug 1856 in San Francisco, CA. She died on 17 Feb 1929 at the age of 72 in Oakland, CA.
James Hotchkiss [37] gave her name as Kate Inge Wakeman, and she is also listed that way in the bible record in Fred B. Rogers’ notes in the John Wilson Papers [80]. “Bear Flag Lieutenant: The Life Story of Henry L. Ford (1822-1860), with Some Related and Contemporary Art of Alexander Edouart (Concluded)” by Fred B. Rogers [60] gives her name as Katherine Wakeman Cooper. This is also her byline on an article in The Grizzly Bear magazine, Nov 1912, about the Rincon Hill neighborhood in San Francisco where she grew up, and an article in The Overland Monthly, Jan–Jun 1917, about Patty Reed of the Donner Party (both available from Google Books). Her first name is spelled Katharine in the 1920 census. She is listed as Kate W. Cooper in the 1900 & 1910 censuses and Kate W. Dennis in the 1880 census. She is listed in the 1860 census as Kate J. Wakeman. In the 1870 census, her listing also looks like Kate J. Wakeman, but that J. could possibly be an I. There is little doubt that the middle initial in 1860 is J.

Santa Cruz Evening News, 20 Feb 1929, p. 10 (obtained from Newspapers.com):

Mrs. Kate Cooper, wife of Harry C. Cooper, and sister-in-law of Frank P. Cooper, and a former well known resident of Santa Cruz, passed away in Oakland yesterday, according to a message received here yesterday.

Mrs. Cooper was born in San Francisco of a prominent old California family. She came to Santa Cruz about 45 years ago, and was very active in social life here. She was a past president of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, past worthy matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. Cooper also was a charter member and past president of the Saturday Afternoon club.

For many years Mrs. Cooper was active in the work of the Calvary church, in both the Ivy guild and the St. Agnes guild.

The Coopers moved to Oakland some years [sic] ago and have resided in that city ever since. The deceased leaves her husband Harry C. Cooper, two sons Collis Dennis of Vancouver, B. C., and George Dennis, and a daughter Mrs. Helen Dingwall of Portland, Oregon.

This obituary is incorrect that she died “yesterday”. Newspapers.com also has the 19 Feb 1929 issue of the Oakland Tribune, which has a short obituary on p. 46 stating that she died on February 17.

Katherine Inge Wakeman and William Johnston Dennis were married on 4 Mar 1879. William Johnston Dennis was born on 2 Feb 1857 in Coventry Par., Somerset Co., MD. He died on 18 Apr 1884 at the age of 27 in Richmond, VA. He was a railroad clerk.

Newspaper clipping (newspaper and date not identified) from Katherine Cooper’s scrapbook in the John Wilson Papers [80]:

DECEASED.—On last Saturday a telegram was received by Mrs. George R. Dennis that her eldest son, Mr. Wm. J. Dennis, had died suddenly in Richmond, where he was in the employ of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company. His brother, Col. J. Upshur Dennis, of Baltimore went on
to Richmond for his body and arrived here with it on yesterday morning’s early train. He was the eldest son of the present Mrs. and the late Ex U. S. Senator Geo. R. Dennis and only 26 years old. Thus, at this very early age, ends the life of a young man whose birth and position gave the greatest promise. He was married in San Francisco several years ago and he leaves a young widow with two little children. His funeral, which occurred at 4 o’clock p. m. yesterday, was attended by a large concourse of the friends that his genial disposition had strongly attached to him. He was buried in the P. E. Church cemetery.

It looks like this article was probably from a Maryland newspaper. Using Richmond with no state like that probably indicates that it was Richmond, VA.

William Johnston Dennis and Katherine Inge Wakeman had the following children:

141 i. Collis Huntington Dennis was born on 29 Jan 1880 in Coventry Par., Somerset Co., MD. He was a hotel clerk in 1900. From the “California Military Registers 1858-1923” database on Ancestry.com, he joined the naval militia (national guard) on 3 Oct 1898 and reenlisted on 7 Aug 1899. This would have been right after the Spanish–American War.

142 ii. George Robertson Dennis was born on 23 Dec 1882 in San Francisco, CA. He was a farmer in 1917. He was apparently named for his grandfather, who was a U.S. senator from Maryland.

Santa Cruz Evening News, 15 Aug 1917, p. 7 (obtained from Newspapers.com):

TRAVELS OF MRS. H. C. COOPER

Word has been received from Mrs. H. C. Cooper who is visiting her son George R. Dennis at his farm on Canough Creek thirty-six miles from Kamloops, B. C.

She says Mr. Dennis and his wife are the only Americans in this vicinity and he is rapidly becoming a leader. He is a great worker and has accomplished wonders on this land in the two years he has resided there. He has built two houses for himself and one for a neighbor, also a large barn, many outbuildings, fenced most of the 160 acres, besides clearing a good many acres and looking after the stock and helping his neighbors. He and his wife get up at four o’clock in the morning and never stop working until dark which is at this time of the year 10 p. m. They have a difficult task as the ground is full of rock — this however, with the timber, they have utilized in building. It is a wild but beautiful country, wooded with fir, spruce and pine, also poplar and birch in spots. There are some beautiful lakes near here, through one of which we were obliged to drive. If Santa Cruz people had to ride over these roads they would never think their own bad again.

It is a very independent life here as taxes are only a few dollars on 170 acres and the only bill is for groceries, as they raise everything else. At present there is not much fresh meat, but plenty of chickens, eggs, cream, and butter, also ice which
they get from the lake in winter so we have ice cream every day. In winter they kill steers and hogs and share with their neighbors.

The ride from Vancouver here is [sic]

The ride from Vancouver here along the Frazer is a fascinating one. There is a railroad on both sides of it and many tunnels. Vancouver is a large and attractive city but in some ways much behind our cities in the states. Its stores and business blocks looked very shabby to me. I didn’t see a store to compare with Mr. Leask’s. The people there must be fond of sweets as there were two or three candy stores to every block. There is a beautiful park.

Many families around here are subsisting on the war, as the Canadian government is quite liberal. One woman with two children gets about a hundred dollars a month, the husband never earned anything before; she gets a separation allowance for herself and two children, part of the salary and money from the patriotic society.

We only get the mail here once a week; postage is .03 on letters and .02 on postals.

I expect soon to leave for Banff, a celebrated resort in Alberta. The road, I am told, is very picturesque, and leads through a tunnel fifteen miles long, where the train is carried through by electricity.

Katherine Inge Wakeman and Harry Clay Cooper were married on 16 Feb 1890 in Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA. **Harry Clay Cooper** was born on 30 Jul 1862 in Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Co., CA. He died on 4 Feb 1943 at the age of 80 in Oakland, CA. He was a merchant and county recorder. Harry was buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Santa Cruz, CA.

Newspaper clipping (newspaper and date not identified, but another small clipping identifies the wedding date as 16 Feb 1890, which was, indeed, a Sunday) from Katherine Cooper’s scrapbook in the John Wilson Papers [80]:

**COOPER–DENNIS.**

Two Santa Cruz Society People Married in Berkeley Sunday.

On Sunday afternoon at 3 o’clock, Mrs. Katarine M. [sic] Dennis, daughter of Mrs. Mary E. Wakeman, of this city, was married at Peralta Park, North Berkeley, to Harry C. Cooper, third son of William F. Cooper, an old and highly-esteemed citizen of Santa Cruz.

Mrs. Dennis has resided for several years in Santa Cruz, and, during all that time, her social and literary talent, her good taste and her activity and energy have been used in the furtherance of church work, of public-spirited movements and also in the large social circle which she adorns. She has been an active member of Santa Cruz Parlor, N. D. G. W. [Native Daughters of the Golden West] from its inception, and has held the office of District Deputy and other honorable positions.
Harry C. Cooper is well known in Santa Cruz, having been born and brought up in this city. He is a successful merchant, a young man of the highest character whose integrity and uprightness have never yet been questioned. Although quiet and reserved in demeanor he is a social favorite, and there is a wide circle of friends and relatives to wish for Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Cooper all the happiness which springs from a true union. It is pleasant to know that they will live here and that, through them, one more Santa Cruz home will make a charming social center.

Santa Cruz Sentinel, 5 Feb 1943, p. 1 (obtained from Newspapers.com):

H. C. Cooper Of Old S. C. Family Dies

Harry C. Cooper, a native of Santa Cruz and a member of the William Cooper family, closely identified with the early history of the city, passed away in Oakland February fourth, at the age of 80 years.

Harry Cooper was elected recorder of Santa Cruz county in 1898 and held that office for 16 years. He was chief deputy recorder of Alameda county for many years, an office he held up to the time of his death.

He was a member of Santa Cruz lodge, F. & A. M. [Free and Accepted Masons], and served as the treasurer for a number of years.

His father, the late William Cooper, and family lived on Front street, which was then the main street of the town. The property ran through to Pacific avenue, where a large orchard was located.

Father Was First Mayor

Old-timers remember the old Cooper store, which was candle-lighted at first, and then kerosene lamps were installed as a great modern improvement. The father, William Cooper, was the first mayor of Santa Cruz.

For many years, Harry Cooper and his brother, Frank, operated a book and stationery store on Pacific avenue.

Given To City

Part of the present site of the court house was given to the city by the Cooper family, and Cooper street was named in their honor.

Mr. Cooper visited Santa Cruz a few months ago.

He is survived by his widow, Evva M. Cooper, and a daughter, Mrs. Helen Dingwall.

Services, conducted by Santa Cruz lodge, F. & A. M., will be held in the Wessendorf mortuary Monday, February 8, at 1:30 p. m.

Private inurnment will follow.
Harry was married to Evva Marguerite Love in 1934, according to the Bemis Mohr Murray family tree on Ancestry.com [50]. Also, the middle name of Clay comes from there (most sources just have a middle initial). Evva had previously been married to Ernest Hudson Bemis and had four children with him. Evva donated most of the John Wilson Papers [80] to the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley.

Harry Clay Cooper and Katherine Inge Wakeman had the following child:

+143  
  i. Helen W. Cooper, born Dec 1890, CA; married Travis Thomas Dingwall, abt 1911; died 1 Jun 1967, Multnomah Co., OR.

66. David William Reid (Eliza Jane Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 13 Apr 1845 near Cambridge, MO. He died on 16 Jan 1929 at the age of 83 in Wichita, KS. David was a doctor. He was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

D.W. and Molly Reid were boarding with the Vance family in the 1880 census in Marshall, MO (Annette Wilson Vance was David’s first cousin, once removed). See the notes for Mary (Mollie) Turner below, which have more about this.

Some sources give his name as David Wilson Reid, but his name is given as David William Reid in the Reid manuscript [56]. Since Mollie Turner Reid was his wife, she should know his middle name! This is confirmed in an entry in 1845–1890. Catalogue of Phi Alpha Society ... Illinois College (1890) [54], which says:

361. David William Reid, b. 13 April, 1845, near Cambridge, Mo. He entered the freshman class of Illinois College in 1863 remaining one year. He attended Michigan University one year, and then studied medicine at the St. Louis medical college where he was graduated in 1868. In 1868–70 he practiced at Oregon, Mo., in 1870–80 at Cambridge, and since then at Slater, Mo., where he now lives with his wife and two sons.

From the Reid manuscript, written by Mollie Turner Reid in 1931 [56] (obtained from the Foster/Reid Family Tree web site [30]):

Dr. David W. Reid

Was born near Cambridge, Mo. April 13, 1845, the son of Dr. Jas. and Eliza Reid. His mother died when David, or “Bub” as he was generally called, was 2 1/2 years old, leaving a daughter, Ada, only a week or two old. (Some other troubles, perhaps flux, developed while she was still in bed, I think.) This baby only lived to be 4 months old and the only recollection Dr. Reid had of his mother was when he climbed over her to “see the baby”, hurting her probably, & she gave him a little spank to drive him back, & he crawled back, howling, to be petted by his aunt.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

After his mother's death, his grandmother & aunts seem to have had charge of him. Whether his father stayed in their home or in his own farm home I do not know, but I know that at some time he was in his own home and Polly Patrick, a colored servant, kept house for him – & it was a custom on Sunday morning before his starting to church, for a plate of cookies & a pitcher of butter milk to be placed on the table for his disposal. The fondness for these lasted to his old age when he lived with us (until death 1883) & his son, D.W. seemed to have inherited the same.

I do not think that Dr. Reid had a happy childhood. His father was devoted & kind, doing everything a man could do for him, studying his interest always, but he was with old people altogether, & he said Polly was more like a mother than anyone else.

At an early age he was boarded at Judge Gilliam's (a widower whose grown daughters kept house for him) & he roomed with several men. This was in order to go to school I presume. Later, he boarded at the teacher's, Mr. Price, grandfather of “Bob” – who guarded him conscientiously [sic] on the way to school &c &c. I don't suppose anyone was ever intentionally unkind to him in his life, but circumstances gave him no youth. In town, he & his father lived in their own home & ate at an aunt's “Aunt Mary Grove's” & she & “Aunt Sarah” looked after his clothes. [These were sisters of David’s father, James W. Reid.]

Later, when the war was on, his father tho’ best to send him over into Illinois – Jacksonville – to school. Still later, he went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, for one year I think – & here, I think he had some of the home boys with him – Clay Grove, Steve Claycomb, & Taylor Goode – a company of four. I know they were together somewhere & I think it was here – or Taylor Goode may have been at the medical school in St. Louis.

He studied medicine & was graduated from a school in St. Louis, later incorporated into Washington University. He had previously studied with Drs. Wilson (his uncle) & Alexander in Cambridge, & afterwards became their partner & practiced there a number of years. However, he had previously moved to Oregon, Holt Co. where he had a drug store & practiced medicine for about a year or two.

He married Annie Beeding, daughter of E. L. Beeding, merchant & banker of Cambridge – & who was a very dear friend of my sister Julia, & one of the bridesmaids at her wedding. I, as a young girl, knew her too, as she had often visited in our home, & she had once taken me home with her for a few days – & I was very fond of her.

This marriage lasted only about 3 yrs. when she died.

He was a widower about 7 yrs. & lived, whenever in Cam., with Mr. & Mrs. Beeding at their urgent request – until some time after the death of Mr. Beeding – & when he afterwards married me, Mrs. Beeding seemed pleased & with her daughter-in-law came to Boonville to the wedding, bringing me a present.

We were married April 21, 1880, & lived together nearly 49 yrs. – in Marshall, Slater, Wellsville, Kas, & Wichita Kas, until he died in Wichita Jan. 16, 1929.

Dr. Reid was a man of rare character I doubt if one of cleaner, purer mind ever lived. He had no bad habits, rarely used even a simple by-word, and a profane or foul one, never! – When he was a youth,
or young man, his father said to him, “David, there is a barrel of whiskey in the cellar & if you ever want it you can go to it, but I’ll advise you not to.” He never touched it! – tho’ he really liked the taste. At one time he decided he would learn to smoke and took a cigar, when the tho’t came, “how silly it is to acquire a useless habit” – he threw the cigar away & never took another! He was modest & unostentatious, not parading, but living his virtues – & I cannot refrain from quoting a few encomiums uttered by those who from close association knew him most intimately. Mr. Oscar Crane, living on his farm for years, said years before his (Dr. Reid’s) death, & repeated after it, “he is the best man I ever knew – I'll except no one, not even my own father!”

Mr. Claude Field who once lived in our home, was associated with him in business & knew him well – when he met us at the hotel as we took him to Slater for burial, exclaimed, with emotion in his voice, “he was the straightest man I ever saw!”

And the eulogies of Judge Jno. A. Rich & Mr. Com P. Storts (lawyer) at the funeral testified to his influence, his service as a physician & citizen, & the high esteem in which he was held in the town. In the home of his daughter-in-law where he lived some years & received nothing but their love & consideration, there comes this testimony. Erma, at his bedside as he passed away, exclaimed “he was the best man that ever lived!” and Mildred, in addition to many words of praise for his kindness, and consideration for others – sometimes when we discuss the ways of people & I refer to him – always says “yes but he was an exception!” And even little Jane, then 6 yrs old, said to me one day, “Aren’t you sorry Grandpa died? he was so good to me, he’d play with me – & let me comb his hair –” – (Jane was a great comfort to him).

As a wife, I can add my tribute – He was a kind, considerate, true husband, never failing in his loyalty to me – & when times of weakness came to me, he was the sympathizing physician & helper – the prop upon which I leaned & which has been taken away – to my loss.

Could his sons, for whom he would have sacrificed anything, ask a better legacy from a father than such a character? – He was 83 yrs, & 9 mons. old when he died very suddenly, Jany 16, 1929.

At Slater we were met by some 25 or 30 people at 10 or 11 o’clock at night with urgent invitations to go to their houses but there being eight of us, we waited until next morning when the home of Judge Rich (& others) was opened to us, & where many friends came to see Dr. Reid & to bring us their sympathy. We will never forget their kindness.

Not by any means do I mean to imply, by quoting the above testimonials, that Dr. Reid was literally “the best man that ever lived” for there are many, many good men, but these were the spontaneous utterances of those who knew him intimately & are an index to his true, everyday life.

David William Reid and Annie Beeding were married on 25 May 1870 in Saline Co., MO. Annie Beeding was born on 29 May 1846 in MO. She died on 4 Aug 1872 at the age of 26. She was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.

David William Reid and Mary (Mollie) Turner were married on 21 Apr 1880 in Boonville, Cooper Co., MO. Mary (Mollie) Turner was born on 16 Apr 1855 in Keytesville, MO. She died in Jul 1941 at the age of 86. Mollie was buried in Slater City Cemetery, Slater, MO.
From the Reid manuscript, written by Mollie Turner Reid in 1931 [56] (obtained from the Foster/Reid Family Tree web site [30]):

Mollie Turner Reid,
single & married a fuller account.

The daughter of John Van Pelt & Sarah O. Turner, I was born in Keytesville, Mo. April 16, 1855 & was christened Mary, but always called Mollie, & so I have always signed it. There I lived until about 3 1/2 yrs. old when my father moved, with his family, to Glasgow, Mo., there to practice Law as partner of Thos. H. Shackelford until the civil war broke out & Mr. S. moved to St. Louis.

Of that first year in Glasgow, when from 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 yrs. old, I have a good many memories of the house itself, the children I played with, & games – the big open lot we roamed in, the hole in the fence I crept thru to go to the neighbor’s – & the day we moved to our new home where a big roaring fire in the fireplace awaited us. I know I remember this because we were in the first house only one year – until I was 4 1/2 yrs. old.

Tho’ rather young, I have some vivid recollections of the civil war. (War is apt to impress one!) I recall the many, many soldiers, who, sometimes ragged & torn stopped at our “alley door” to ask, or sometimes to demand, food; – of a special one who asked my little sister Annie to give him a “bus” saying she reminded him of the little one he left behind him; – of another special one half drunken, or pretending to be, who talked & brandished his pistol rather freely as he ate until my father asked him to put it up; – of the day when they were searching for a man who they tho’t had jumped into our back yard, & then searched our house to find & when they came to the attic, with a narrow stair, no one was brave enough to go up & look for him! the search stopped. The Union soldiers held the town. The night before the battle of Glasgow, it happened that my mother had pulled a small tooth for me, & when next morning we were awakened by the booming cannon that split a neighbor’ s bed post a half-block away, it seemed to me that somehow there was a rather close connection between the two events!

As the battle raged, we with some neighbors who had gathered in –(one of whom bro’t a pan of cooked rice & her dress bonnet! –) were in comparative safety in our basement until the warning came to get out in haste as the city hall with its great stock of ammunition was on fire. (they found afterwards the ammunition had been moved). Of course we speedily vacated & marched thru the streets, the “minnie balls” whizzing over our heads – from the sharp shooters (confederates) across the river – to a higher & more exposed location, passing on the way, for an encouragement, a dead man lying in the street.

After some hours came surrender & then the holocaust of fire which destroyed fourteen houses I am told, but strange to say, I do not remember the fire at all.

Next day (?) I was permitted to go to a home – Steinmetz – & see three young men, two of them the sons, the other a boarder, laid out on three cots, dead!

So far as I know, these were the only casualties among the townspeople, excepting the accidental killing, or mortally wounding, at his own home of our Methodist minister by a bursting bomb. The young men were fighting in the breastworks that had been thrown up in the town.
But war had an end (1865) and the years of my childhood passed smoothly on. I was for a short while in Mr. Strother’s Seminary, where my sister Julia graduated but my main education was in Pritchett College, or Pritchett Institute as it was then called, under the presidency of Rev. Carr Waller Pritchett, & the leadership of such instructors as Prof. Thomson Bond, – later of Central College, Fayette, Mo., – S. H. Trowbridge & others, and there has ever been in my heart a feeling of deepest gratitude for their painstaking care & patience.

At eighteen yrs. of age – 1873 – June 12 – I was graduated from this institution, in a class of six, – taking the degree, “Mistress in Arts”, the equivalent of of [sic] “Bachelor in Arts” which the boys rec’d, – but our Pres. was entirely too “old fogy” to call girls bachelors, so he gave us the more feminine title, tho we sat in class with the boys.

The following winter 1874–5 I taught the four months’ term in the Glasgow Public School being associated with the father of Judge Jno. A. Rich as Principal, & a classmate, Mary Grove, as the other assistant teacher.

In 1875, my older sister, Mrs. Julia Dunnica, became very seriously ill, & my father having died the previous year, & there being nothing special to hold my mother in Glasgow, she with my sister Annie & myself moved to Boonville & into the Dunnica home to care for her & her two little children, Leon, & the baby Julia.

Three months later, in Jan’y 1876 – Julia was taken to Philadelphia for operation for ovarian tumor, and a few days later died from an embolism (blood clot in the heart). This established my mother in Boonville until my brother-in-law died, July 1880, when she moved to Independence Mo. where my brother lived.

In the mean time I had taught in Cooper Institute, Boonville, a private Seminary for Young Ladies owned & operated by Prof. A. Haines, for 3 years – 76 – 79.

On April 21st, 1880, I was married to Dr. D. W. Reid, & we located in Marshall Mo. for our first home, boarding with Cousin Annie Vance & Aunt Mary Wilson, who indeed gave me a kindly welcome & rec’d me as real kin. About 6 months with them, and three months of house keeping – & then we moved to the new town of Slater, Dr. Reid being drawn, I think, by the many old associates who had come there from Cambridge.

Any romances? the girls may ask. Why certainly, don’t most girls have them? – but as “petting parties” were not in vogue then, I have no memory to cause a blush now – but when the “right one came along” we exchanged vows “until death us do part” and they held until death us did part.

And would the girls like to know what “Grandma’s wedding dress” was? ’twas quite “chic” I assure you – a travelling dress, strictly tailored, having a navy blue satin skirt, & a close fitting cloth coat, or redingote, trimmed in the blue, the rather long skirt of it opening in front to show the skirt. The coat a light gray with tiny blue & pink specks woven in it, a blue satin bow with long ends hung from the neck. The bonnet was something like a “poke” but not so poky, of light straw mixed with pink (or red) and blue & trimmed very simply with blue satin ribbon to match dress. Gray kid gloves & black shoes (always then) finished the costume – & if I didn’t look nice it wasn’t the fault of the dress, which was the “very latest” & made by a St. Louis dress maker. We were married at 8 o’clock
in the morning, a few intimate friends being present, & my mother gave us a lovely wedding breakfast, after which we started on our little journey to St. Louis & Chicago.

As these are incidents of my own simple life, of which I naturally know more than any other, you may pardon me for recalling some of the things that I undertook – perhaps simple in themselves & unimportant to others, but breaking the monotony of household cares & keeping me from “rusting out.” My children were never a burden & loving care for them went along with other things.

As I had liked teaching in school, so I enjoyed teaching in Sunday school & my work with classes of young men, mixed classes of young men & women, & some of older women, has seemed to me one of the more worth while things that I have attempted & it gives me pleasurable memories. (Up to two yrs. ago, 1929, I taught for several years a class of women in Wellsville.)

Another is my work in the Women’s Foreign Mis. Soc. in the home church & as District Sec’y & Treas. for about 16 yrs., which required a good deal of time & attendance at two meetings a year.

For my own profit & pleasure I undertook & finished the four year Chautauqua Course, first in company with quite a number of friends, notably Rev. & Mrs. Willingham, Presbyterian minister & wife – but as the club broke up, by removal & otherwise, I finished alone. Upon examination by correspondence, which was rather rigid, I was lucky in missing only one question & that was in American history! where I allowed my southern “spunk” to dictate the answer to “What caused the civil War?” I knew it was not according to the book, & was not surprised that it didn’t pass with that northern bunch! If I had dreamed that I was to get 100 in every thing else I might have tempered my enthusiasm & wiped out that 99. -- but ’twas funny & I still have my diploma & 5 seals.

Mind you, I don't claim to have known everything in those 20 or 28 books – not by any means! – We were permitted to consult the books as much as we pleased – the difficulty was to find the correct answers, but it was evidence that we had studied them & that was what they wanted.

The Slater Travel Club, organized 1903 (?), was a source of pleasure & profit, and if I could only remember all we went over, I would have a fund of information, but alas, alas! -- When we left Slater, this went with other pleasant associations, but others are still enjoying it, 1931.

Our married life passed smoothly & happily on. Our children were our first interest & we tried to fit them for life as far as we could, – sending them, after graduation in High School, to Columbia & Kansas City for further instruction & for their professions.

We were “home bodies” – not being financially able to take long & very expensive tours, we did indulge in some pleasurable ones. Our boys with us, we visited both the Chicago & St. Louis Expositions – We visited my mother in Las Vegas [this was probably Las Vegas, NM, because it is mentioned in another part of the manuscript] one winter & went on to California for a number of weeks. Since the boys have grown older & left us, we have visited Colorado several times, and Okoboji Iowa, a resort & Washington, D.C.

This past summer, – Dr. Reid having passed away, I alone, went with all my children & grands. to Fair Hills, Michigan. – Thus, mingled with my sorrows, – especially in the loss of family & some dear friends, – my life had its pleasures. I am the only one left of my father’s family & sometimes I
feel very much alone, but far, far more so since my companion of nearly forty nine years passed on two years ago, thus breaking our family circle. But I am thankful that I still have my boys & their families & so am not utterly alone.

(Inmates)
Other inmates of our home were Dr. Reid’s father who was with us for several years & died there.

His aunt, Miss Sarah, who was also there for several yrs., but died at “Cousin Pick” Porter’s in Warrensburg.

Mrs. Beeding spent a great deal of time there & was devoted to the children who called her “Grandma” & knew no difference, – & to Dr. Reid as to a son – & I believe I can claim to have had a place in her affections too.

My mother & Julia were at home there tho frequently away, for a good many years & my mother died there – Julia staid on, off & on, until her marriage, & would still consider it home, I think, if I had one. I can never forget Julia’s devotion to, & care of my mother, & her consideration for me.

For the past ten years, the doors of our children’s homes have been open to us & it is a source of great comfort to know that Dr. Reid’s last days were with his children who were the greatest interest in his life, & between whom & himself there was the warmest devotion.

Our interest in our grand-children has been very deep & sincere – a desire for their real & best good being always our thought. Jane, who came 8 yrs after Mary Helen, bro’t a good deal of sunshine for us & Dr. Reid found her a comfort in what might have been rather lonely hours after he was less active. May this child develop into a strong & noble woman! – & with her sisters be such as “Grandpa”, & I, would have them to be.

My sons’ wives I regard, not as “in-laws” but as daughters.

In that light I regard Julia too for she has been both daughter & sister to me.

Reid Turner was with us two years.

David William Reid and Mary Turner had the following children:

+144 i. **James D. Reid**, born 9 Feb 1881, Slater, Saline Co., MO; married Irene Cotton, Jan 1918; married Mildred M. Harrison, Sep 1923.

+145 ii. **Turner Wilson Reid**, born 3 Mar 1883, Slater, Saline Co., MO; married Erma Helen Orear, 22 Oct 1908; died 5 Dec 1949, Gardner, KS.

68. **Margaret Kring Swinney** (Paulina E. Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 25 Sep 1871 in Fayette, Howard Co., MO. She died on 11 Mar 1941 at the age of 69 in Gainesville, FL.
Margaret Kring Swinney and Harvey McKinney Bryan were married. **Harvey McKinney Bryan** was born on 9 Oct 1869 in Boone Co., MO. He died on 15 May 1936 at the age of 66 in Gainesville, FL.

Harvey McKinney Bryan and Margaret Kring Swinney had the following child:


69. **Margaret Cannon** (Juliette W. Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in Jan 1876 in MO.

Margaret Cannon and ? **Quinn** were married.

72. **Juliette K. Cannon** (Juliette W. Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in Mar 1881 in MO.

Juliette K. Cannon and ? **Stafford** were married.

76. **Elizabeth Lewis Grove** (John Henry-4, Mary Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 26 Sep 1862 in Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. She died on 31 Jul 1950 at the age of 87 in Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. She was buried in Washington Cemetery, Glasgow, MO.

Her name is spelled Bettie and Betty in different records. Her full name is from the Vaughan Family Tree on Ancestry.com [71] (note that this is different from the Vaughan Family Tree of Deborah and Michael Vaughan [70]). That family tree shows her marriage as being in Glasgow, Scotland, which seems very unlikely. They were from Glasgow, MO, and were married in Glasgow, Scotland? Just doesn’t seem plausible! However, the marriage is not listed in “Missouri Marriage Records 1805-2002” on Ancestry.com, and Robert’s mother was from Scotland, so maybe they really were married over there.

The name on her death certificate is Bettie G. (Grove) Vaughan. Cause of death was hypostatic pneumonia due to a fractured hip from a fall (slipped on waxed floor). It says that she had an operation on 24 May 1950. Place of death is listed as Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. It says that she lived there for 15 years.
Elizabeth Lewis Grove and Robert Randolph Vaughan were married in 1886 in Glasgow, Scotland. **Robert Randolph Vaughan** was born on 13 Nov 1856 in Saline Co., MO. He died on 20 Jun 1936 at the age of 79 in St. Louis, MO. He was buried in Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. Robert was a dentist.

The name on his death certificate is Robert Randolph Vaughan. Cause of death was prostate cancer. Place of death is listed as Bethesda Hospital in St. Louis, MO, but it gives his usual residence as Glasgow, MO. His parents are listed as Richard Vaughan, born in Virginia, and Margaret McNaught, born in Scotland.

Robert Randolph Vaughan and Elizabeth Lewis Grove had the following children:

1. Margaret McNaught Vaughan was born on 12 May 1888 in MO.

78. **Mabel Hayden** (Belinda C. Grove-4, Mary Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in 1862 in MO. She died on 5 Aug 1926 in Seattle, WA. She was buried in Lake View Cemetery, Seattle, WA.

Mabel Hayden and Henry William Mellen were married on 19 Dec 1893 in Washington, DC. **Henry William Mellen** was born in Jun 1865 in IN. He died after 1930 (he is listed in the 1930 census).

He is listed with a different occupation in every census: from lawyer/miner to contractor to farmer to civil engineer.

80. **Marie Hayden** (Belinda C. Grove-4, Mary Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1867 in MO. She died on 31 Dec 1900 in Seattle, WA. She was buried in Lake View Cemetery, Seattle, WA.

Marie Hayden and Wilford Bacon Hoggatt were married on 12 Jan 1893 in Washington, DC. **Wilford Bacon Hoggatt** was born on 11 Sep 1865 in Paoli, Orange Co., IN. He died on 26 Feb 1938 at the age of 72 in Bronx, NY. He was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Utica, NY.

From Find A Grave [28] (listing for Wilford Bacon Hoggatt):

Alaska Territorial Governor. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1884 and remained in the Navy for 18 years, including service during the Spanish-American War. He
graduated from Columbian Law School in 1893 and also graduated from the Columbia University School of Mines. After leaving the Navy Hoggatt settled in Juneau, Alaska where his brother and he became successful in the gold mining business. In 1884 Alaska was designated a federal district with a civil government and a Governor appointed by President Chester A. Arthur. In 1906 he was appointed Governor and served for three years. During his term Hoggatt was responsible for relocating Alaska’s government from Sitka to Juneau, where it has remained ever since. In 1925 he moved to New York City, where he lived in retirement. His health began to fail in 1936, and he died at the Bronx Veterans Hospital. His second wife, Clarissa Eames Millard, was from Utica, and she decided to have him interred there.

83. **John Irving McDonald** (Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 11 Jun 1858 in St. Joseph, MO. He died in 1939. He was a merchant and manufacturer. John was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

The obituary for John Irving McDonald Jr. (see the notes for him) says that his father graduated from Yale in 1878 and that he was “of the R. L. McDonald & Company, wholesale dry goods and manufacturers of men’s furnishings of St. Joseph”.

John Irving McDonald and Frank Haskell Fanning were married on 17 Nov 1880 in Buchanan Co., MO. **Frank Haskell Fanning** was born on 14 Jun 1859 in Waverly, NY. She died on 23 Dec 1926 at the age of 67 in St. Joseph, MO. She was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

She was a daughter of Frank Fanning and Sarah Scott (from the obituary for John Irving McDonald Jr.; see the notes for him). Her name is shown as Francis in the 1900 census.

The name on her death certificate is Frank Fanning McDonald. Cause of death was carcinoma of the liver. Place of death was at home (2810 Lovers Lane).

John Irving McDonald and Frank Haskell Fanning had the following children:

149 i. **John Irving McDonald Jr.** was born on 5 Nov 1881 in St. Joseph, MO. He died on 15 Nov 1903 at the age of 22. There is a cemetery record for Irving M. McDonald at the Mount Mora Cemetery [49], which might be him (in which case the “Jr.” is not correct).

*History of the Class of 1903: Yale College* (1906) [62]:

*Irving McDonald (B.A. 1903) died November 15, 1903. It is a duty associated with much grief to write of the death of a classmate, but when that classmate has been a lifelong friend and companion the duty becomes a sorrowful one indeed.*
Irving McDonald was born in St. Joseph, Mo., November 5, 1881, prepared at the St. Joseph High School and at the Taft School, Watertown, Conn., and entered college with the Class.

His father, John Irving McDonald (Yale 1878), of the R. L. McDonald & Company, wholesale dry goods and manufacturers of men’s furnishings of St. Joseph, was born in St. Joseph June 11, 1858, the son of Rufus Lee McDonald and Mary Ann (Wilson) McDonald. Mrs. R. L. McDonald was the daughter of General Robert Wilson, United States Senator from Missouri.

His mother, whose maiden name was Frank Haskell Fanning, was the daughter of Frank Fanning and Sarah (Scott) Fanning.

A great uncle, John Wilson, graduated from Yale in 1847.

Irving McDonald’s life in college is more or less familiar to us all. While not a student in the strict sense of the word, he always maintained a high standing in his class and did so with the ease and apparent absence of effort which marks the quick, ready and absorbing mind. When his interest was aroused he showed a wonderful capacity for work and originality of thought. These mental qualities had already begun to assert themselves in his short business career after college and a life full of every promise of success was ended by his sudden death five months after graduation. He died the victim of an unfortunate accident, which left sorrowing his family, friends and the entire community in which he lived.

In his home he was the idol of his father and mother and loved and admired by his brother and sister. To know him was to love him, is the story of his social life. There never was a truer friend or a more genial and pleasant companion. It has been nearly three years since his death, yet among his intimate circle of friends his name is still fresh and his absence a lasting regret. His companionship was always sought, for he was truly a radiating focus of life, good will and happiness. He possessed a kind, generous and singularly unselfish disposition, ever ready to sacrifice his own pleasure for the enjoyment of those he loved. He was brave and honorable in every act; courteous and gentlemanly in all his associations with men. These noble traits of character endeared him to all who knew him and the Class of 1903 together with his many other friends will ever honor and cherish the memory of Irving McDonald.

John Barrow Motter.

At the Triennial Meeting of the Class, June 26, 1906, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased God in His infinite wisdom to remove from among us our beloved friend and classmate, Irving McDonald, be it
Resolved, That his untimely death came as a shock and surpassing grief to his friends, and that in behalf of the Class we hereby desire to convey to his family our keen sorrow and great sense of loss; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family and entered in the records of the Class.

Alfred H. Bill,
Willard A. Lyon,
J. R. Wait,
for the Class of 1903.

150 ii. Louise McDonald was born on 9 Mar 1884 in MO.
151 iii. Rufus Lee McDonald was born on 20 Jul 1888 in MO. He died in 1956. He was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO. He is referred to in some records as Rufus Lee McDonald Jr., for example in his cemetery record at Mount Mora Cemetery [49].

85. Robert Wilson McDonald (Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 28 Oct 1866 in St. Joseph, MO. He died on 22 Nov 1955 at the age of 89 in St. Joseph, MO. He was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO. Robert was the treasurer for the family manufacturing business.

The name on his death certificate is Robert Wilson McDonald. Cause of death was cerebral arteriosclerosis with thrombosis. Place of death was at Memorial Home, 1120 Main St.

Robert Wilson McDonald and Katherine Louise Heddens were married on 7 Jun 1893 in Norman, Cleveland Co., OK. Katherine Louise Heddens, daughter of James Monroe Heddens and Sarah E. Davisson, was born on 7 Sep 1870 in Baxter Springs, Cherokee Co., KS. She died on 25 Aug 1942 at the age of 71 in St. Joseph, MO. She was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

The name on her death certificate is Katherine Heddens McDonald. Cause of death was myasthenia gravis. Place of death was at home (1402½ Sylvania St.).

Robert Wilson McDonald and Katherine Louise Heddens had the following children:

+152 i. Robert Heddens McDonald, born 8 Sep 1894, St. Joseph, MO; married Marietta Motter; died 22 May 1981, Liberty, Clay Co., MO.
+154 iii. Catherine Louise McDonald, born Dec 1898, MO; married Orlando Gerald McDonald.
Fifth Generation


+156  v. **Mary Ann McDonald**, born 25 May 1903, MO; married Cloyd Chambers Edelen, 1929, Kansas City, MO; died 18 Sep 1988, Mayfield Heights, Cuyahoga Co., OH.

86. **Annette Vance McDonald** (Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 12 Mar 1868 in St. Joseph, MO. She died on 1 Dec 1946 at the age of 78 in St. Joseph, MO. She was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

Her middle name comes from the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Walnut Park Farm Historic District [73]. This is interesting; it raised the question of whether she could have been named for Mary Ann’s first cousin Annette Wilson Vance, but Annette was not yet married to John Vance when this Annette was born.

The name on her death certificate is Annette McDonald Davis. Cause of death was coronary arteriosclerosis. Place of death was St. Joseph’s Hospital.

Annette Vance McDonald and Marvin Middleton Davis were married in May 1896. **Marvin Middleton Davis** was born on 20 Mar 1870 in New Market, Platte Co., MO. He died on 30 Jun 1907 at the age of 37. He was a real-estate dealer and farm manager. Marvin was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

The National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Walnut Park Farm Historic District [73] has some information about him. Walnut Park Farm belonged to Rufus Lee McDonald. It was a combination of land he bought and land that his wife Mary Ann inherited from her father, Robert Wilson. Apparently the main business of the farm was raising race horses, and Marvin was the farm manager. Marvin and Annette moved into the farm house after they were married in 1896. They moved to St. Joseph a few years later, but returned to the farm periodically. The write-up notes that daughter Annette Davis Dabney was born on the farm. Also, it says that Marvin “became ill on a business trip in Kansas and died shortly afterward.”

*Dearborn Democrat*, 5 Jul 1907 (from Find A Grave, listing for Marvin M Davis):

M. M. Davis Dies After Operation For Appendicitis.

Marvin Middleton Davis, 36 years old, a prominent St. Joseph real estate dealer, died at 8 o’clock yesterday morning at St. Joseph’s hospital. Death followed an operation for appendicitis, performed the night before. It is not thought to have been the real cause of death, however.

Born in New Market, Platte county, March 20, 1870, Mr. Davis while still an infant, was brought to St. Joseph by his parents, Rev. and Mrs. John C. C. Davis. He resided in St. Joseph continuously until his death.
Mr. Davis attended the public schools of St. Joseph until he was about 15 years old, then entered the employ of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad. He was later, for a number of years, connected with the Turner-Frazer Grocer company. In 1891, with his brothers, F. C. Davis and R. L. Davis, he established the real estate firm of Davis Brothers, with which he was actively interested at the time of his death.

In May, 1896, Mr. Davis married Miss Annie U. [sic] McDonald, daughter of R. L. McDonald. His widow, three children, Marvin M. Davis Jr., Annette and Dorothy Davis, his mother, Mrs. Mary C. Davis, a sister, Mrs. W. F. McMurray, of Louisville, Ky., and three brothers, Dr. W. B. Davis, F. C. Davis and R. L. Davis, survive him. He was a nephew of W. F. Davis, of St. Joseph, and the late R. T. Davis.

His death date is somewhat uncertain. The Mount Mora Cemetery web site [49] shows that he died on 28 Jun 1907. But Find A Grave [28] (listing for Marvin M Davis) shows 30 Jun 1907, and there is a photo of his gravestone with that date on it.

Marvin Middleton Davis and Annette Vance McDonald had the following children:

157  i.  **Marvin McDonald Davis** was born in Sep 1897 in MO. He died in 1975. He was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO. Marvin was a real estate agent.


159 iii.  **Dorothy Davis** was born about 1903 in MO.

91. **Helen W. Whitson** (Eliza Jane Loop-4, Nancy M. Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 19 Jan 1865 in Camden, Preble Co., OH. She died on 18 Dec 1946 at the age of 81 in Dayton, OH. She was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, OH.

Helen W. Whitson and Milo Jenkins Harris were married. **Milo Jenkins Harris** was born on 23 May 1862 in Edinburgh, Johnson Co., IN. He died on 21 Oct 1923 at the age of 61 in Clermont Co., OH. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Camden, OH.

96. **William A. Wilson** (Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 15 Apr 1869 in Saline Co., MO. He died after 1940 (he is listed in the 1940 census). He was an advertising salesman and magazine publisher.

1870 census
Listed as William A. Willson, age 1, born in Missouri. Living with his parents.
1880 census
Listed as Wm A Wilson, age 11, born in Missouri, both parents born in Missouri. Attended school within the year. Living with his parents.

William A. Wilson and Lila E. Boyce were married about 1897. Lila E. Boyce was born in Oct 1872 in NY. She died after 1940.

William A. Wilson and Lila E. Boyce had the following child:


98. **Maud Adair Wilson** (Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 24 Jun 1872 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. She died on 6 Oct 1939. She was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY.

Some sources spell her first name Maude and/or her middle name Adaire.

Some sources say she was born in 1874, but that doesn't fit very well with census records. Furthermore, her gravestone (picture obtained from Charles Miller III) says she was born in 1872.

1880 census
Listed as Maud Wilson, age 8, born in Missouri, both parents born in Missouri. Living with her parents.

Maud Adair Wilson and Charles Griffin Miller were married on 12 Jun 1906. **Charles Griffin Miller** was born on 28 Dec 1867 in New Rochelle, Westchester Co., NY. He died on 11 Sep 1942 in Southport, Fairfield Co., CT. He was a doctor. Charles was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY.

The CG Miller Family Tree on Ancestry.com [45] lists his parents as Charles Griffin Miller and Emily Evaline Bryan.

Charles Griffin Miller and Maud Adair Wilson had the following children:
Descendants of Robert Wilson


162 ii. **Charles Griffin Miller Jr.**, born 9 Jan 1909, New York City, NY; married Lucille Blair Mac Donall; died 19 Jun 1990, Sun City, Riverside Co., CA.

163 iii. **Adair W. Miller**, born 12 Oct 1912, Munich, Germany; married Judith B. Howard; died 10 Feb 2007, Berlin, VT.

164 iv. **Marion Miller**, born 29 Jul 1914, Munich, Germany; married Alex Minewski, 1945; died 12 Sep 2005, Berlin, VT.

101. **Harry Brock (Harry Powell) Wilson** (Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 3 May 1882 in Slater, Saline Co., MO. He died on 13 Nov 1963 at the age of 81 in Denver, CO.

According to information from Deborah and Michael Vaughan, his name was originally Harry Brock Wilson (which would account for the 1900 census), but he changed his middle name to Powell (his mother’s maiden name).

He owned a company that sold heavy construction equipment, H. P. Wilson & Company.

1900 census
Listed as Harry B. Wilson, age 18, born in May 1882. Born in Missouri, both parents born in Missouri. Attended school (9 months). Living with uncle Leonard Wilson and his family.

Harry Powell Wilson and Marie Llewellyn Keller were married on 6 Oct 1909 in Denver, CO. **Marie Llewellyn Keller** was born on 23 Jul 1886 in MO. She died in 1968 at the age of 82 in Aurora, Adams Co., CO.

Harry Powell Wilson and Marie Llewellyn Keller had the following children:


106. **Katherine Thompson (Kate) Wilson** (Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 23 Feb 1872 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. She died on 23 Dec 1949 at the age of 77 in Sacramento, CA. She was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, CA.

James Hotchkiss [37] and *Portrait and Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity, Colorado* [17] spell her name Katharine, but the marriage record on Colorado Genealogical Society’s
“Colorado Marriages, 1858-1939” CD-ROM [24] spells it Katherine. Also, the picture of her gravestone on Find A Grave [28] shows it spelled Katherine, so that is probably right. “California Death Index, 1940-1997”, on Ancestry.com also spells it Katherine.

A number of sources, including James Hotchkiss [37] and Find A Grave [28] (listing for Katharine Thompson “Kate” Wilson Brown) give her birth date as 25 Feb 1872, but Adair Wilson, in both his family bible [76] and the Adair Wilson family record [77], listed her birth date as 23 Feb 1872. Also, the California Death Index gives 23 Feb 1872.

1880 census
Listed as Katie T Wilson, age 8, born in Missouri, mother and father born in Missouri. Attended school within the year. Living with her parents.

Katherine Thompson (Kate) Wilson and Austin Howard Brown were married on 18 Apr 1893 in Durango, La Plata Co., CO. **Austin Howard Brown** was born on 25 Apr 1861 in Indianapolis, IN. He died on 10 Feb 1913 at the age of 51 in San Francisco, CA. He was a mining engineer. Austin was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, CA (maybe; see below).

According to Find A Grave [28] (listing for Austin Howard Brown), his parents were Austin Haymond Brown and Margaret Noble Russell.

**San Francisco Call**, 11 Feb 1913 (obtained from Chronicling America at the Library of Congress):\(^{13}\)

> BROWN — In this city, February 10, 1913, Austin H., dearly beloved husband of Katherine Wilson Brown, and loving father of Wilson J. Brown and Austin Adair Brown, a native of Indiana, aged 51 years 9 months and 16 days. (Colorado and Montana papers please copy.)

> Funeral services to be held under the auspices of Durant Lodge No. 286, Masonic, Berkeley, Bancroft way and Shattuck avenue, Thursday, February 13, at 2 o’clock p. m. Interment Mountain View cemetery. Friends and acquaintances respectfully invited to attend.

Note, however, that Find A Grave [28], in the listing for Austin Howard Brown, says:

> A stone for Austin Howard Brown is not found in Mt. View Cem. but his name and birth & death dates are found in Crown Hill Cem., Indianapolis, IN. Likely he died in CA and his body was taken to Crown Hill for burial.

It is worth noting that Find A Grave has incorrect death info for him: 10 Mar 1913 in Sacramento, CA.

Austin Howard Brown and Katherine Thompson Wilson had the following children:

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\(^{13}\) [http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1913-02-11/ed-1/seq-12/]
Descendants of Robert Wilson


107. **Edwards Adair Wilson** (Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 2 Feb 1874 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He died on 8 Nov 1950 at the age of 76 in Shasta Co., CA. He was an assayer and then a confectioner.

1880 census
Listed as Ed die A. Wilson, age 6, born in Missouri, father and mother born in Missouri. Living with his parents.

Edwards Adair Wilson and Elizabeth L. (Bessie) Wilhelm were married on 18 Jul 1908 in Redding, Shasta Co., CA. **Elizabeth L. (Bessie) Wilhelm** was born about 1883 in Redding, Shasta Co., CA. Most sources give her name as Bessie. Elizabeth is from Todd Adair Wilson. The middle initial is from the 1910 census.

Edwards Adair Wilson and Elizabeth L. Wilhelm had the following children:


108. **Alva Adams Wilson** (Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 11 Jun 1879 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He died on 23 Feb 1963 at the age of 83 in Mendocino Co., CA. He was an accountant and a postmaster. Alva was buried in Willits cemetery, Willits, CA.

He was apparently named for Alva Adams, who was the governor of Colorado who appointed Adair Wilson (Alva’s father) to the court of appeals (see the notes for Adair Wilson).

1880 census
Listed as Alva Wilson, age 11 months, born in Missouri, father and mother born in Missouri. Living with his parents.
Alva Adams Wilson and Alice Cathryn Swasey were married on 4 Jul 1903 in San Francisco, CA. Alice Cathryn Swasey was born on 28 Nov 1879 in San Francisco, CA. She died on 20 Dec 1969 at the age of 90 in Ventura Co., CA. She was buried in Willits cemetery, Willits, CA.

Alva Adams Wilson and Alice Cathryn Swasey had the following child:

171  i. **Francis Adair Wilson** was born on 19 Feb 1907 in Northwestern, CA. He died on 30 Jul 1990 at the age of 83 in Ventura Co., CA.

Birth in Northwestern, CA, is from the Adair Wilson family bible [76], but there does not seem to be a town named Northwestern. Perhaps he just meant northwestern California (possibly Mendocino County).

There is a Francis Wilson with wife Esther in the 1940 census in San Buenaventura, Ventura Co., CA, who seems likely to be the right person. He is about the right age and lived in San Francisco in 1935 (our Francis was living with his parents in San Francisco in the 1930 census). Plus, his mother, Alice, died in Ventura County, and she could have gone there to live with her son. There are family trees on Ancestry.com that show Francis A. Wilson with the right birth date married to Dorothy Mabel Preston—but not till after 1940 because she was not married yet in the 1940 census. It is unknown if this was a second marriage, or if one or both of these is the wrong Francis Wilson.

109. **Margaretta Wilson** (Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 4 Oct 1885 in Del Norte, Rio Grande Co., CO. She died on 18 Apr 1962 at the age of 76 in Oakland, CA.

Margaretta Wilson and James Miller Hotchkiss were married on 23 Jun 1917 in Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA. **James Miller Hotchkiss**, son of William Josephus Hotchkiss and Emma Lucretia Grove, was born on 23 Sep 1881 in Healdsburg, Sonoma Co., CA. (Emma Lucretia Grove was a granddaughter of Adam Grove and a niece of John Bright Grove.) He died on 17 Nov 1952 at the age of 71 in Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA. He was manager of a lumber company.

James Miller Hotchkiss and Margaretta Wilson had the following children:


114. **Leonie Wilson** (Leonard-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 3 May 1873 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. Leonie died on 17 Jan 1973 at the age of 99 in Denver, CO. She was entombed in Fairmount Mausoleum, Denver, CO.

From the *Denver Post*, 22 Jan 1973, p. 19 (obtained from the Colorado Genealogical Society [19]):

Leonie W. Rinker

Services for Mrs. Leonie W. Rinker, 99, of 1137 Sherman St., were Friday at Howard Mortuary, 1201 E. 17th Ave. Entombment was at Fairmount Mausoleum.

Mrs. Rinker died Wednesday at Presbyterian Medical Center after a short illness. She was born May 3, 1873, in Marshall, Mo. She attended Denver elementary schools and graduated from East High School.

On June 27, 1900, she was married to John E. Rinker in Denver. He died in 1950.

Before her marriage, Mrs. Rinker taught school in Altman and Cripple Creek, Colo. She was a member of the Gold Nugget Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star for more than 60 years, and a charter member of S.O.O.B.

She is survived by a son, Theodore W. Rinker, Englewood; a daughter, Mrs. Catherine R. McGrew, Denver; a grandson and three great-grandchildren.

1880 census
Listed as Lennie Wilson, age 7, born in Missouri, both parents born in Missouri. Had measles. Living with her parents.

1900 census
Listed as Leonie Leighton, widow. No children. Age 27, born May 1873. Born in Missouri, both parents born in Missouri. Occupation, school teacher. Living with her parents.

Leonie Wilson and Winslow L. Leighton were married on 4 Oct 1894 in Denver, CO. **Winslow L. Leighton** was born about 1868. He died on 27 Mar 1895. He was buried in Fairmount Cemetery, Denver, CO. Winslow was a bank clerk.

Leonie Wilson and John Ellsworth Rinker were married on 27 Jun 1900 in Denver, CO. **John Ellsworth Rinker** was born in 1868 in IA. He died in 1950, probably in Denver, CO. He was a lawyer. He was entombed in Fairmount Mausoleum, Denver, CO.
John E. Rinker and Leonie Wilson had the following children:

+174  i. **Theodore Wilson Rinker**, born 5 May 1901, probably Denver, CO; married Loretto Dorothy Paul, abt 1929; died Apr 1977, probably Denver, CO.

+175  ii. **Mary Catherine Rinker**, born 4 Jan 1911, probably Denver, CO; married George T. McGrew, bet 1953 and 1959; died 16 Dec 1987, probably Denver, CO.

116. **Horace Everett Wilson** (Leonard-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 1 Aug 1882 in Marshall, Saline Co., MO. He died on 11 May 1943 at the age of 60 in Riverside, CA. He was buried in Olivewood Cemetery, Riverside, CA. He was an electrician.

Horace Everett Wilson was presumably named for his uncle of the same name; he seems to have gone mostly by Everett in his younger years and Harry when he was older. He was born in Marshall, MO, in 1882, but grew up in Denver, CO, where his family moved when he was still very young. He married Rose Lino in 1903 and they had one child (Leonard) in 1904, before divorcing in 1907. Little is known of the following years, but he apparently moved to the Northwest, where he married Jennie Nyman in Coeur d’Alene, ID, in 1909. They had known each other in Denver, but details of how they got back together and married are unknown. Harry and Jennie later moved to California, but their first two children (Leonie and Nyman) were born in Washington in 1916 and 1918. They were in Los Angeles for the 1920 census, and the twins (Clarence and Harry Jr.) were born in Santa Monica in 1922. Harry and Jennie eventually moved to Riverside, CA, and spent the rest of their lives there, though Harry was away from home a lot in his job as an electrician for the power company. He died in 1943 at the age of 60.

There is a World War I draft registration card for him on Ancestry.com (listed as Everett Wilson). It gives a physical description: medium height, slender build, blue eyes, brown hair. It is dated 12 Sep 1918, only a couple of months before the end of the war, so it is unknown if he actually served or for how long if so. He and Jennie had one child and another on the way at that time. They were living in Seattle, WA, and his occupation is listed as drayage, which presumably means he was a truck driver (unless they were still using horse carts).

A newspaper clipping from the *Riverside Press* sent by Leonie Rinker (Harry’s older sister) to Leonard Wilson (Harry’s son) after Harry’s death reads as follows:

**WILSON**—In Riverside, Calif., May 11, 1943, Harry E. Wilson, aged 60 years. Late resident of 3199 Chestnut street, Riverside, Calif. Beloved husband of Mrs. Jennie M. Wilson of Riverside, Calif. Loved father of Clarence R. Wilson of Riverside, Mrs. Leonie Trickey of Maywood, Calif., Harry E. Wilson, Jr., of the U.S. Army and Nyman A. Wilson of San Diego, U.S. Navy, and Leonard Everett Wilson of Denver, Colorado. Also survived by three grandchildren, Patricia Marie Trickey, Lawrence Robert Wilson and Clarence Ralph Wilson. Funeral services will be conducted in the E. H. Preston Funeral Home chapel Friday, May 14th at 2:30 o’clock. Interment in Olivewood cem [rest cut off]
A letter from Leonie Trickey (Harry’s daughter) to Leonard and Betty Wilson after Harry’s death [82] said:

He just coughed and fell off his work bench dead. Mother said he had been feeling better than he has for a long time, and Tuesday morning when he went to work he was feeling good, and by 4:30 he was gone. They say he even sat with the fellows and ate his lunch, but Leonard, he really looked terrible: just skin over his bones.

In agreement with his death certificate, Margaret Henry (Harry’s granddaughter) said that he was working at Food Machinery (a company). She said that her father Clarence was also working there at the time.

The name on his death certificate is Harry E. Wilson. Cause of death is listed as pulmonary hemorrhage due to pulmonary tuberculosis. He died en route to Community Hospital in Riverside, Riverside County, CA. The death certificate says he had been in Riverside 20 years and in California 25 years before his death. His occupation is listed as electrician for Food Machinery.

1900 census
Listed as Horace E. Wilson. Age 17, born in August 1882. Born in Missouri, both parents born in Missouri. Attended school (9 months). Living with his parents.

1910 census
Image 14 on Ancestry.com (District 0133, Elk Twp., Spokane Co., WA)
Listed as Everett Wilson. Renting a home with three other men. Age 28, born in Missouri, both parents born in Missouri. Single. Occupation, laborer in a saw mill. This is a good candidate for him, but it is not certain since he is not with a family so there are no other names to check for consistency. He was married to Jennie by this time, but maybe they were living apart for some reason. Note that Elk Township and Spokane are only about 30 miles from Coeur d’Alene, ID, where they were married in 1909.

1920 census
Image 7 on Ancestry.com (District 190, Los Angeles Assembly District 63, Los Angeles Co., CA)

1930 census
Image 25 on Ancestry.com (District 56, Riverside, Riverside Co., CA)
Listed as Harry E. Wilson. Address, 3882 Tallonay (?) St. Renting home, $85 per month. They had a radio set. Age 47, age 24 at first marriage [this isn’t right]. Born in Missouri, both parents

1940 census
Image 10 on Ancestry.com (Districts 33-50, Riverside, Riverside Co., CA)

Horace Everett Wilson and Rose Lino were married on 17 Apr 1903 in Golden, Jefferson Co., CO. They were divorced on 4 Jan 1907 in Denver, CO. Rose Lino, daughter of Dominick Lino and Theresa Berry, was born on 18 Mar 1883 in Denver, CO. (Note that Dominick Lino was from Italy and Theresa Berry was from Canada.) She died on 3 Oct 1965 at the age of 82 in Denver, CO. She was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, near Denver, CO.

After the divorce with Horace, she had several other marriages: to Elijah J. Sickler on 9 Jan 1907 in Cheyenne, Laramie Co., WY (only five days after the divorce! Rose and Elijah also divorced, on 18 Nov 1910 in Weld County, CO); to Edward W. Cookingham on 20 Nov 1919 in Trinidad, Las Animas Co., CO; to Charles William Nash on 10 Sep 1927 in Syracuse, Onondaga Co., NY; and to C. J. Nicholson sometime before 1959. She had no children from those later marriages. The 1910 census says she had only one child.

The name on her death certificate is Rose L. Nicholson. Cause of death is listed as inanition (?). She died at Stanley Nursing Home in Denver, CO. The death certificate says she had been in Denver for two years before her death. [She had lived with her son Leonard in Albuquerque, NM, for a while before that.]

1900 census
Image 11 on Ancestry.com (Enumeration District 92, Denver, Arapahoe Co., CO)
Name listed as Rosie (?) Lino, 17 years old. Born Mar 1883 in CO. Attended school (8 months). Father born in Italy and mother born in Canada. Living with her parents.

1910 census
Image 12 on Ancestry.com (District 0282, Precinct 19, Weld Co., CO)
Listed as Rose Sickler, age 27, 7 years of present marriage [this can’t be right; they probably wanted people to think that Leonard was their child]. Both parents born in Canada (French) [this isn’t right]. Living with her husband, Elijah J. Sickler, and son.

1920 census
Image 6 on Ancestry.com (District 136, Trinidad, Las Animas Co., CO)
Listed as Rose Cookingham, age 36, born in Colorado, father born in Italy, mother born in Canada (French). Living with her husband, Edward Cookingham, and son. They were living at the City Jail and Edward was the jailer.

1930 census
Image 16 on Ancestry.com (District 35, Syracuse, Onondaga Co., NY)
Listed as Rosa Nash, age 47, born in Colorado, father born in Italy, mother born in Canada (English). Age 20 at first marriage. Living with her husband, Charles W. Nash.

1940 census
Image 17 on Ancestry.com (Districts 66–203, Syracuse, Onondaga Co., NY)
Listed as Rose Nash, age 57, born in Colorado. Living with her husband, Charles W. Nash.

Horace Everett Wilson and Rose Lino had the following child:


Horace Everett Wilson and Jenny Maria Nyman were married on 23 Sep 1909 in Coeur d’Alene, Kootenai Co., ID. **Jenny Maria Nyman**, daughter of Nils Nyman and Sigrid Jakobsdotter, was born on 17 Nov 1885 in Timrå, Västernorrlands Län, Sweden. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1896 and was naturalized in 1907. Jenny died on 4 Mar 1960 at the age of 74 in Arlington, Riverside Co., CA. She was buried in Olivewood Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

Her maiden name is given as Jennie Marie Nyman on Leonie Trickey’s Social Security application [69]. Her name is also listed this way on her death certificate. A birth record on Ancestry.com (“Sweden Indexed Birth Records 1860-1941”, obtained from Elaine Cosner) gives her name as Jenny Maria with father’s name of Nils Nyman. In that time and place, she might have been known as Jenny Nilsdotter, rather than Jenny Nyman.

Her death certificate gives her birth date as 18 Nov 1885, but the birth record gives it as 17 Nov 1885. The place of birth is given as Timrå, Västernorrland, Sweden, in the birth record.

Additional information obtained from Elaine Cosner:
From Canadian passenger lists and Canada–U.S. border crossings, she sailed on the Parisian from Liverpool, England, to Quebec, Canada, in 1896 when she was 10 years old. Her residence was listed as Drontheim. She was going to her brother-in-law, Jos Nylander, in Duluth, MN. Her arrival date was listed as 25 Jul 1896 (for the arrival in Quebec?). Jenny was accompanied by her mother’s sister, Anna Andersen, and her baby. Anna was going to Chicago to meet her husband, Axel Anderson. Anna’s age was listed as 27. The passenger list says that Anna was Norwegian and from Drontheim.

Jennie may have lived for a while in an orphanage in Minnesota, but this is not certain.

In a letter from Jennie Wilson to Leonard Wilson dated 17 Oct 1940 [82], Jennie said that “my sister Clara and I were boarding with Mr. Linder next door [either to Horace Wilson and his first wife, Rose, or to Rose’s parents; this would be in Denver] and my brother-in-law left milk at Rose’s mother’s every day...”.

The name on her death certificate is Jennie Marie Wilson. The immediate cause of death was pneumonia, but she had ovarian cancer. She died at General Hospital of Riverside County, Arlington, CA. Her address is given as 4538 1st Street, Riverside, CA. Her parents are listed as Nels Nyman and ? Sigler. The death certificate gives her length of stay in Riverside County and in California as 36 years, which would go back to about 1924. Note that Horace and Jennie were in Los Angeles for the 1920 census, so there seems to be an inconsistency. The responses on Horace’s death certificate work out to living in California since about 1918 and in Riverside County since about 1923, which is consistent with the 1920 census. Since Nyman was born in Washington late in 1918, they probably moved to California in 1919.

1920 census
Listed as Jennie M. Wilson, age 34, born in Sweden, both parents born in Sweden. Immigrated to U.S. in 1896, naturalized in 1907. Living with her husband, Everett Wilson, and children.

1930 census
Listed as Jennie M. Wilson, age 44, age 21 at first marriage [that is probably not right], born in Minnesota [not right], father born in Germany [probably not right], mother born in Sweden. Living with her husband, Harry E. Wilson, and children.

1940 census

Horace Everett Wilson and Jenny Maria Nyman had the following children:
Descendants of Robert Wilson


+180  iv. **Harry Everett Wilson Jr.**, born 19 Apr 1922, Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co., CA; married Theone M. Raub; died 24 Oct 2006, Riverside, CA.

Locations of interest in Southern California and Arizona (modern-day borders)
Early western migration trails (by Frederick Smoot)

Obtained from
http://www.tngenweb.org/tnletters/usa-west.htm

John Wilson and Adair Wilson (and possibly a few other family members) were early travelers to California over some variant of the California Trail (completion of the trip to San Francisco was by river). We know they both went through Salt Lake City. By the time later families went, they might have gone by railroad or by better roads.
Sixth Generation

117. **Mida Ewers** (Priscilla David Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in 1877 in MO. She died on 9 Apr 1959 in Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA. She was buried in River View Cemetery, Portland, OR.

_Tacoma News Tribune_, 10 Apr 1959, p. C10 (obtained from the Tacoma Pierce County Genealogical Society):

MRS. MIDA MATKIN

Mrs. Mida Matkin, 81, of 4004 No. 34th St. died yesterday in a local hospital. She was born in Missouri and had lived here 10 years, coming from Portland. She was a member of Royal Neighbors of America and the Christian Church.

She leaves a son, Eugene, of Tacoma; a sister, Mrs. Pearl Ray, of Portland; and a brother, Carl Ewers, in California.

Services will be announced by Buckley-King Co.

Mida Ewers and Charles Marcus Matkin were married on 20 Oct 1900 in Kirksville, Adair Co., MO. **Charles Marcus Matkin** was born on 29 Jun 1880 in Macon, Macon Co., MO. He died on 27 Apr 1949 at the age of 68 in Portland, OR. He was a road-construction foreman. He was buried in River View Cemetery, Portland, OR.

_The Oregonian_, 29 Apr 1949, p. 15 (obtained from Find A Grave [28], listing for Charles Marcus Matkin):

The funeral of Charles M. Matkin, 68, who died Wednesday at his home, 1821 SE 35th avenue, will be at 11 a.m. Friday at Davy Sunnyside funeral home. Burial will be in Riverview cemetery.

A native of Makin, Mo., Mr. Matkin came to Portland in 1904 and went to work for Warren Construction company, later becoming the Northwest Construction company. He worked with the same firm until his retirement in 1944.

Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Mida Matkin and a son, Eugene L. Matkin, Tacoma.

The name on his death certificate is Charles M. Matkin. Cause of death was coronary occlusion. He died at home (1821 S.E. 35th Ave.). His father is listed as LeRoy Matkin. The certificate also said that he had lived in Portland for 6 years (or maybe it means at that address for 6 years).
Charles Marcus Matkin and Mida Ewers had the following child:


119. **Pearl Ewers** (Priscilla David Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1882 in MO. She died after 1971.

It appears that Pearl’s children were all with first husband James Mooney, but second husband Frank Ray adopted them. Starting in the 1920 census, they are listed with last name Ray. The best evidence is for youngest daughter Elizabeth. There is a marriage record for her in “Oregon Marriage Indexes 1906-2009” on Ancestry.com, with her name given as Elizabeth J Ray. Then there is an entry for her in “U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index 1936-2007” on Ancestry.com, with her name given as Elizabeth Ray Hellem and her parents listed as James Mooney and Pearl Ewers.

Pearl Ewers and James Mooney were married on 12 Nov 1901 in Kirksville, Adair Co., MO. **James Mooney** was born about 1868 in PA. He was a coal miner.

James Mooney and Pearl Ewers had the following children:

182  i. **Mary Mooney** was born about 1903 in MO. Mary was not with the rest of the family in the 1920 census, but it is not known if she had died or was already out on her own.

+183  ii. **James W. Mooney (Ray)**, born abt 1906, MO; married Grace E. unknown, abt 1926.

184  iii. **John Mooney** was born on 1 Jul 1907 in MO. He died on 4 Jan 1919 at the age of 11 in Novinger, Adair Co., MO. He was buried in Novinger Cemetery, Novinger, MO. The name on his death certificate is John Mooney. Cause of death was lobar pneumonia. Place of death is just given as Novinger, Adair Co., MO.

185  iv. **Clark F. Mooney (Ray)** was born about 1911 in MO. He was a laborer and draftsman.


Pearl Ewers and Frank C. Ray were married on 12 Jun 1919 in Vancouver, Clark Co., WA. They were divorced between 1930 and 1940. **Frank C. Ray** was born about 1885 in TX. He was a cook.
121. **Carl Fort Ewers** (Priscilla David Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 3 Nov 1888 in Huntsville, MO. He died on 23 Sep 1971 in Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., CA. He was buried in Santa Rosa Memorial Park, Santa Rosa, CA. Carl was a laborer and a foreman.

In the 1930 census his age at first marriage was listed as 22 and on the marriage certificate for his marriage with Lillie Raffety he was listed as divorced, so he may have had an earlier marriage. His gravestone, pictured on Find A Grave [28] (listing for Carl Fort Ewers), shows that he was a cook in the U.S. Army in World War I.

Odd variations in his birth year—On his WWI draft registration card, his birth date is listed as 3 Nov 1890. On his WWII draft registration card, his birth date is listed as 3 Nov 1889. On death records (California Death Index and Social Security Death Index), his birth is listed as 3 Nov 1888. (All of these obtained from Ancestry.com.) His gravestone, pictured on Find A Grave (listing for Carl Fort Ewers), shows 3 Nov 1888.

Carl Fort Ewers and Lillie Agnes Raffety were married on 24 Jul 1920 in Walla Walla, WA. **Lillie Agnes Raffety** was born on 7 Nov 1902 in Carl Junction, MO. She died on 8 Dec 1982 at the age of 80 in Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., CA. She was buried in Santa Rosa Memorial Park, Santa Rosa, CA.

From the marriage certificate (obtained from Ancestry.com), her parents were Gilbert Raffety and Viola Barnard. According to Carol Rawles, she went by Agnes.

Carl Fort Ewers and Lillie Agnes Raffety had the following children:

187 i. **Richard Carroll Ewers**, born 31 Aug 1921, Pendleton, Umatilla Co., OR; married Eleanor Elaine Elliott; died 19 Sep 1979, Sonoma Co., CA.

188 ii. **Shirley Rae Ewers**, born 10 Apr 1925, OR; married Warren Millender Edwards; died 11 Sep 1987, Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., CA.

123. **David Richard (Rich) Allen** (Elizabeth Talbot Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 10 Jan 1880 in Renick, Randolph Co., MO. He died on 3 Apr 1957 at the age of 77 in Hannibal, Marion Co., MO. Rich was a carpenter. He was buried in Vandalia Cemetery, Vandalia, MO.

Notes from Rebecca Betz:

John [Allen] decided at some point he could not take care of Grandpa [Rich Allen] and Loize anymore so he sent them to the Wilsons. Grandpa was about 8 or 9. The Wilsons truly felt Lizzie [Elizabeth Wilson Allen] had married below her station and disliked John greatly. He was a drifter (according to Uncle DR) and never settled in one place long. Additionally, he fought on the
Confederate side in the war and Lizzie’s folks were Union supporters. You have to remember, Missouri was a border state and families were ripped apart because brothers would go into the war on different sides. Grandpa lived with the Wilsons and they tried to “clean him up” and send him to school. Again according to Uncle DR they would have sent him to any school he wanted to attend but he decided to hit the road instead! I have always been told that he left when he was 11 and moved into the Kelley Boarding House at about 19 or 20. That would be where he and Grandma met. Grandpa must have had some schooling because he loved crossword puzzles and could do math in his head with no effort. Also, if you look at some of the houses and buildings he built in Hannibal and Vandalia which are still standing, he had some knowledge beyond basic carpentry.

An additional note from Denise Crumpton:

My grandfather said that he was offered an opportunity to go to school and be educated, but it was all too constricting for him, so he left at age 11 to go on his own. Let me say here that Grandpa Allen possessed a brilliant mind and could do anything. He built many of the buildings in Hannibal, MO and could sit down with a crossword puzzle and knock it out in no time. However, being tied down inside a building never thrilled him!

On Rich’s marriage record from 1900 (from Ancestry.com), J.W. Wilson is listed as his guardian (this would be James Wesley Wilson).

Newspaper article (from the Allen Family Tree site [11]):

Mr. And Mrs. Allen To Have Anniversary Celebration Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Allen, Sr., will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on Sunday, August 13, with a family dinner in their home, 1248a Market street.

They were married at Perry on August 14, 1900, by the Rev. Collin A. McPhethers, a Presbyterian minister. Mrs. Allen was formerly Ida Kelly and lived at Perry many years, having moved there at the age of eight years.

Mr. Allen, nephew of Dr. J. W. Wilson, was reared in his home and lived for a time at Rensselaer, later moving to Madisonville when Dr. Wilson established his practice there.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen have lived for 26 years in Hannibal where he has been a carpenter and contractor.

They are the parents of six living children, Russell of Waukegan, Ill., Mrs. Hazel Davis of Los Angeles, Calif., Mrs. R. T. Cole of Huntington Park, Calif., Rev. D. R. Allen, Jr., of Hannibal, Melvin and William of Battle Creek, Mich. One child died in infancy. They also have nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Expected here for the celebration are Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Allen and daughter of Battle Creek; Russel Allen, a grandson, Richard Allen and Mrs. Allen, and a granddaughter, Mrs. William Coburn
and her husband, all of Waukegan; and Mr. and Mrs. York Dolbearer and two children of New Canton, Ill.

The name on his death certificate is Daivd [sic] Richard Wilson. Cause of death was acute cardiac failure due to arteriosclerosis and senile changes (?). Also, he had Parkinson’s disease. Died at home (1300 A Market St); he had lived there three years.

David Richard (Rich) Allen and Ida Belle Kelley were married on 14 Aug 1900 in Perry, Ralls Co., MO. Ida Belle Kelley was born on 30 Jun 1882 in Nevada, MO. She died on 21 Nov 1972 at the age of 90 in MI. She was buried in Vandalia Cemetery, Vandalia, MO.

According to Denise Crumpton, Ida was the eldest of 8 children and ran the boarding house her father owned from the time she was a small girl. David Richard Allen originally was a boarder and ended up marrying her. She was a daughter of William C. Kelley and Anna Brown.

David Richard Allen and Ida Belle Kelley had the following children:

+189  i. **Russell Aubrey Allen**, born 7 Aug 1901, Perry, Ralls Co., MO; married Sara Jane Griffiths, 26 Feb 1921, Ralls Co., MO; died 16 May 1967, Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI.

+190  ii. **Hazel Marie Allen**, born 13 Feb 1903, Vandalia, Audrain Co., MO; married Earnest Randall Davis, 14 Feb 1921, Perry, Ralls Co., MO; died 3 Jan 1954, Los Angeles, CA.

191  iii. **Edith Irene Allen** was born on 6 Dec 1906 in Madisonville, MO. She died on 6 Jan 1907 in Madisonville, MO.

+192  iv. **Margaret Elizabeth Allen**, born 27 Feb 1912, Center, MO; married Raymond Thornton Cole, 15 Jul 1928, Mt. Sterling, IL; died 1 Feb 1995, Riverside Co., CA.


+194  vi. **Melvin Roscoe Allen**, born 27 Dec 1918, Vandalia, Audrain Co., MO; married Julia Huldah Wagner; died 13 Dec 2013, Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI.

+195  vii. **William Thomas Allen**, born 15 Jul 1921, Perry, Ralls Co., MO; married Delphia Anna Tobias; died 10 Jan 2006, TX.

125. **Edna Wilson** (John David-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 12 May 1892 in MO. She died on 24 Oct 1987 at the age of 95 in Memphis, TN. She was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis, TN. Edna was a teacher.

According to Karen Levin [41], she had no children.
Sixth Generation

Edna Wilson and Charles A. Walz were married on 28 Feb 1922. **Charles A. Walz** was born on 19 May 1872 in Boonville, Cooper Co., MO. He died about 1944 in Memphis, TN. He was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis, TN. Charles was a jewelry-store owner.

126. **Mabel Wilson** (John David-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 18 Feb 1894 in MO. She was a teacher.

Mabel Wilson and **Virgil D. Wall** were married on 20 Jun 1921.

Virgil D. Wall and Mabel Wilson had the following children:

+196 i. **Virgil D. Wall Jr.**  
+197 ii. **William Monroe Wall.**

128. **Carroll Volumnia Wilson** (John David-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 5 Nov 1898 in MO. She died on 7 Aug 1985 at the age of 86. She was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis, TN.

From Karen Levin [41], she and Clara were fraternal twins.

Carroll Volumnia Wilson and **Eugene S. Wier** were married on 20 Dec 1923.

Eugene S. Wier and Carroll Volumnia Wilson had the following children:

198 i. **Gene Carroll Wier** was born on 20 Oct 1924. He died on 18 May 1945 at the age of 20 in Okinawa, Japan. According to a plaque shown on Find A Grave [28] (listing for PFC Gene Carroll Wier) he was in the U.S. Marine Corps.  

129. **Clara Sara Wilson** (John David-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 5 Nov 1898 in MO. She died on 25 Jul 1996 at the age of 97. She was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis, TN. Clara was a teacher.

From Karen Levin [41], she and Carroll were fraternal twins.

Clara Sara Wilson and Robert Kelly Brommer were married on 6 Jun 1922. **Robert Kelly Brommer** was born on 12 May 1896 in MO. He died on 7 Mar 1945 at the age of 48 in
Memphis, TN. He was a merchandise manager for John Gerber Co. Robert was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Memphis, TN.

Robert Kelly Brommer and Clara Sara Wilson had the following children:

- 200. **Robert Kelley Brommer Jr.**, born 14 Apr 1927, Cooper Co., MO; married Donna unknown; died 12 Dec 1988, Memphis, TN.
- 201. **Clara Ann Brommer**.
- 202. **John Drury Brommer**.

130. **John W. D. Wilson** (John David-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 7 Jun 1902 in MO. He was a manager at a retail credit company.

John W. D. Wilson and Josephine Bullock were married on 4 Jun 1923 in Benton Co., AR. **Josephine Bullock** was born about 1903 in TX.

John W. D. Wilson and Josephine Bullock had the following children:

- 203. **Betty Jo Wilson**.
- 204. **Amelia Jane Wilson**.
- 205. **Suzanne Wilson**.

131. **Samuel Wilson** (John David-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 13 Mar 1908 in MO. He died on 5 Mar 1989 at the age of 80.

Samuel Wilson and **Ema Lee Landry** were married on 28 Feb 1937 in Crittenden Co., AR.

Is her name Emerlee or Emer Lee or Ema Lee? Is Landry or Taylor her maiden name? Karen Levin [41] had information that Sam married Emerlee Landry Taylor. “Arkansas Marriage Index, 1933-1939” on Ancestry.com lists a marriage between Sam Wilson and Emer L. Landry. “Arkansas, County Marriages Index, 1837-1957” lists a marriage between Sam Wilson and Ema Lee Landry.

133. **Lillian Wilson** (James Wesley-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 22 Jul 1897 in MO.

Karen Levin [41] gives Lillian Wilson’s birth as 22 Jul 1891, but the 1900 census shows her as age 2, born in Jul 1897, and the 1910 census gives her age as 12. Assuming the 1891 was a typo, her birth date is taken to be 22 Jul 1897.
Lillian Wilson and **Phillip James Murphy** were married on 11 Nov 1919 in Alexandria, Rapides Par., LA.

Phillip James Murphy and Lillian Wilson had the following children:

- 206 i. **Marjorie Murphy**.
- 207 ii. **Phillip James Murphy Jr.**
- 208 iii. **Mary Ruth Murphy**.

134. **Omega Wilson** (James Wesley-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 19 Jul 1914 in LA. She died on 17 Aug 1990 at the age of 76 in Bossier City, Bossier Par., LA.

Omega Wilson and John David Roach were married and divorced. **John David Roach** was born on 31 Mar 1909. He died in Nov 1968 at the age of 59 in Gibsland, Bienville Par., LA. He was buried in Mount Lebanon, Gibsland, LA.

According to Karen Levin [41], he was a son of Charles Roach and Mary Simons.

John David Roach and Omega Wilson had the following children:

- +209 i. **Melba Maxine Roach**, born 19 Aug 1933, Gladewater, TX; married Joel Edmon Driskill; died 10 Sep 1960, Bienville Par., LA.
- +210 ii. **Wilson Douglas Roach**.
- +211 iii. **John Barry Roach**.

Omega Wilson and Otto T. Sykes were married on 3 Nov 1971 in Harrison Co., TX. **Otto T. Sykes** was born about 1893.

Omega Wilson and Sidney Ray Shelton were married on 12 Jul 1977 in Harrison Co., TX. **Sidney Ray Shelton** was born about 1921.

Omega Wilson and **? Fulmer** were married.

135. **Ophelia Wilson** (James Wesley-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 30 Nov 1916 in LA. She died on 1 Feb 1980 at the age of 63 in Shreveport, LA. Ophelia was buried in Salem Cemetery, Athens, LA. She was a teacher.

Notes from Karen Levin [41]:

140
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Obituary (date and paper unknown, original clipping in possession of Wilson D. Roach and he believes the year to be 1976 or 1977):

Ophelia Harkness, Athens. Services for Ophelia Harkness, 63, of Athens, were to be at 11 a.m. today in Pineland Funeral Home Chapel in Homer with the Rev. Donald Black officiating. Burial was to be in Salem Cemetery in Athens. She dies [sic] Friday night in a Shreveport Hospital from burns received in a house fire. Survivors include: brother, H. J. Wilson of Tulsa, OK and sister, Mrs. Ray Shelton of Bossier City.

Ophelia Wilson and William Roland Harkness were married and divorced.

From a web posting by Karen Levin:14

My great uncle’s name is William Roland Harkness. My father said that he went by the name Roland. I am trying to get more information but have very little to go with as it all of his paperwork from that time period was destroyed in a house fire during the late 1980’s. ...

This article was from the Shreveport Times Wed Oct 11, 1944. Title: Bulgaria Prison was a rat hole. Athens La. flier tells of six months of “simulated hell”. With the 15th AAF in Italy on a mission over Sofia Bulgaria on Jan 24 1944, Sgt William R. Harkness’s Flying Fortress was hit, because of extremely bad weather and zero visibility, by bombs from the plane above them. Sgt Harkness of Athens and five other members of the crew were able to bail out of the disabled ship. Once on the ground, the men assembled to plan their return to their own lines. Because of the bad weather conditions their exact whereabouts was unknown to themselves. They thought they were in Yugoslavia, and with that in mind started heading west in hopes of reaching the coast and partisan aid. Shortly after they started walking they met civilians who seemed friendly. The civilians told the men that they were still in Bulgaria and after some talk agreed to shelter them for the night and start them on their way to safety the next day. “After spending the night in the Bulgarian Village” said Sergeant Harkness, “We Started out led by the civilians. Unfortunately we were intercepted by Bulgarian Soldiers who took us prisoners and marched twelve miles to their Headquarters. One of our party had a broken ankle and another a badly wrenched knee. All of us were pretty well bruised up so we had to help each other along the road and use sticks to support ourselves. “Once at Bulgaria Headquarters we were questioned incessantly for six days. We were threatened shouted at and generally maligned while facing the interrogation officer. When we weren’t being questioned, we were held in a cellar with nothing but boards to sleep on. There was water on the floor and we had no blankets or other protection against the biting cold. Our injuries received no medical attention despite our treatment and demands according to the Geneva Convention. As for food we got practically nothing. “We were then after six days taken to Sofia, where we were again questioned and threatened for five more days. Here again we received no medical attention whatsoever. We were held in a dark and cold dungeon and had no protection against the freezing weather. Food amounted to a piece of bread and some soup now and then. “We were moved to a prison camp where the conditions were almost animal like fifty men slept in an ill ventilated and filthy barracks. We were made to sleep on the floor. With but one lice and vermin infected blanket as protection against the cold. Food here was limited to a very thin broth twice a day accompanied one slice of old bread. After six months of this simulated hell we were moved to another prison camp. “At the second

14 http://www.450thbg.com/real/stories/b17.shtml
prison camp the conditions were a little better. The Bulgarians could see their ultimate defeat coming. After a month we were released and brought back to Italy when Bulgaria Capitulated. Sergeant Harkness whose wife Mrs. Ophelia Harkness lives at Athens, Louisiana had 14 missions to his credit when he went down.

143. **Helen W. Cooper** (Katherine Inge Wakeman-5, Mary Eliza Wilson-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in Dec 1890 in CA. She died on 1 Jun 1967 at the age of 76 in Multnomah Co., OR.

Helen and Travis/Thomas are listed together in the 1920, 1930, and 1940 censuses, but never with any children in the household, so it looks like they had no children (at least, none that grew up).

Helen W. Cooper and Travis Thomas Dingwall were married about 1911. **Travis Thomas Dingwall** was born on 26 Jan 1890 in Davenport, Santa Cruz Co., CA. He died on 29 Dec 1988 at the age of 98 in Santa Cruz Co., CA. He was an electrician.

*Santa Cruz Sentinel*, 29 Jan 1986, p. 21 (obtained from Newspapers.com):

> SUNDAY WAS a day of note for the Dingwall clan. Most notable, it was the 96th birthday of Travis Thomas Dingwall. Second, the sixth generation member of the family had her picture in the newspaper. Margaux Danielle Miller, who will be one year on Feb. 7, was in the Sentinel’s Babies of 1985 presentation.

> "We have a lot of five generation lines—you see that a lot,” comments her great-grandmother, Evelyn Morelli. “But six generations? That’s pretty unusual.”

Margaux is the daughter of Troy Miller, who is in construction, and Sue Miller. Troy is the son of Patricia Morelli and C.T. Miller. Patricia is the daughter of Mac and Ev Morelli. Mac was in logging for 40 years in this county and San Mateo County. His parents were Roy Morelli and Violet Dingwall Morelli. Roy worked at the Santa Cruz Southern Pacific Express building for 52 years. Mac’s cousin is DeEtta Dingwall Carlin of Caledonia Street. She and her husband were in the office equipment business for many years. DeEtta’s uncle is Travis, who turned 96.

The Tom Dingwall family came west via Panama, says Roy. They walked across the isthmus, with mules, instead of coming across the Great Plains, then boarded a sailing vessel for San Francisco. But, a strong wind caught the ship and carried it clear to Hawaii. So the travelers returned on the same ship, and finally landed in San Francisco in 1852. Then they came to Davenport Landing and established San Vicente cattle ranch.

One other note about Travis: His wife was Helen Cooper, whose grandfather gave the city of Santa Cruz the property for a courthouse, today’s Cooper House ...
144. **James D. Reid** (David William-5, Eliza Jane Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 9 Feb 1881 in Slater, Saline Co., MO. He was a doctor.

James D. Reid and Irene Cotton were married in Jan 1918. **Irene Cotton** died about 1918.

James D. Reid and Irene Cotton had the following child:

i. **stillborn Reid** was born and died in 1918.

James D. Reid and Mildred M. Harrison were married in Sep 1923. **Mildred M. Harrison** was born about 1898 in KS.

There are no children with them in the 1930 and 1940 censuses, so it doesn't look like James and Mildred had any children.

145. **Turner Wilson Reid** (David William-5, Eliza Jane Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 3 Mar 1883 in Slater, Saline Co., MO. He died on 5 Dec 1949 at the age of 66 in Gardner, KS. He was a doctor.

From the Johnson County [KS] Museum web site:¹⁵

> Turner Wilson Reid, M.D. (1883-1949) was born in Slater, MO. Education at Missouri University and Kansas City School of Medicine. He first studied pharmacy then went into medicine. He graduated in 1907. He married Erma Helen Orear. They had three daughters: Mary Helen Reid Foster, Chloris Reid Harper, and Jane Reid Betros. He practiced in Wellsville from 1908-1918. He was interested in the oil business from 1918-1933. He began practice again in Gardner in 1933 until he was killed in a car accident in 1949.

Turner Wilson Reid and Erma Helen Orear were married on 22 Oct 1908. **Erma Helen Orear** was born on 24 Jan 1884 in Clay Twp., Saline Co., MO. She died in 1976 in Shawnee Mission, KS.

Turner Wilson Reid and Erma Helen Orear had the following children:

i. **stillborn Reid** was born and died on 15 Aug 1911.

+214 ii. **Chloris Allyne Reid**, born 10 Sep 1912, KS; married Herman Bert Harper, 1941; died 5 Jan 1990, Shawnee Mission, KS.

iii. Mary Helen Reid, born 18 Mar 1915, Wellsville, Franklin Co., KS; married Clyde Leroy Foster, 3 Mar 1936; died 22 Feb 1973, Kansas City, MO.

iv. Catherine Jane Reid, born 6 Jan 1923; married Louis Angelo Betros, 1949; died 5 Dec 2007, Shawnee Mission, KS.

146. Archibald Morgan Bryan (Margaret Kring Swinney-5, Paulina E. Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 15 Aug 1904 in Fayette, Howard Co., MO. He died on 16 Jun 1958 at the age of 53 in Gainesville, FL.

Archibald Morgan Bryan and Mary Alice McMillan were married on 16 Jun 1933 in Gainesville, FL. Mary Alice McMillan was born on 13 Oct 1909 in Gainesville, FL. She died on 22 Aug 1990 at the age of 80 in Gainesville, FL.

148. Harry Hawkins Vaughan (Elizabeth Lewis Grove-5, John Henry-4, Mary Wilson-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 26 Nov 1893 in Glasgow, Howard Co., MO. He died on 20 May 1981 at the age of 87 in Fort Belvoir, Fairfax Co., VA.

New York Times, 22 May 1981 (obtained from their web site):

FORT BELVOIR, Va., May 21— Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, whose actions as confidant and aide-de-camp to President Truman a generation ago led to a series of national uproars, died here yesterday at DeWitt Army Hospital. He was 87 years old.

General Vaughan’s reputation ranged from that of White House court jester to national menace, depending on the severity of the storm engulfing him at a particular moment.

General Vaughan traded barbs with the likes of Drew Pearson, the columnist, and Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, who accused the Presidential aide of being an influence-peddling “5 percenter,” a term applied to those who offered to get Government contracts for businesses for a fee, usually 5 percent. The general, called to testify about his activities by a Senate committee, was reprimanded for accepting seven home freezers as gifts for himself and highranking friends.

When Mr. Truman was urged by Mr. Pearson to dismiss General Vaughan after it was disclosed that the general had accepted a medal from the neofascist Argentine Government, the President retorted, “No S.O.B. is going to tell me who to have on my staff or in my Cabinet.” The remark touched off a national outburst of tongueclucking.
Awards for Gallantry

Yet General Vaughan, who retired from the Army in January 1953, was hardly a summer soldier. He was awarded two Silver Stars for gallantry and the French Croix de Guerre for bravery in World War I, in which he served alongside Mr. Truman.

The two men from Missouri met at Fort Sill, Okla., in 1917 when both were young lieutenants in the field artillery. Lieutenant Vaughan managed to extricate Lieutenant Truman from a dressing-down given by their brigade commander, and they became friends for life.

They served in the Army Reserves between the wars and at the outbreak of World War II, with Mr. Truman serving in the United States Senate, Mr. Vaughan returned to active duty as a lieutenant colonel. He was injured in a plane crash in Australia in 1943, and while being treated at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington was transferred to the staff of the Senate Armed Services subcommittee investigating arms procurement that was headed by Senator Truman.

General Vaughan made many trips to battlefields as an investigator for the committee, whose uncovering of deception by the munitions industry led to national prominence for Senator Truman, and the Senator’s eventual selection by President Roosevelt as his running mate in 1944.

Aide to the Vice President

After the election the new Vice President named then-Brigadier General Vaughan as his military aide, a rare appointment for a reserve officer. In Mr. Truman’s eight years as Vice President and then President, he and General Vaughan were the charter members of a group that met frequently to play poker, swap stories and drink bourbon with branch water.

Mr. Truman and his aide often had lunch together and followed the meal with a swim in the White House pool. Once admonished for having too much influence over the President, General Vaughan retorted: “The President and I discuss numerous things, but my influence over him is doubtful. I don’t suppose anyone gives him more advice than I do, or has less of it used.”

General Vaughan was born in Glasgow, Mo., on Nov. 26, 1893, and grew up in St. Louis. He received a bachelor’s degree from Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., in 1916.

General Vaughan, whose wife died in 1975, is survived by a son, a daughter and three grandchildren. Funeral services will be Saturday in Alexandria, Va.

Harry Hawkins Vaughan and Margaret Pilcher were married about 1927. Margaret Pilcher was born on 16 Sep 1894. She died on 5 Dec 1976 at the age of 82. She was buried in Ivy Hill Cemetery, Alexandria, VA. Margaret was a librarian.

Harry Hawkins Vaughan and Margaret Pilcher had the following children:

217  i. Janet Lyle Vaughan.
218  ii. David M. Vaughan.
152. **Robert Heddens McDonald** (Robert Wilson-5, Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 8 Sep 1894 in St. Joseph, MO. He died on 22 May 1981 at the age of 86 in Liberty, Clay Co., MO. He was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

Robert Heddens McDonald and Marietta Motter were married. **Marietta Motter** was born on 31 Dec 1891 in MO. She died on 31 Jan 1975 at the age of 83 in Kansas City, MO. She was buried in Mount Mora Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO.

Robert Heddens McDonald and Marietta Motter had the following child:

+219  

153. **James Wilson McDonald** (Robert Wilson-5, Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in Sep 1896 in MO. He died on 7 Aug 1947 at the age of 50 in San Antonio, TX. He was buried in Mission Burial Park South, San Antonio, TX.

James Wilson McDonald and Alma Edith Cox were married in 1920. **Alma Edith Cox** was born on 29 May 1898 in Waco, TX. She died on 13 Oct 1991 at the age of 93 in San Antonio, TX. She was buried in San Antonio, TX.

154. **Catherine Louise McDonald** (Robert Wilson-5, Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in Dec 1898 in MO.

Catherine Louise McDonald and Orlando Gerald McDonald were married. **Orlando Gerald McDonald** was born in Mar 1898 in CO.

Orlando Gerald McDonald and Catherine Louise McDonald had the following child:

220  
i. **Gerald Evander McDonald** was born on 18 Nov 1929 in Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI. He died on 7 Aug 2012 at the age of 82 in Austin, TX. He was buried in Killeen, Bell Co., TX.

Thomas H. McDonald and Lorene Elizabeth Vaeth were married. **Lorene Elizabeth Vaeth** was born on 22 Aug 1892 in St. Joseph, MO. She died on 18 Feb 1983 at the age of 90 in Columbia, Boone Co., MO. She was buried in St. Joseph, MO.

Thomas H. McDonald and Lorene Elizabeth Vaeth had the following child:

221 i. **Leonard Eugene McDonald** was born on 19 Nov 1930 in St. Joseph, MO. He died on 14 Nov 2007 at the age of 76 in Columbia, Boone Co., MO. He was buried in St. Joseph, MO.

156. **Mary Ann McDonald** (Robert Wilson-5, Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 25 May 1903 in MO. She died on 18 Sep 1988 at the age of 85 in Mayfield Heights, Cuyahoga Co., OH.

Mary Ann McDonald and Cloyd Chambers Edelen were married in 1929 in Kansas City, MO. **Cloyd Chambers Edelen** was born on 27 Aug 1903 in Kansas City, MO. He died on 27 Jun 1966 at the age of 62 in Toledo, Lucas Co., OH.

Cloyd Chambers Edelen and Mary Ann McDonald had the following child:

222 i. **Robert P. Edelen** was born on 16 Mar 1930 in OH. He died on 8 Jun 1932 at the age of 2 in Aliquippa, Beaver Co., PA.

158. **Annette Davis** (Annette Vance McDonald-5, Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 18 Aug 1899 in Andrew Co., MO. She died on 24 Jun 1995 at the age of 95. She was buried in Ware Episcopal Church Cemetery, Gloucester, VA. Annette was a secretary for the YWCA.

She seems to be listed as Hellen in the 1900 census and Annette in the 1910 census. Perhaps Hellen (or Helen) is her middle name?


In the 1940 census, she was still single. An entry at Ancestry.com in “U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index 1936-2007” for Annette Davis Dabney says that she was listed as Annette D Dabney in 1965, so she married sometime between 1940 and 1965. Marrying late in life like that, she probably did not have children. In both 1930 and 1940 censuses, she was listed
Sixth Generation

as a secretary for the YWCA, first in St. Joseph, MO, and then in Richmond, VA. The 1940 census says she was still living in Missouri in 1935, so she moved to Virginia sometime between 1935 and 1940.

The Katherine Bushman Papers at the Library of Virginia [13] contain a letter from Annette Davis Dabney to Katherine Bushman, a small portion of which is quoted in the Hotchkiss manuscript [37]. The letter follows, with some adjustments to punctuation (also note that a few statements in the letter are questionable, such as that all of William Wilson’s sons studied law and several became judges):

January 21, 1979

My dear Mrs Bushman:

Mr Rudolph Shaver of the Circuit Court of Augusta County, Virginia has kindly suggested that I write you concerning an ancestor of mine. The problem is that I do not know the maiden name of my great-great grandmother. My great great-grandfather was William Wilson, a farmer who lived near Staunton in Augusta County. According to one report he married into the Yancey family of Virginia. I do not know how many children William Wilson and his wife had but I do know that they had four fine, ambitious sons who came to Missouri around 1820. Their names were Robert, John, William and David Wilson.

These young men first settled in a place named Old Franklin Missouri then moved nearby to Fayette, Missouri in Howard County. All studied law after coming to Missouri and several became judges. William moved to Marshall Mo. John later moved to California.

Robert was my great grandfather. He was born in Augusta County near Staunton in 1800. He was buried in St Joseph Missouri in 1870. He became one of the most important men in Missouri. He served eight years in the Mo. state legislature and became United States Senator from Missouri in 1862.

A member of my family inherited the portrait of Senator Robert Wilson which was painted by the famous George C Bingham [note – this is the portrait shown on p. 40 of this book]. Not long ago I found an excellent book on Bingham, and I was so interested to know that he came to Missouri from Virginia when he was a young boy (with his parents). The Bingham’s came approximately the same time the Wilson young men came. All went to Old Franklin and then to Fayette, Missouri where the famous Bingham’s father opened a lodge and died soon. In Virginia the Bingham’s lived near Staunton in Augusta Co near Weyers Cave. The Bingham’s and the William Wilsons must have known each other in Virginia.

Bingham paintings are becoming more valuable every day. I suppose you read where one of his paintings, “The Jolly Boatman” (I believe it was) was sold at a Park Bernet Auction for nine hundred thousand dollars last year. For a painter who had never had a lesson this is amazing indeed. I have always enjoyed his painting at the Metropolitan Museum in New York of the fur trader coming down the Missouri River. Enough about Bingham.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Now back to the Wilson brothers. David was the last to come to Missouri (about 1830). David married Miss Margaret Skinner [sic] in Rockbridge County, VA. The other brothers who came to Missouri married Missouri girls. David eventually lived in Saline County Missouri.

My great grand-father Robert Wilson moved to Andrew Co. very near St Joseph, Missouri as his daughter Mary Ann Wilson had married R. L. McDonald of St Joseph.

I was born and raised in St Joseph, Missouri. All of my married life I lived in Richmond, Virginia but have returned to St Joseph as my husband died in 1975.

I do not know whether the William Wilsons came to Missouri with their sons. Perhaps they remained in Virginia.

I would be so appreciative if you could find any information about this Wilson Family and particularly about Mrs William Wilson’s maiden name which is probably Yancey.

Mr Shaver wrote that you charge six dollars for the first two hours of research. I am enclosing a check for this amount.

Sincerely,
Annette D. Dabney
(Mrs James Kennon Dabney)

The Century Apartments
Apt 307
627 North 25th St.
St. Joseph, Missouri
(64506)

Annette Davis and James Kennon Dabney were married between 1940 and 1965. James Kennon Dabney was born on 22 May 1901. He died on 9 Nov 1975 at the age of 74. He was buried in Ware Episcopal Church Cemetery, Gloucester, VA.

160. Muriel A. Wilson (William A.-5, Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 13 Aug 1899 in Bayonne, Hudson Co., NJ. She was a secretary in 1925.

Muriel A. Wilson and ? Hollister were married.

161. Guy B. Miller (Maud Adair Wilson-5, Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 29 May 1907 in New Rochelle, Westchester Co., NY. He died on 22 Nov 1957 at the age of 50 in Brewster, Putnam Co., NY. He was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY.
Guy B. Miller and **Emily Bishop** were married.

Guy B. Miller and Gerda Nielsen were married on 21 Nov 1949 in Carson City, NV. **Gerda Nielsen** was born on 29 Dec 1901 in Århus, Denmark. She died on 29 Jun 1983 at the age of 81 in Pinellas Co., FL. She was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY.

162. **Charles Griffin Miller Jr.** (Maud Adair Wilson-5, Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 9 Jan 1909 in New York City, NY. He died on 19 Jun 1990 at the age of 81 in Sun City, Riverside Co., CA. He was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY. Charles was an airline traffic manager.

Charles Griffin Miller Jr. and Lucille Blair Mac Donall were married. **Lucille Blair Mac Donall** was born on 8 Jan 1903 in IL. She died on 14 Nov 1988 at the age of 85 in Sun City, Riverside Co., CA. She was buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, NY.

From the CG Miller Family Tree on Ancestry.com [45], her parents were Angus Peter Mac Donall and Catherine (Katie) Walsh.

She may have had a previous marriage. In the 1940 census (Fairfield County, CT), there is a stepdaughter named Sheila living with Charles and Lucille Miller.

Charles Griffin Miller and Lucille Blair Mac Donall had the following children:

+223 i. **Charles Griffin Miller III.**
+224 ii. **Chesley MacDonall Miller.**

163. **Adair W. Miller** (Maud Adair Wilson-5, Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 12 Oct 1912 in Munich, Germany. He died on 10 Feb 2007 at the age of 94 in Berlin, VT. He was an airline pilot.

*Boston Globe*, 17 Mar 2007:

Adair Miller, pilot, sailor, with a love of adventure

If he had stayed on in Tahiti, life might have been different for Adair Miller.

Perhaps he would have missed out flying DC-4s across the Atlantic during World War II or he might never have flown transcontinental trips as a TWA pilot.

“He was not a man to talk much about himself,” said his son Dusty of Norwalk, Conn.
When he did talk, though, more than a hint of adventure came through in the stories of his early 20s. Mr. Miller, who was a pilot with TWA for nearly 30 years, died Feb. 10 in Berlin, Vt., in the home of one of his children. He was 94, and his health had been declining in the last few months.

“He was an outgoing, gregarious person, on his terms, not all the time, not flashy in any way,” his son said. “If you got him going, on a boat or at a cocktail party, he could get a lot of people laughing and certainly enjoyed doing so.”

Mr. Miller certainly had plenty of material.

One of five children, he was born in Munich. His father was a physician, and before World War I his parents often lived abroad. With the approach of war, they returned to the United States.

Growing up in New Rochelle, N.Y., Mr. Miller attended boarding schools, but it was never clear from family accounts and anecdotes from which or if he graduated, his son said.

But at 21, Mr. Miller set forth on a significant educational experience when he signed up in 1934 as a cadet on the full-rigged sailing ship the Joseph Conrad. The writer and adventurer Alan Villiers had renamed the ship, which formerly had been used to train sailors in Denmark, and recruited a crew of boys and young men to man the ship on a three-year, round-the-world voyage.

After the trip, Villiers wrote “The Cruise of the Conrad,” an account that became a popular book in the late 1930s.

Mr. Miller, however, did not stay with the Conrad for the full journey. When the ship arrived in Tahiti, he decided to remain on the island.

“He liked it a lot,” his son said with a chuckle.

Among the stories Mr. Miller told in later years was the tale of a Frenchman he met in a bar, who “invited him to his house and wound up inviting him to marry his daughter,” his son said. Mr. Miller demurred, but stayed on the island, even cashing in at least one ticket his father had sent in hope of luring him home.

When he at last returned to New York City, Mr. Miller tried his hand at investment banking, a profession that seemed more than simply a hemisphere away from his life on Tahiti.

“It was probably a little too rigid for him, I would infer,” his son said.

Mr. Miller turned to aviation, joining the Air Transport Command in 1941 and flying planes to Canada. He later flew DC-4 aircraft from South America to Africa and the Middle East during World War II.
After the war, he became a pilot for TWA’s intercontinental division, his son said, and transferred to Boston in 1947, moving with his wife, Judith, to Andover. The two had met on a blind date during the war years.

“I think the story was that he was supposed to go out with her roommate, and the roommate wanted to go out with someone else on that day, so that’s how they got together,” their son said. She was still in college, and Mr. Miller “still was showing some of the flash of his early-, mid-20s.”

In the last few years of flying for TWA, Mr. Miller began working with Turner Fisheries of Boston, using layover time on the West Coast to find restaurants that might want to import East Coast fish, his son said. Mr. Miller retired from the airline in 1972, when he was 60, then worked for more than a decade with Turner Fisheries as a sales representative, meeting with clients throughout the country.

Still enamored of the sea, Mr. Miller kept a 35-foot wooden yawl, the Monhegan II, at his summer home in Gloucester, where he was a member of the Eastern Point Yacht Club for 55 years.

A few months ago, Mr. Miller and his wife moved to Montpelier to be closer to their son, Conrad, who lives in nearby Berlin. Mr. Miller died at Conrad’s home.

In addition to his wife and his sons Dusty and Conrad, Mr. Miller leaves another son, Bryan of Singapore; three granddaughters; and a grandson.

A memorial service will be announced.

The name on his death certificate is Adair Miller. Cause of death was prostate cancer. Place of death is listed as Berlin, VT.

Adair W. Miller and Judith B. Howard were married.

Adair W. Miller and Judith B. Howard had the following children:

+225  i.  Adair (Dusty) Miller.
+226  ii.  Bryan Miller.
+227  iii.  Conrad H. Miller.

164.  Marion Miller (Maud Adair Wilson-5, Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 29 Jul 1914 in Munich, Germany. She died on 12 Sep 2005 at the age of 91 in Berlin, VT. She was an artist.

Barre Montpelier Times Argus, 22 Sep 2005 (obtained from their web site):

Marion Miller Minewski
BERLIN — Marion Miller Minewski, 91, died Sept. 12, 2005, at Woodridge Nursing Home in Berlin.

She was born July 29, 1914, in Munich, Germany, the youngest child and only daughter of Charles G. and Maude Adair Miller. She grew up in Connecticut and attended Dana Hall and Katherine Gibbs schools. She was married to Alex Minewski in 1945 and was later divorced.

A lifelong artist, Marion was a potter, sculptor and painter. She lived and painted in Paris in the early 1950s and in New York City from 1951 until moving to Vermont in 2001. At the young and impressionable age of 87, she adopted and provided for several hundred of Vermont’s woodpeckers, goldfinches, cardinals, squirrels, chipmunks and a few turkeys and raccoons.

A Zen Buddhist, she was a lover of all creatures, great and small, especially cats. She was passionate about politics and traveled extensively to Europe, East Africa, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand and Singapore. Her more recent travels were her daily walks on Berlin Pond and the Montpelier Bike Path topped off with a creemee.

She was blessed with exceptional caregivers as well as the attentive staff at Woodridge Nursing Home.

Survivors include her brother, Adair Miller and his wife Judith; nephews, Adair Miller, Jr., Bryan Miller, Conrad Miller and Charles Miller; niece Chesley Miller, several great nieces and nephews and cousins. Two brothers, Guy Miller and Charles G. Miller predeceased her.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to your favorite charity.

Marion Miller and Alex Minewski were married in 1945. They later divorced.

165. **Sallie Jane Wilson** (Harry Brock-5, Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 9 May 1914 in Denver Co., CO. She died on 7 Jul 2003 at the age of 89 in Aurora, Adams Co., CO.

Her first name is spelled Sallie and Sally in various records.

Sallie Jane Wilson and Seth Gregory Dyer were married on 18 Jan 1936 in San Francisco, CA.

Sallie Jane Wilson and Virgil William Vaughan were married about 7 Sep 1938 in Denver, CO. **Virgil William Vaughan** was born on 30 Jul 1908 in Denver Co., CO. He died on 5 Jun 2002 at the age of 93 in Eugene, Lane Co., OR. He was buried in Wellshire Memorial Gardens, Denver, CO.

Virgil William Vaughan and Sallie Jane Wilson had the following children:
Sixth Generation

+228  i. Charles Welles (Chick) Vaughan, born 14 Feb 1941, IL; married Diane Foster; married Bernadette unknown; died 1 Sep 1986, Wailuku, Maui Co., HI.

+229  ii. Michael William Vaughan.

166. Harry Powell Wilson Jr. (Harry Brock-5, Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 21 Feb 1921 in CO. He died on 9 Mar 2011 at the age of 90 in Denver Co., CO.

From the Denver Post, 17 Mar 2011 (obtained from Legacy.com):

HARRY POWELL WILSON Jr.
WILSON, HARRY POWELL, JR. Private memorial service was held 3/12/2011. After 90 years, Powell died peacefully in his family’s arms on 3/9/2011. Survived by his wife Betty Lee; daughter Sara; son Jeffrey; grandchildren Ashleigh, Sara, Ted, Abby, and Ainsley. Donations, St. John’s Episcopal Church, 1350 Clarkson, Denver, 80203 or charity of choice.

Harry Powell Wilson Jr. and Betty Lee Goss were married.

Harry Powell Wilson and Betty Lee Goss had the following children:

+230  i. Sara Lee Wilson.

167. Wilson Johns Brown (Katherine Thompson Wilson-5, Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 19 Mar 1894 in Anaconda, MT. He died on 28 Jun 1971 at the age of 77 in Sacramento Co., CA. He was a stock broker.

Wilson Johns Brown and Helen Matlack Olmsted were married on 11 Jul 1917 in Petaluma, CA. Helen Matlack Olmsted was born on 10 Jan 1895 in CA. She died on 21 Jun 1992 at the age of 97 in Sacramento Co., CA.

Some sources spell her last name Olmstead, but The “California Death Index, 1940-1997” on Ancestry.com shows her maiden name as Olmsted. It also lists her mother’s maiden name as Matlack.

Wilson Johns Brown and Helen Matlack Olmsted had the following children:

+232  i. Dorothy Katherine Brown.
168. **Austin Adair Brown** (Katherine Thompson Wilson-5, Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 18 Apr 1897 in Durango, La Plata Co., CO. He died on 1 Aug 1970 at the age of 73 in Contra Costa Co., CA. He was a stock broker.

Austin Adair Brown and Nell B. Bowen were married in Jul 1916. **Nell B. Bowen** was born about 1897 in CA.

She is listed as Nell Brown in the Adair Wilson family record [77], but there is a birth record on Ancestry.com (“California Birth Index, 1905-1995”) for Austin A Brown, with mother’s maiden name listed as Bowen. The middle initial of B is from the 1920 census.

Austin Adair Brown and Nell B. Bowen had the following child:

234 i. **Austin A. Brown** was born on 11 Oct 1919 in Alameda Co., CA. He is not listed with his parents in the 1930 census, so he probably died young.

Austin Adair Brown and Irene unknown were married between 1930 and 1940. **Irene unknown** was born about 1906 in CA.

Austin Adair Brown and Irene unknown had the following child:

235 i. **Austin A. Brown**.

169. **Adair (Butch) Wilson** (Edwards Adair-5, Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 20 Aug 1909 in Winthrop, Shasta Co., CA. He died on 4 Oct 2000 at the age of 91 in Yreka, Siskiyou Co., CA. He was manager of a Union Oil distributor.


Adair “Butch” Wilson, former Yreka Mayor and civic leader, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2000 at Beverly Manor Convalescent Hospital in Yreka. He had been in failing health for several months.

Butch was born in Winthrop on Aug. 20, 1909. Winthrop (now under the water of the Squaw Creek Arm of Shasta Lake) was the site of the Bully Hill copper mine and smelter (one of the largest in the world).

After graduation from Shasta High School in Redding, Butch went to work for the Pacific Telephone Co. as a laborer. He began working for the Union Oil Co. in Arbuckle in 1933.

Butch married Della Ruth Larens on Sept. 12, 1933. They often spoke of the wonderful love and care extended to them by the Meyers’ families while they lived in Arbuckle.
In January of 1936, they moved to Yreka where Mr. Wilson took over the Union Oil Distributorship.

Butch was first elected to the Yreka City Council in 1944 and served until 1956, the last six years as Yreka’s mayor. He was re-elected to the council in 1974 and served until 1980.

Butch was a member of the Siskiyou County Planning Commission from 1948 to 1961. He served as chairman for six years. He was a charter member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church.

Butch was a past president of both the Yreka 20–30 Club and the Lions Club. He was a member of the Yreka Volunteer Fire Department from 1937 to 1957. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and served as Master of the Howard Lodge No. 37 in 1947.

Butch was a Past High Priest of the Cyrus Chapter, Past Commander of the Mt. Shasta Commandry and Past President of the Siskiyou County Shrine Club.

For the last 14 years, he compiled the monthly financial records for the senior center in Yreka.

Butch retired from the Union Oil Co. in 1971. After retirement, he drove the school bus for the Yreka Elementary School District. He was an avid hunter, enjoying the outdoors with his family and long time hunting partners.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, in June 1987.

Butch is survived by his sons, Norman of Fair Oaks and Bill of Grass Valley; his daughter, Linda Ellison of Yreka; a brother, Bill Wilson and his wife, Anna, Ruth’s sister of Tucson, Ariz.; Ruth’s brother, Martin Larens and his wife, Virginia of Gridley.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, Lesley Ghidossi of Folsom, Norman Wilson, Jr. of Fair Oaks, Todd Wilson of Sacramento, Shannon Wilson of Folsom, Jennifer Ellison and Martin Ellison, both of Yreka; and a great granddaughter, Kate Wilson of Sacramento.

Funeral services will be held 3 p.m., Oct. 9 at Girdner Funeral Chapel. Burial will follow in the Evergreen Cemetery next to Ruth.

The family suggests donations in the name of Adair Wilson be made to the Shriner’s Hospital For Children, c/o Donations Dept., 2425 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA. 95817.

Adair (Butch) Wilson and Della Ruth Larens were married on 12 Sep 1933 in Reno, NV. Della Ruth Larens, daughter of Harvey Nicholas Larens and Alma Louise Smith, was born on 16 Apr 1911 in DePue, Bureau Co., IL. She died on 9 Jun 1987 at the age of 76 in Siskiyou Co., CA.
Excerpt from a writeup by Anna Larens Wilson (obtained from Todd Adair Wilson; a few obvious typographical errors have been corrected):

REMEMBRANCES OF MY SISTER DELLA RUTH LARENS WILSON

Della Ruth Larens Wilson was born to Alma Louise Smith Larens, and Harvey Nicholas Larens on April 16, 1911. She was a beautiful baby, and grew into a lovely young girl and woman. She was blessed with a very mild disposition, and caring nature, and loved by everyone. Her mother always said she was such an easy child to raise. Ruth was a little mother to her sister Anna and brother Martin, who were two and four years her junior. The life in the Larens household went very smoothly the first seven years of Ruth’s life. Then at seven, her father was called into the Congregational Church as a minister. So this new job entailed a move to another town. The family rode in the caboose of a train on moving day. The furniture in a freight car. Ruth was so delighted over the big two story manse we moved into.

No matter how large the house or small, Ruth and Anna always slept together. So there was one room we didn’t use upstairs. We found many hats in the closet, so we called it the hat room, and Ruth and Anna spent many happy hours playing dressup in that room, and trying on all the hats, left by former minister’s wives.

Then on September 12, 1918 Ruth’s dear papa, as we called him, and who had been ill for several days with a nurse in a white uniform attending him, slipped downstairs while Ruth’s mother, Sister and brother and herself slept on the floor in the large entrance hall. The stairway went up from that. Papa slipped by us to a coat closet and got his rifle, and quietly returned upstairs without waking us. Then we were all awakened by a terrible blast that we never forgot. Ruth’s mother ran upstairs and found papa dead in the bathroom. The nurse had gone home that night, and we were on the floor downstairs so we wouldn’t disturb him as we got ready for bed. Ruth’s mother could never talk about this, so she grew up never knowing what illness her papa had.

This tragic happening naturally caused chaos in the life of Ruth and her family. Her Uncle George O. Smith, who was Superintendent of the Princeton Schools of Bureau County, and brother to her mother, came immediately. He took Ruth, her sister and brother to Grandma Smith’s home in DePue, Ill. Grandma Smith was Ruth’s mother’s mother. Ruth watched over her younger sister and brother, and helped them in their confusion. Grandma Smith had a big two story house, and at this time she took in boarders and roomers. Grandpa Smith had been dead for many years. Aunt Nora O’Byrne, who was Ruth’s mother’s sister and had a husband and 6 children, and lived in a little house up on DePue Hill. To help Grandma Smith out, Ruth and her siblings were sent to Aunt Nora’s. Ruth’s mother came in a few days, and so did the body of papa, which was laid in state in the living room. These were awe filled days for Ruth and her siblings.
So many people we didn’t know came, and Ruth was the little mother watching over her 5 yr. old sister, and 2 yr. old brother. The Congregational Church, that Ruth’s mother grew up in was just two doors from her Grandma’s home. Then came the day when the funeral took place. There were so many people. At the graveside, again Ruth was the little mother, taking care of her siblings. In a few days Ruth and the other two children had the comfort of their mother, as we all shared one big bedroom. Ruth and Anna in one bed, and little Martin in bed with his mother. The family drew very close together as life began without papa. Ruth’s mother had to go to work. She was a teacher, but the school year had already started. She worked on the night shift at the Zinc Plant, and had to wear kaki knickers, which was very brazen for women in 1918. Ruth started school, which was just around the corner from her Grandma’s. Ruth had a close friend, Grace Charles, who lived right across the street, and they spent many happy hours together. Her parents were divorced, and she lived with her grandmother.

Christmas came, and everyone was ill with the great flu of 1918. Grandma and mother escaped it, but Grandma helped other people who needed care. Ruth and Anna had it, and were just recovering from it on Christmas Eve. They were allowed to eat dinner with the family for the first time in a week or more. As we sat at the table, Ruth said she heard jingle bells. There was someone at the door shouting “Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas”, and who should come in but Santa himself laden with a big bag of toys over his shoulder. He said, “HO, Ho, HO,” and opened the bag and left many gifts of toys and food. As he left Ruth and all the family ran to the door, and there in the snow was a sleigh with jingle bells, and Santa driving away laughing.

World War One was over Nov. 11, 1918, and Ruth’s Uncle Jesse was coming home soon after Christmas, and the house was a buzz with excitement. There was a blackboard hanging on one Wall of the dining room where Ruth and Anna used to draw pictures of the Kaiser, and our soldier boys at war. Ruth had us all excited about Uncle Jesse coming home and maybe bringing a gas mask. The day arrived, and he did have a gas mask, a horrible looking object. He stayed with us a couple of weeks, then left for California to find work. He worked on the roads at Yellowstone before going to California where he did the same line of work.

Ruth started piano lessons, and progressed rapidly. She had lessons for about two and a half years.

When Ruth was 8 yrs. old Grandma Smith died. Consequently Uncle Con and Aunt Nora, and their six children moved in Grandma’s house with us, so Aunt Nora could care for Ruth, Anna and Martin, while Ruth’s mother worked. This was a lively household with 9 children, and the oldest 16 yrs. of age. When Ruth was 9 yrs. old, her mother was called to teach in the Bureau Elementary School, 6 miles from De Pue. Ruth, her mother and siblings first lived in a big duplex near the railroad tracks. Bureau was a town of 300 population. The next year a little house next to the school was for rent, so Ruth’s family moved there. In the fall black walnuts were gathered in the woods, and we would have a picnic the four of us, and it was an enjoyable time. Sunday, all through the years, was a time to go to Sunday School, Church then back to church in the evening for that service. Martin had a little red wagon, and Ruth and Anna took turns pulling the wagon with Martin asleep in it after the evening service. We were happy to do this, as great love existed among the four of us. In the winter the entire town on a Friday or Saturday night went to the Town Pond that was frozen over and ice skated. We would take hot dogs and roast them in the huge fire on the shore the men in the town had built. These were happy times, and Ruth’s mother had the entire town loving her and her family. Ruth made friends with a girl on a farm, and they delivered milk to the homes of Bureau.
Ruth was thrilled every time she was asked to accompany her friend Mavis on the milk wagon, and deliver milk to the homes. Of course the milk wagon was pulled by a horse. Ruth and her siblings spent many happy hours at the Spute farm playing in the barn, the fields, and riding ponies.

One day in summer, Ruth’s mother had to go to a Teacher’s Institute in Princeton. She had to leave early in the morning on the inter urban, or street car. No one had cars then except the wealthy. Ruth had to get breakfast for her sister and brother, and she cooked hot cereal on our kerosene stove. When she turned the burner off it didn’t go out, not knowing it burned until all the kerosene burned, so she poured water on the stove, and it did go out. When her mother returned she told Ruth how to operate the stove. I guess she thought she knew from observation.

In October 1922, Ruth’s mother was diagnosed as having tuberculosis. Her only symptom was the loss of her voice. Nevertheless, after being checked and rechecked, she was sent to a T. B. Sanitarium in Springfield, Ill. where they kept her for 1 yr. Uncle George and Aunt Ella took care of Martin, who was 7 yrs old. Anna lived with a Catholic family, who had the biggest farm in the Bureau area. Ruth lived with a farmer and his wife who had no children, so she had many lonely days, although the couple were very good to her. Ruth would see her sister Anna at school, and that was her only contact with family. In October 1923 when Ruth’s mother was declared free of T. B. Uncle Jesse contacted her, and invited her to come to California and he would make a home for her and her children. So October 1923 found Ruth, her mother, sister and brother on a train headed for California. We arrived in Roseville, Ca on Oct. 23, 1923. Uncle Jesse met the family, and drove them to Red Bluff, Ca. Where he had a duplex he rented. He was working for the State Highway Dept. on the road to Mineral. In November he changed jobs, and moved the family to Redding, Ca. where he became a car salesman for Star Auto Sales. Ruth was 12 years old, Anna 10 and Martin 8.

The family lived in an apartment in the Del Monte. The next summer they moved into a duplex on Butte St. east of Market St. Ruth and her siblings attended Pine St. School in the fall of 1924. In the other duplex lived the Kite family. Ruth became fast friends with Teddy and Virginia Kite, and their friendship lasted through the years. The next summer of 1925 the family moved across the street into a 6 room house. The former landlord found Ruth, her siblings and neighbor friends playing mumblety-peg on the lawn. The next morning when Uncle Jesse went out to pick up the paper he found carpet tacks strewn all over the yard. It made him so angry, that he immediately moved the family in the house for rent across the street.

The depression was beginning to be felt, and car sales went down to nothing. Ruth’s mother was able to get an afternoon job at the Shasta Sun, a newspaper in Redding. Her small salary kept us eating, and helped pay the rent. Uncle Jesse about this time fell in love with Margaret Murphy, a nurse. He was courting her when Ruth’s mother felt she needed to free him of his commitment to her. She took the Teacher’s Exam, and asked us all to be in prayer for her that she would pass it. Well, needless to say many heartfelt prayers went up to God, and He heard them, and Ruth’s mother passed the exam, and was hired by the Round Mountain School District to teach the Round Mountain School. It was a summer school beginning in March. So once again as a family, we were divided as Ruth is now a freshman in high school. She lived with the Shipley family, and worked for her room and board. Ruth’s mother and siblings moved to Round Mountain Mar. 1, 1926. Ruth continued to stay in Redding, and visited her mother and siblings during holidays. She worked in the summer at Wilson’s Confectionary, and Mc Call’s Soda Fountain. In the summer of 1928 Ruth’s mother took a teaching job in French Gulch so all the family could be together. It was a joy to all be together.
again. There were many young people in French Gulch, and we all rode the school bus to Shasta Union High School. Martin is still in grade school having his mother as his teacher. All the young people congregated at our house, and I always thought my pretty sister Ruth was the attraction. Great times were had, and lots of fun. Dances were held on many Saturday nights to benefit the school, so everyone went. Ruth’s boyfriends Henry Ronlake and Adair Wilson would attend, and if there wasn’t a dance they’d come out Sunday to take her riding or take her into Redding. Then in 1929 due to a school board member wanting her relative to be the French Gulch Teacher, Ruth’s mother lost her job. Luckily Kosk Creek School in Big Bend was available, and it was a summer school, so in June the family moved to Big Bend, all but Ruth. She lived with Aunt Margaret and Uncle Jesse that summer, and worked at Mc Call’s Soda Fountain.

Then in the fall Ruth lived at Gilzeans working for her board and room. Ruth is now a senior in high school. Anna is also working for her board and room. Ruth graduated from Shasta Union High School June 1929. She is now going steady with Adair Wilson, and she is working at Firth’s Dry Goods, and lived this summer with Aunt Margaret and Uncle Jesse. In the fall Ruth’s mother rented an apartment at the Del Monte, so Martin could go to high school. Anna was working for her board and room with a family named Forrest. After Christmas, however, Mother had all of us with her in the apartment until March when she resumed teaching at Kosk Creek, so Ruth took care of her 2 siblings in the apartment, and worked at Firth’s. The summer of 1930 Ruth’s mother rented another apartment in the Brickwood Apts. near the high school, and Ruth was still working at Firth’s, and lived there alone until her sister and brother joined her in September to go to high school. They had spent the summer with their mother in Big Bend. The family lived there through the summer of 1931, as Ruth’s mother was called to teach the school at Montgomery Creek, and that school ran from September until June. Adair and Ruth are still going together, and as she is working in Redding, she didn’t come home very often due to no means of transportation. On Sept. 12, 1933 Ruth and Adair were married in Reno, Nevada. In California you had to wait 3 days to get a marriage license, in Reno you could get married immediately. No one had enough money for a church wedding, anyhow. However, they were married by a minister in a church. Adair was working in Arbuckle for the Union Oil Co., so that is where he took his bride….

Adair Wilson and Della Ruth Larens had the following children:

+236  i. Norman Adair Wilson.
+237  ii. William Martin Wilson.
+238  iii. Linda Louise Wilson.

170. William Edwards Wilson (Edwards Adair-5, Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 20 Nov 1913 in CA. He died on 26 Oct 2005 at the age of 91, probably in Tucson, AZ. He was a clerk.

William Edwards Wilson and Anna Katherine Larens were married. Anna Katherine Larens, daughter of Harvey
Nicholas Larens and Alma Louise Smith (and sister of Della Ruth Larens), was born on 31 May 1913 in IL. She died on 27 Nov 2014 at the age of 101.

William Edwards Wilson and Anna Katherine Larens had the following children:

- Edward Adair Wilson
- Ruth Ann Wilson
- Paul Wilson


William Joseph Hotchkiss and Margaret Allene (Peggy) Douglas were married on 19 Aug 1939 in Reno, NV. Margaret Allene (Peggy) Douglas was born on 16 Feb 1919 in San Francisco, CA. She died on 30 Jun 2007 at the age of 88 in Bethel Island, Contra Costa Co., CA.

William Joseph Hotchkiss and Margaret Allene Douglas had the following children:

- William Joseph Hotchkiss III
- Douglas Stephen Hotchkiss
- Lauren Sean Hotchkiss

173. James Miller Hotchkiss Jr. (Margaretta Wilson-5, Adair-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 16 Jan 1927 in Oakland, CA. He died on 31 Dec 2009 at the age of 82 in Lafayette, Contra Costa Co., CA. He was a financial advisor.

From the *Contra Costa Times*, 16 Jan 2010 (obtained from their web site):

James M. Hotchkiss, Jr. Jan. 16, 1927 ~ Dec. 31, 2009 Resident of Lafayette James M. Hotchkiss, Jr. passed away in his home on December 31. Born in Oakland, Jim spent much of his childhood in Healdsburg. After serving in the Navy at the end of WWII, Jim returned to the Bay Area to obtain his undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley and later his MBA at Stanford University. Jim established his own accounting office, first in Oakland and then in Orinda. Though retired for more than a decade, he still went to office daily to meet with clients and conduct genealogical research. Jim could be counted on for many things, but his Hawaiian shirts and propensity to never resist the opportunity for a good (or bad) pun were legendary. He was an avid fan of musical theater and eagerly awaited football season every fall. Jim loved his family, past and present. Spending hours researching his family tree, he was eager to share stories about his pioneering roots and wrote three
books highlighting the lives of some of his more colorful relatives: First Lady of Tennis: Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman; A Pair of Kings and a Joker; and The Millionaire Miner and the Indian Girl. But it was his immediate family that he treasured above all else. Jim is survived by his wife of 61 years Isabel, his sons Joseph and wife Rose of Knightsen, and Edward of Lafayette. He was extremely proud of his grandchildren Sarah Hotchkiss, Beth Hotchkiss, and Marion Merrill; and adored his great-grandchildren Samantha and Cheyanne. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to Contra Costa Food Bank, Planned Parenthood or the Nature Conservancy.

James was the author of the Hotchkiss manuscript [37]. He was also the source of most of the Ancestral File information cited here [18].

James Miller Hotchkiss Jr. and Isabel Gandarillas Moruza were married on 19 Jun 1948 in Berkeley, Alameda Co., CA. Isabel Gandarillas Moruza was born on 22 Apr 1925. She died on 22 May 2010 at the age of 85.

From the Contra Costa Times, 6 Jun 2010 (obtained from their web site):

Isabel Moruza Hotchkiss April 22, 1925 - May 22, 2010 Resident of Lafayette Isabel Hotchkiss passed away peacefully on May 22 in the company of her loving family. Isabel grew up in Susanville, California and often told stories about the close-knit ethnic community in which she was raised. Her parents moved the family to Berkeley so that their three children could attend UC Berkeley. While at Cal, Isabel met a dashing young man, James M. Hotchkiss, Jr., and the two married in 1949. The newlyweds settled in Oakland and later moved with their two sons, Joe and Ed, to Lafayette. Isabel poured herself into caring for her husband, recently deceased, and her two sons. The four enjoyed many family vacations at the coast, including their annual pilgrimage to Coronado Beach. A skilled painter and photographer, Isabel was known for her artistic grace. She surrounded herself with music, art and theater and shared her passion for the arts with her family and friends. Isabel is survived by her brother, Tito Moruza, her two sons, Joseph and Ed, daughter-in-law Rose Hotchkiss, granddaughters Sarah Hotchkiss, Beth Hotchkiss and Marion Merrill, and two great-grand-daughters, Cheyanne and Samantha. In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the Nature Conservancy, Planned Parenthood or the Contra Costa Food Bank.

James Miller Hotchkiss and Isabel Gandarillas Moruza had the following children:

+245  
  i. **Joseph Alva Hotchkiss.**

+246  
  ii. **Edward Adair Hotchkiss.**

174. **Theodore Wilson Rinker** (Leonie Wilson-5, Leonard-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 5 May 1901, probably in Denver, CO. He died in Apr 1977 at the age of 75, probably in Denver, CO. He was a partner of an armored-car company.

From Denver City Directories (some from Colorado Genealogical Society [23], some from Ancestry.com), in 1936 Theodore was listed as president of Guardian Safety Vault Company; in
1942, 1953, and others he was listed as vice-president of Armored Motors Service. (Note, though, that in the 1940 census his occupation is given as lawyer.)

From the *Rocky Mountain News*, 2 May 1977, p. 116 (obtained from the Colorado Genealogical Society [19]):

RINKER –

Theodore Wilson Rinker and Loretto Dorothy Paul were married about 1929. Loretto Dorothy Paul was born on 26 May 1902 in Central City, CO. She died in Oct 1982 at the age of 80, probably in Denver, CO. She was a teacher.

It looks like she usually went by Dorothy. She is listed in her husband’s death notice as Dorothy P. Rinker. Her parents’ names, from an IRS-3227 form [69], were William Henry Paul and Loretto Doran.

Theodore Wilson Rinker and Loretto Dorothy Paul had the following child:

+247    i. Theodore Paul Rinker.

175. Mary Catherine Rinker (Leonie Wilson-5, Leonard-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 4 Jan 1911, probably in Denver, CO. She died on 16 Dec 1987 at the age of 76, probably in Denver, CO, and was entombed in Fairmount Mausoleum, Denver, CO. She was a bookkeeper and a bank clerk.

Her full name of Mary Catherine Rinker is from Ted P. Rinker. Most sources list her as Catherine M. Rinker or Catherine R. McGrew.

A marriage record for her has not been found, but in the 1953 Denver City Directory (from Ancestry.com) she is listed as Cath Rinker, a clerk at Denver Natl Bank, and in the 1959 directory she is listed as Catherine R, wife of Geo T McGrew (George a salesman at Denver Buick).

From the *Rocky Mountain News*, 18 Dec 1987, p. 223 (obtained from the Colorado Genealogical Society [19]):

MC GREW --
Sixth Generation


Mary Catherine Rinker and George T. McGrew were married between 1953 and 1959. George T. McGrew was born on 12 Feb 1907. He died on 15 Jul 1992 at the age of 85. He was a car salesman.

Leonard Wilson was born in Denver, CO, in 1904. He was an only child. His parents were divorced and his father left when he was only two. His mother had a series of husbands and he practically supported himself from an early age. He and Elizabeth Trinaistich were both working for the Trinidad Creamery Company in Trinidad, CO, when they married in 1926. They lived in several towns in Colorado and New Mexico before settling for good in Albuquerque, NM, in 1947. He died in Albuquerque in 1981 at the age of 77.
Len worked as a traveling salesman for the Creamery, with an area that went all the way to Phoenix, AZ. Betty worked as a bookkeeper. Two of their children, Donald and Dorothy, were born during this period in Trinidad, in 1927 and 1930. Mr. Jacobsen, owner of the Creamery, became interested in radio as a way to get his pricing for cream out to the farmers much faster. Len was already an active amateur radio operator ("ham"), so Jacobsen approached him about building a radio station. This inquiry led to building radio station KGIW about 1930. The station did not pan out to Jacobsen’s satisfaction and he wanted to shut it down. Len was a believer in this new technology and offered to buy the station from him. Len and Betty remained good friends with the Jacobsen family for as long as they lived. Shortly after buying the station, he moved it to Alamosa, CO, and also applied for a permit to build a station in Clovis, NM. This permit was granted and so Len built radio station KICA in Clovis, which went on the air sometime in 1932 or ’33. He moved his family to Clovis at the end of 1933 or beginning of 1934. The station in Clovis never did well, so he sold it, probably in the spring of 1936. He also sold KGIW in Alamosa. He started another station in Lamar, CO, which he operated until he sold it in 1937. He applied for a permit from the FCC to build a station in La Junta, CO, which was granted with the call letters KOKO. (The KOKO letters had previously been used by the Navy. A few years after this the Navy wanted the call letters back but Len would not give them up. The Navy got them back after he sold the station.) The family moved from Lamar to La Junta after school was out in the spring of 1937. KOKO went on the air in the spring or summer of 1937. Their third child, James, was born in 1939 in La Junta. Also, Betty’s sister Mary died in 1937 shortly after her son John was born. Betty and Len took in the baby and raised him with their own children. Mary’s young daughter Elsie (six years old at the time of her mother’s death) also lived with them for several years.

Len was on his ham radio with a friend who was on a ship at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Japanese bombing. Len broadcast the news about the bombing before anyone else knew, and then got a visit from the government, wondering how he knew about it! It was a long time before he knew if his friend was alive or not.

Len had taken up flying in the late 1930s and earned his private license. He tried to join the Air Corps when World War II broke out, but could not pass the physical because of his eyesight. He also tried to join the Canadian Air Force, but crash-landed in North Dakota on the way up. He never went back. Fortunately, the plane was not badly damaged and he was able to fly back to La Junta. He ended up flying courier service in the Civil Air Patrol for the Army Air Corps during most of the war.
Len sold KOKO in the fall of 1946. After selling the station he stayed on, managing it for the new owners while he started looking for something else to do. During this search he had occasion to talk to Larry Walker, who owned the L.B. Walker Radio Company in Pueblo, CO. He had been a customer of Walker’s for a number of years, buying electronic parts for his various radio stations. Walker suggested opening a branch somewhere. (At this time Walker had no other branches. He eventually opened several other stores in Colorado.) They decided to open a branch in Albuquerque, NM, which resulted in the opening of the L.B. Walker Radio Company in Albuquerque on 6 May 1947. There were originally seven people involved in the store: Len and Betty Wilson, Larry and Mildred Walker, Bill Thomas and his wife, and Margaret Johnson. Bill had worked at the station in Alamosa and Margaret had worked at KOKO. After a few years, Walker sold his interest to Len because he wanted to open a store in Denver, which he did in 1952 or ’53. The name of the business was shortened to Walker Radio Company. Margaret and Bill worked at Walker Radio for many years, but they eventually sold their shares to Len as well, leaving Walker Radio Company owned entirely by the family. (There was a rider on the stock giving Len the first right to purchase the stock, which he did.) Years later, after Len’s death, the name of the business was further changed to Walker Electronic Supply Company. Even though Larry Walker was involved in the business for only a few years, it continued to carry his name because of concern that customers would be confused if the name were changed. Len ran Walker Radio until the time of his death. His son Don joined him in the business in 1958 and carried on after his death. Betty was also active in the business, acting as the bookkeeper and president of the company for many years.

Through all of this, Len remained active in amateur radio. His final call letters were W5NVT. His original two-letter call was lost during WWII, when all hams were shut down and the government bought all their equipment. In his younger years, he was also quite an outdoorsman and loved to fish. In addition, he was active in the Knights of Columbus fraternal organization for many years.

The name on his death certificate is Leonard Everett Wilson. Cause of death was multiple myeloma. He died at 221 Washington NE [home]. The headstone of his grave says Leonard E. WILSON, 1904 - 1981.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

1910 census
Listed as Lenard E. Sickler, age 5, born in Colorado, father born in Iowa [this isn’t right], mother born in Colorado. Living with his mother and stepfather, Rose and Elijah J. Sickler.

1920 census
Listed as Leonard Wilson, age 16, born in Colorado, both parents born in Colorado [this isn’t right]. Attended school this year. Living with his mother and stepfather, Rose and Edward Cookingham.

1930 census
Image 6 on Ancestry.com (District 54, Trinidad, Las Animas Co., CO)
Listed as Leonard E. Wilson. Address, 410 South Oak St. Renting home, $25 per month. They had a radio set. Age 25, age 22 at marriage. Born in Colorado, both parents born in Colorado [this is not correct]. Occupation, radio-station operator. Not a U.S. military veteran. Household consisted of Leonard E., Elizabeth, and Donald E. Wilson; Ernest Trinaistich [Elizabeth’s brother]; and a servant, Mildred Lenich.

1940 census
Image 23 on Ancestry.com (Districts 45-9, La Junta, Otero Co., CO)
Listed as Leonard Wilson, age 35. Address, 502 Cimarron Ave. Renting home, $35 per month. Completed three years of high school. Lived in Clovis, NM, in 1935. Born in Colorado, both parents born in Colorado [this is not correct.] Occupation, radio-station manager. Worked 52 weeks in 1939. Income in 1939, $950. Received $50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary. Not a U.S. military veteran. Household consisted of Leonard, Elizabeth, Donald, Dorothy, and Jimmie Wilson; Johnny and Elsie Malovich [children of Elizabeth’s deceased sister, Mary]; and a housekeeper, Katie Porter.

Leonard Everett Wilson and Elizabeth Marie Trinaistich were married on 20 Oct 1926 in Trinidad, Las Animas Co., CO. Elizabeth Marie Trinaistich, daughter of Mate Trinajstić and Elizabeta Dukić (both from Croatia), was born on 26 May 1904 in Trinidad, Las Animas Co., CO. She died on 1 Mar 1997 at the age of 92 in Albuquerque, NM. Elizabeth was buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Albuquerque, NM. She was a bookkeeper.

Betty loved to cook, and made lots of wonderful things to eat. Most memorable were the desserts—pies, angel food cake, nut roll (povitica, a Croatian pastry). She cooked dishes from the Old Country of her parents, and New Mexican food from her adopted state.

She was an excellent seamstress, and made many of her own and her daughter’s clothes.

She was a gardener. She always had a small vegetable garden, and had fruit and nut trees. But most important were her flower gardens, including a fine rose garden.
She had lots of friends and was very active socially. She was a member of a bridge club for many years, and she and her husband, Len, liked to square dance and were involved in church activities.

She enjoyed traveling, and even traveled around the world twice with her nephew Ernie and others.

And finally, she always worked hard, both around the house and helping out in her husband’s business. She was the bookkeeper for Walker Radio Company for many years, and was listed as the president of the company.

She died from aspiration pneumonia—stomach fluid in her lungs—at the age of 92. This was the culmination of a problem she had for several years before she died—she had problems with swallowing and with choking on phlegm that built up in her throat. She was confined to a wheelchair for several years before her death, and eventually couldn’t even get around by wheelchair anymore and was bedridden. She also developed diabetes late in life.

Newspaper article (don’t know what paper, or the date, but the wedding was 20 Oct 1926):

TRINAISTICH-WILSON NUPTIALS.

A pretty fall wedding will be solemnized this evening at five o’clock at the Catholic Church when Miss Elizabeth Trinaistich will become the bride of Mr. Leonard Wilson. Mr. and Mrs. John McKelvey will act as matron of honor and groomsman.

Miss Trinaistich will wear a smart frock of jungle green flat crepe with accessories to match, and will carry a shower bouquet of Ophelia roses.

At 6:30 a five course wedding supper will be served at the home of Mr. Wilson’s mother, Mrs. E. W. Cookingham on Topeka Ave. Covers will be laid for sixty. A lovely color scheme of blue and white will be effectively carried out, and an elaborately frosted brides cake will grace the center of the table.

Miss Trinaistich is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Trinaistich of Trinidad. She is a graduate of Trinidad High School and since her graduation has been employed as bookkeeper at the Trinidad Creamery.

Mr. Wilson is the son of Mrs. E. W. Cookingham of Topeka Ave. He too received his education here and graduated from T. H. S. He holds a position of bookkeeper at the Trinidad Creamery.

The happy couple will leave immediately for a ten days honeymoon trip thru the northern part of the state. They will take up their residence in Trinidad.
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Newspaper article from the *Albuquerque Journal*, 31 Oct 1976:

**Anniversary Date Noted By Wilsons**

In celebration of their golden wedding anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Wilson, 221 Washington NE, were honored at a mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church, followed by a reception in the Hilton Inn’s Cabaret Lounge.

The couple was married at Trinidad, Colo., on Oct. 20, 1926. They have been residents of Albuquerque since 1947.

Hosts for the observance were their sons, Donald and his wife Audrey of Albuquerque, James and his wife Susie of Phoenix, Ariz., and their daughter Dorothy of Albuquerque. There are two grandchildren [sic].

Attending the reception were approximately 115 guests from California, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.

The name on her death certificate is Elizabeth Marie Wilson. Cause of death was aspiration pneumonia. She died at St. Joseph Medical Center.

The name on her birth certificate is just Elizabeth Trinaistich. Does that mean that officially she had no middle name?

The headstone of her grave says Elizabeth M. WILSON, 1904 - 1997.

1930 census
Listed as Elizabeth Wilson, age 25, age 22 at marriage, born in Colorado, both parents born in Austria [actually, Croatia, which was part of the Austrian empire at the time]. Living with her husband, Leonard E. Wilson, and child.

1940 census
Listed as Elizabeth Wilson, age 35, born in Colorado. Lived in Clovis, NM, in 1935. Living with her husband, Leonard Wilson, their children, and a niece and nephew [children of her sister, Mary, who had died].

Leonard Everett Wilson and Elizabeth Marie Trinaistich had the following children:

+248  

249  
  ii. **Dorothy Elizabeth Wilson** was born on 18 Aug 1930 in Trinidad, Las Animas Co., CO. She died on 1 Aug 1999 at the age of 68 in Albuquerque, NM. She was buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Albuquerque, NM.

After Dorothy graduated from high school, she went to a nursing school in Denver, CO, for a time but did not complete it. Then, she worked on Sandia Base in Albuquerque for a while, but developed problems and got a disability.
Sixth Generation

retirement from the Civil Service. Afterwards, she did typist work part-time for Walker Radio Company for many years.

She was never married and had no children. She lived with her parents her whole life.

She died following a series of strokes. She had fairly severe health problems for a long time. She suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, and had to take insulin for diabetes from her late 20s or early 30s.

1940 census
Listed as Dorothy Wilson, age 9, born in Colorado. Lived in Clovis, NM, in 1935. Had completed three years of school. Living with her parents.

The headstone of her grave says Dorothy E. Wilson, 1930 - 1999.

+250


the age of 82 in Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., CA. She was buried in Olivewood Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

Her birth place name is uncertain, but Chewelah is the closest to two versions of the birth place (Chwheela from her Social Security application [69], Shohuilla from a death notice in the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*). In addition, a birth record for her in “Washington Births 1907-1919” on Ancestry.com shows her birth in Stevens County, and Chewelah is in Stevens County.

From the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 14 Oct 1998 (obtained from their archive web site):

Homeland

Leonie Trickey

Graveside services for Leonie Eileen Trickey, 82, will be at 12:30 p.m. Friday at Olivewood Cemetery in Riverside. She died of heart and lung failure Friday at Antelope Valley Hospital in Lancaster.

Mrs. Trickey who was born in Shohuilla Wash., lived in Homeland 70 years. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include a daughter, Patricia Faia of Homeland; four sons, Lloyd of Antelope Valley, Nyman Wilson of Hemet and Harry and Clarence Wilson, both of Riverside; five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild.

Some of this information is incorrect. Nyman, Harry, and Clarence were her brothers, not her sons. Also, it says that she lived in Homeland for 70 years, which would be back to 1928, but letters to and from Leonard Wilson [82] show that she was not living in Homeland in 1937, 1940, and 1941.

1920 census
Listed as Leonie E. Wilson, 3 years 9 months old, born in Washington, father born in Missouri, mother born in Sweden. Living with her parents.

1930 census
Listed as Leonie [can’t read the middle initial; should be E.] Wilson, age 14, born in Washington, father born in Missouri, mother born in Minnesota [that is not right]. Living with her parents.

Leonie Eileen Wilson and **George Bagley** were married before about 1936. They were divorced about 1937.

His first name of George is known from old letters [82]. The last name of Bagley for him comes from a birth record for Patricia Marie Bagley in “California Birth Index 1905-1995” on Ancestry.com (born about the right time, and mother’s maiden name listed as Wilson).
George Bagley and Leonie Eileen Wilson had the following child:

+251    i.  **Patricia Marie Bagley**.

Leonie Eileen Wilson and Lloyd George Trickey were married about 1937. They were divorced on 20 Mar 1987 in Tarrant Co., TX. **Lloyd George Trickey** was born on 24 Apr 1913 in Orange Co., CA. He died in May 1988 at the age of 75. He was a mechanic.

His middle initial is known to be G, but the middle name of George is an assumption based on his son having that middle name.

Lloyd George Trickey and Leonie Eileen Wilson had the following child:

   252    i.  **Lloyd George Trickey Jr.**

178.  **Nyman Adair Wilson** (Horace Everett-5, Leonard-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 21 Nov 1918 in Seattle, WA. He died on 5 Nov 1999 at the age of 80. Nyman was buried in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

The death notice for his father (during World War II) lists him as Nyman A. Wilson of San Diego, U.S. Navy. He is also listed in the U.S. World War II Navy Muster Rolls on Ancestry.com. His gravestone (which can be seen on Find A Grave [28], listing for Nyman Adair Wilson) says he was a sergeant in the U.S. Army and he served in World War II and Korea, so it looks like he served in the Navy in WWII and in the Army in Korea.

1920 census
Listed as Nyman A. Wilson, 1 year 1 month old, born in Washington, father born in Missouri, mother born in Sweden. Living with his parents.

1930 census
Listed as Nyman Wilson, age 11, born in Washington, father born in Missouri, mother born in Minnesota [not right]. Living with his parents.

1940 census

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Nyman Adair Wilson

1938
Obtained from Jim Wilson
Nyman Adair Wilson and Carmen Andrea Navarro were married about 1942. Carmen Andrea Navarro was born on 10 Nov 1914 in Santa Ana, Orange Co., CA. She died on 22 Apr 2002 at the age of 87 in Hemet, Riverside Co., CA. She was buried in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

From the *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 21 May 2002 (obtained from their archive web site):

CARMEN ANDREA WILSON, 87, died April 22 at Hemet Valley Medical Center. Born in Santa Ana, Mrs. Wilson lived in San Jacinto 33 years. She was a supervisor at the Conolon Co. in Santa Ana many years ago.

She is survived by a son, Nyman of Wildomar; a daughter, Elaine Cosner of Oregon; two sisters, Louise Gill of Sacramento and Jerry Ryan of Anaheim; and a brother, Stephen Navarro of Nevada.

Burial was in Riverside National Cemetery. Miller-Jones Mortuary in Hemet handled arrangements.

Nyman Adair Wilson and Carmen Andrea Navarro had the following children:

+253  i. **Ouida Elaine Wilson**.
+254  ii. **Nyman Adair Wilson Jr**.

179. **Clarence Robert Wilson** (Horace Everett-5, Leonard-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 19 Apr 1922 in Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co., CA. He died on 6 Feb 2007 at the age of 84.

Clarence and Harry were twins.

*Riverside Press-Enterprise*, 9 Feb 2007 (obtained from their web site):

CLARENCE ROBERT WILSON Age 84 of Riverside, CA., passed away February 6, 2007. Clarence was born on April 19, 1922 in Riverside, CA. Clarence is preceded in death by his wife Sue T. Wilson and twin brother Harry E. Wilson. He is survived by his stepchildren Christie Christensen of Oak Hills, CA., Lori Tietjen of Spokane, WA, William Tietjen of Chino Hills, CA; grandchildren Brian Christensen of Victorville, CA, Alan Christensen of Riverside, CA & Tanner Tietjen of Spokane, WA.

It is strange that his own children are not listed. This certainly is the right Clarence Wilson, though, with the right birth date and twin brother. His daughter, Margaret Henry, said that he was in the Navy in World War II.

1930 census  
Listed as Clarence Wilson, age 7, born in California, father born in Missouri, mother born in Minnesota [not right]. Living with his parents.
Sixth Generation

1940 census
Listed as Clarence R. Wilson, age 17, born in California. Completed 12 years of school. Lived in Arlington, Riverside Co., CA, in 1935. Living with his parents.

Clarence Robert Wilson and Berta Adaline Laurance were married on 20 Jul 1941 in Yuma, Yuma Co., AZ. They were divorced in Nov 1977 in Riverside Co., CA. Berta Adaline Laurance was born on 13 Nov 1922 in San Bernardino, San Bernardino Co., CA. She died on 25 Feb 2002 at the age of 79 in Riverside, CA.

Clarence Robert Wilson and Berta Adaline Laurance had the following children:

255 i. Laurance Robert Wilson.

256 ii. Clarence Ralph Wilson was born on 11 Apr 1943 in Riverside Co., CA. He died on 17 Oct 1969 at the age of 26 in Riverside Co., CA.

Margaret Henry (Ralph’s sister) said that he was an MP in the Army, stationed at Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

+257 iii. Margaret Jean Wilson.

Clarence Robert Wilson and Sue T. unknown were married. Sue T. unknown died before 2007.

180. Harry Everett Wilson Jr. (Horace Everett-5, Leonard-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 19 Apr 1922 in Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co., CA. He died on 24 Oct 2006 at the age of 84 in Riverside, CA. Harry was buried in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

He served in the military in World War II. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Force.

Harry and Clarence were twins.

Riverside Press-Enterprise, 28 Oct 2006 (obtained from their web site):


Margaret Henry (daughter of Harry’s brother, Clarence) said that during World War II Theone was renting a room from Jennie Wilson while the boys were away in the military. Harry met Theone when he was home on leave, and they ended up getting married.
1930 census
Listed as Harry E. Wilson, age 7, born in California, father born in Missouri, mother born in Minnesota [not right]. Living with his parents.

1940 census

Harry Everett Wilson Jr. and Theone M. Raub were married.

Harry Everett Wilson and Theone M. Raub had the following children:

+258
+259
   i. Carole Anne Wilson.
Sixth Generation

Expansion of Railroads in the 1800s

Association of American Railroads, January 1951
Obtained from http://www.cpr.org/Museum/RR_Development.html
Seventh Generation

181. **Eugene LeRoy Matkin** (Mida Ewers-6, Priscilla David Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born in 1903 in Mexico, Audrain Co., MO. He died on 28 Sep 1960 in Puyallup, Pierce Co., WA. He was an administrative assistant. Eugene was buried in Mountain View Memorial Park, Lakewood, WA.

He was apparently named for his two grandfathers, Eugene Ewers and LeRoy Matkin.


**EUGENE L. MATKIN**

Eugene L. Matkin, 57, of 2226 Tacoma Rd., Puyallup, died yesterday in a Puyallup hospital. Mr. Matkin was a retired administrative assistant at the Tacoma Naval Station and was a Navy veteran of World War I.

Mr. Matkin was born in Missouri and came to the Puyallup-Tacoma area from California in 1937. He is survived by his wife, Helen M.; an aunt, Mrs. Pearl Ray of Portland, and an uncle, Carl Ewers of California.

Services will be announced by the Buckley-King Co.

It seems doubtful that he was a Navy veteran of World War I, since he would have been only about 15 years old at the end of WWI.

Eugene LeRoy Matkin and Leila Viola Sage were married on 15 Aug 1923 in Dayton, Columbia Co., WA. **Leila Viola Sage** was born on 28 Nov 1904 in Dayton, Columbia Co., WA. She died in Jan 2001 at the age of 96 in Portland, OR. At the time of the marriage, she was an office assistant.

In a “Marriage Return” form in “Washington Marriage Records 1854-2013” on Ancestry.com, her parents are listed as Edward Sage and Mattie Warfield.

Eugene LeRoy Matkin and Helen M. unknown were married. **Helen M. unknown** died after 1960.
183. **James W. Mooney (Ray)** (Pearl Ewers-6, Priscilla David Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born about 1906 in MO.

He was born James Mooney, but was adopted by his mother’s second husband and went by James Ray most of his life. The 1930 census (Columbia County, OR) lists James W. and Grace Ray with children Shirley L. and James F. Ray. The 1940 census (Multnomah County, OR) lists Pearl Ray, divorced, with grandchildren Shirley L., James F., Robert J., Elizabeth J., and Marilyn Ray. The ages and birth places of Shirley and James fit with those in the 1930 census, so presumably Robert, Elizabeth, and Marilyn are also children of James W. and Grace Ray. They apparently moved back and forth between Oregon and Washington several times.

James W. Ray and Grace E. unknown were married about 1926. **Grace E. unknown** was born about 1910 in OR.

James W. Ray and Grace E. unknown had the following children:

- i. **Shirley L. Ray**.
- ii. **James F. Ray**.
- iii. **Robert J. Ray**.
- iv. **Elizabeth J. Ray**.
- v. **Marilyn Ray**.

186. **Elizabeth J. Mooney (Ray)** (Pearl Ewers-6, Priscilla David Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 5 Feb 1914 in Kirksville, Adair Co., MO. She died on 27 Aug 2005 at the age of 91. Elizabeth was buried in Pinal Cemetery, Central Heights, AZ.

She was born Elizabeth Mooney, but was adopted by her mother’s second husband and went by Elizabeth Ray most of her life. There is an entry for her in “U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index 1936-2007” on Ancestry.com, with her name given as Elizabeth Ray Hellem and her parents listed as James Mooney and Pearl Ewers. It also has a note that says her name was listed as Elizabeth Ray Hellem in March 1942 and as Elizabeth Ray Burch in November 1942, which seems to imply that her second marriage was in 1942. Emil didn’t die until 1979, so they must have gotten divorced.

From *Around Miami (Images of America)* by Santos C. Vega with Marlene Tiede and Delvan Hayward, p. 49 (Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC, 2011; obtained from Google Books):

Elizabeth Burch came to Miami [AZ] in 1946 from Portland, Oregon. She supported herself and her two daughters Tamsin Hellem and Delvan Burch by working at the Grand Theater and later at the Miami Inspiration Clinic and Hospital. Located on the second floor of the Miami Valley Bank Building in the early 1950s, the Miami Inspiration Health Dispensary served mine employees and their families.
Elizabeth J. Ray and Emil Frederick Hellem were married on 11 Mar 1933 in Vancouver, Clark Co., WA. They were divorced before 1942. Emil Frederick Hellem was born on 14 Dec 1904 in Portland, OR. He died on 27 Nov 1979 at the age of 74 in Portland, OR. He was a tool and die maker. Emil was buried in Lone Fir Pioneer Cemetery, Portland, OR.

*The Oregonian*, 29 Nov 1979 (obtained from Find A Grave [28], listing for Emil Frederick Hellem):

Emil F. Hellem - A retired tool and die marker [sic] and resident of Portland for 26 years, Emil Frederick Hellem, died Monday in his home. He was 74.

Mr. Hellem was born in Portland and had resided in the city for the last 26 years. He was employed by Portland Took [sic] and Die Co. and later by Tektronix Inc.

He was a U.S. Army veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn; a daughter, Lori Quinby; a son, Thomas Witham; a brother, Elmer Hellem; and two grandchildren; all of Portland.

Funeral will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday in Foster Road Funeral Home. Interment will be in Lone Fir cemetery.

Also on Find A Grave, his parents are listed as Christian Frederick Hellem and Frieda Wilhelm.


Emil Frederick Hellem and Elizabeth J. Ray had the following child:

+265 i. **Tamsin Judith Hellem**, born 10 Dec 1935, OR; married Raul Tena, 26 Sep 1956, San Mateo Co., CA; died 28 Sep 1971, Gila Co., AZ.

Elizabeth J. Ray and ? Burch were married.

? Burch and Elizabeth J. Ray had the following child:

+266 i. **Delvan Elizabeth Burch**.

187. **Richard Carroll Ewers** (Carl Fort-6, Priscilla David Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 31 Aug 1921 in Pendleton, Umatilla Co., OR. He died on 19 Sep 1979 at the age of 58 in Sonoma Co., CA. Richard was buried in Santa Rosa Memorial Park, Santa Rosa, CA. He was in the U.S. Army in World War II.
Richard Carroll Ewers and Eleanor Elaine Elliott were married. **Eleanor Elaine Elliott** was born on 26 Sep 1927 in Occidental, Sonoma Co., CA. She died on 18 Feb 2000 at the age of 72 in CA.

Her middle name is from the Intertwined Families of Northern California tree on Ancestry.com [43]. Her parents are listed as Bert Orien Elliott and Julia Otillia Feige.

Richard Carroll Ewers and Eleanor Elaine Elliott had the following children:

+267  i. **Leslee Ann Ewers**.
+268  ii. **Tracy Marie Ewers**.

188. **Shirley Rae Ewers** (Carl Fort-6, Priscilla David Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 10 Apr 1925 in OR. She died on 11 Sep 1987 at the age of 62 in Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., CA. Shirley was buried in Santa Rosa Memorial Park, Santa Rosa, CA.

Shirley Rae Ewers and **Warren Millender Edwards** were married.

Carol Rawles says he had no middle name, but the Find A Grave [28] listing for Shirley Rae Ewers Edwards gives her husband’s name as Warren Millender Edwards.

Warren Edwards and Shirley Rae Ewers had the following child:

+269  i. **Carol Rae Edwards**.

189. **Russell Aubrey Allen** (David Richard-6, Elizabeth Talbot Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 7 Aug 1901 in Perry, Ralls Co., MO. He died on 16 May 1967 at the age of 65 in Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI. He was a carpenter. Russell was buried in Vandalia, Audrain Co., MO.

Russell Aubrey Allen and Sara Jane Griffiths were married on 26 Feb 1921 in Ralls Co., MO. **Sara Jane Griffiths** was born on 4 May 1902 in Perry, Ralls Co., MO. She died on 10 Jul 1938 at the age of 36 in Hannibal, Marion Co., MO.

Russell Aubrey Allen and Sara Jane Griffiths had the following children:

Descendants of Robert Wilson


Russell Aubrey Allen and Helen Webb were married about 1940 in Hannibal, Marion Co., MO. **Helen Webb** was born about 1905 in MO.

Russell Aubrey Allen and **Lola (Tiny) Milan** were married about 1945.

Russell Aubrey Allen and Hazel Irene Lovelace were married about 1955. **Hazel Irene Lovelace** was born on 26 Oct 1917 in MO. She died on 9 Mar 1985 at the age of 67 in Hannibal, Marion Co., MO. She was buried in Greenwood Cemetery, Palmyra, MO.

190. **Hazel Marie Allen** (David Richard-6, Elizabeth Talbot Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 13 Feb 1903 in Vandalia, Audrain Co., MO. She died on 3 Jan 1954 at the age of 50 in Los Angeles, CA.

Hazel Marie Allen and Earnest Randall (Dutch) Davis were married on 14 Feb 1921 in Perry, Ralls Co., MO. **Earnest Randall (Dutch) Davis** was born on 5 Mar 1901 in Monroe Co., MO. He died on 13 Sep 1949 at the age of 48 in Los Angeles, CA.

192. **Margaret Elizabeth Allen** (David Richard-6, Elizabeth Talbot Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 27 Feb 1912 in Center, MO. She died on 1 Feb 1995 at the age of 82 in Riverside Co., CA.

Margaret Elizabeth Allen and Raymond Thornton Cole were married on 15 Jul 1928 in Mt. Sterling, IL. **Raymond Thornton Cole** was born on 3 Oct 1905 in MO. He died on 27 Dec 1993 at the age of 88 in San Diego, CA.

Raymond Thornton Cole and Margaret Elizabeth Allen had the following child:

273  i.  **Marcia Rae Cole** was born on 26 Aug 1934. She died in 2004.

193. **David Richard Allen Jr.** (David Richard-6, Elizabeth Talbot Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 25 Oct 1914 in Vandalia, Audrain Co., MO. He died on 4 Apr 1999 at the age of 84 in Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI. He was a minister. David was buried in Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI.
David Richard Allen Jr. and **Ruth Ezbey** were married.

David Richard Allen and Ruth Ezbey had the following child:

274 i. **David Richard (Butch) Allen III.**

194. **Melvin Roscoe Allen** (David Richard-6, Elizabeth Talbot Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 27 Dec 1918 in Vandalia, Audrain Co., MO. He died on 13 Dec 2013 at the age of 94 in Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI. He was buried in Battle Creek, Calhoun Co., MI. Melvin served in the U.S. Army in World War II.

Melvin Roscoe Allen and **Julia Huldah Wagner** were married.

195. **William Thomas Allen** (David Richard-6, Elizabeth Talbot Wilson-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 15 Jul 1921 in Perry, Ralls Co., MO. He died on 10 Jan 2006 at the age of 84 in TX. He was buried in DFW National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

William Thomas Allen and Delphia Anna Tobias were married.

William Thomas Allen and Delphia Anna Tobias had the following child:

+275 i. **Denise Allen.**

199. **Barbara Wier** (Carroll Volumnia Wilson-6, John David-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 7 Jul 1930. She died on 3 Jul 1991 at the age of 60.

Barbara Wier and ? **von Seutter** were married.

? von Seutter and Barbara Wier had the following child:

+276 i. **Suzanne von Seutter.**

200. **Robert Kelley Brommer Jr.** (Clara Sara Wilson-6, John David-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 14 Apr 1927 in Cooper Co., MO. He died on 12 Dec 1988 at the age of 61 in Memphis, TN. He was buried in Memorial Park Cemetery, Memphis, TN.

Robert Kelley Brommer Jr. and Donna **unknown** were married.
209. **Melba Maxine Roach** (Omega Wilson-6, James Wesley-5, David-4, John-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 19 Aug 1933 in Gladewater, TX. She died on 10 Sep 1960 at the age of 27 in Bienville Par., LA.

Melba Maxine Roach and **Joel Edmon Driskill** were married.

214. **Chloris Allyne Reid** (Turner Wilson-6, David William-5, Eliza Jane Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 10 Sep 1912 in KS. She died on 5 Jan 1990 at the age of 77 in Shawnee Mission, KS. She was a stenographer.

Chloris Allyne Reid and Herman Bert Harper were married in 1941. **Herman Bert Harper** was born on 23 Jun 1911 in Maize, KS. He died on 1 May 1986 at the age of 74.

215. **Mary Helen Reid** (Turner Wilson-6, David William-5, Eliza Jane Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 18 Mar 1915 in Wellsville, Franklin Co., KS. She died on 22 Feb 1973 at the age of 57 in Kansas City, MO.

Mary Helen Reid and Clyde Leroy Foster were married on 3 Mar 1936. **Clyde Leroy Foster** was born on 29 Dec 1912 in Argentine, KS. He died on 5 Oct 1999 at the age of 86 in Kansas City, MO.

Clyde Leroy Foster and Mary Helen Reid had the following children:

1. **Dave Foster**.
3. **Susan Foster**.
4. **Carole Foster**.
5. **Cheryl Foster**.
6. **Patty Foster**.

216. **Catherine Jane Reid** (Turner Wilson-6, David William-5, Eliza Jane Wilson-4, David S.-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 6 Jan 1923. She died on 5 Dec 2007 at the age of 84 in Shawnee Mission, KS.

Catherine Jane Reid and Louis Angelo Betros were married in 1949. **Louis Angelo Betros** was born on 10 Dec 1923 in FL. He died on 20 Sep 2011 at the age of 87 in Shawnee Mission, KS.
Louis Angelo Betros and Catherine Jane Reid had the following children:

287  i. Charlie Betros.
288  ii. Phil Betros.
289  iii. Betsy Betros.

219. Olivia Calhoun McDonald (Robert Heddens-6, Robert Wilson-5, Mary Ann Wilson-4, Robert-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 11 May 1919 in St. Joseph, MO. She died on 11 Sep 1958 at the age of 39 in Kansas City, MO. She was buried in Kansas City, MO.

Olivia Calhoun McDonald and Martin Terrill George were married on 25 Aug 1942 in Independence, MO. Martin Terrill George was born on 20 Dec 1924 in MO. He died on 11 Apr 1988 at the age of 63. He was buried in Independence, MO.

228. Charles Welles (Chick) Vaughan (Sallie Jane Wilson-6, Harry Brock-5, Benjamin Harrison-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 14 Feb 1941 in IL. He died on 1 Sep 1986 at the age of 45 in Wailuku, Maui Co., HI. Chick was buried in Brookside Cemetery, Rye, CO.

From the Tri-County Obituary Project:16

Vaughan, Charles Welles
Charles “Chick” Welles Vaughan - Pueblo Chieftain - September 03, 1986 - Charles “Chick” Welles Vaughan, late of 10 Wallflower Court, passed away Sept. J [sic], 1986, on the island of Maul [sic], Hawaii. Mr. Vaughan was a member of BPOE 90 and worked for the Dixon Paper Co. for 15 years. Survivors include his wife, Bernadette Vaughan, the family home; son, Timothy Vaughan of Pueblo, Charlie Vaughan of Denver; stepdaughters, Michelle and Denise Knicklebine of Pueblo Vaughan; parents, Virgil and Sally Wilson Vaughan, a brother, Michael William (Deborah Denise) Vaughan, and an uncle, Harry Powell Wilson, all of Denver. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Adrian Comer Garden Chapel, with the Rev. O. T. Jackson officiating. Interment will be at the Brookside, Rye Cemetery. The family may be contacted at 10 Wallflower Court.

Charles Welles Vaughan and Diane Foster were married.

Charles Welles Vaughan and Diane Foster had the following children:

+298  i. Charles Welles Vaughan Jr.
299  ii. William Vaughan.

16 http://www.kmitch.com/Pueblo/obits/1v.html
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Charles Welles Vaughan and Bernadette unknown were married.

Charles Welles Vaughan and Bernadette unknown had the following child:

300  i. Timothy Wilson Vaughan.

248. Donald Everett Wilson (Leonard Everett-6, Horace Everett-5, Leonard-4, William Adair-3, William-2, Robert-1) was born on 18 Oct 1927 in Trinidad, Las Animas Co., CO. Donald died on 19 Jul 2009 at the age of 81 in Albuquerque, NM. He was buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Albuquerque, NM. He was a geologist and electronic-parts wholesaler.

Donald Wilson was born in Trinidad, CO, in 1927. He was the oldest child of three. His family moved to Clovis, NM, in late 1933 or early 1934. They moved to Lamar, CO, in 1936 and then to La Junta, CO, in 1937. He finished his schooling through high school in La Junta, graduating in 1945. World War II ended with the surrender of Japan in September 1945. However, many young men were still being drafted, and Don was drafted into the U.S. Army after he turned 18 the following month. He went into the Army Air Corps weather service and ended up being stationed at an air base in Goose Bay, Labrador. He did not serve long, though, because most draftees were required to be released from service by February of 1948 as the nation moved away from war footing. Don was discharged in January 1947, but with leave due he was home before Christmas 1946 (though he served in the National Guard until 1952). He went to La Junta Junior College, and then was able to transfer to the Colorado School of Mines (in Golden, CO) starting in the fall of 1947. After some problems in his Junior year, he took a year off from school and worked briefly for the Oklahoma Geophysical Company and then for Century Geophysical Company. It was while he was working in Oklahoma that he met his future wife, Audrey Gathright, who was working as a nurse in Elk City at the time. He went back to Mines for his Senior year after taking some make-up courses in Summer 1951. He and Audrey were married in December 1951, the day after Christmas. After he graduated from Mines with a degree in Geophysical Engineering in September 1952, he went to work for Sohio Petroleum Company in Houston, TX. Don and Audrey only lived there for six months, but their son Michael was born in Houston in 1953. In the spring of 1953, they moved to Wyoming, where Don worked on a seismic crew, exploring for oil. They moved often, living in a number of small Wyoming towns. Their daughter Catherine was born in Worland, WY, in 1956. Things settled down a little bit after Don was promoted to Staff Geophysicist in September 1956, and stationed in Casper, WY. He resigned
from Sohio in December 1958 and moved to Albuquerque, NM, to work for his father (Leonard) at Walker Radio Company, a small wholesaler of electronic parts. He quit Sohio mainly because the oil business was coming to one of its periodic busts, and he thought he would probably be laid off soon anyway. Sohio eliminated its exploration department six months later. He and Audrey lived the rest of their lives in Albuquerque. She died in June 1998 at age 68 and he died in July 2009 at age 81.

The two most notable aspects of Don’s life are probably his long time at Walker Radio Company (later renamed Walker Electronic Supply Company) and his love of working with young people (mainly boys). He worked at Walker for over 50 years, and was still working up till the time of his death. He was the main driving force at Walker for many years. In his later years, much of the day-to-day running of Walker was taken over by his daughter Cathy and her husband, Tom Bynon, but Don was still very important to the business. He was able to take it a little easier because of them, and spend a lot of his time on projects he enjoyed, such as designing custom intercom systems for customers. As for working with boys, that started while he was in college, when he worked for his room and board for three years at the Colorado Industrial School for Boys as a handicraft counselor and night watchman. In Albuquerque, he combined his love of chess with his love of working with kids, and helped form the Albuquerque Schools Chess League, which he ran for nearly 30 years. When his son Mike was old enough to go into Cub Scouts and then into Boy Scouts, Don became heavily involved with them, including becoming first a Cubmaster of Pack 189 and later a Scoutmaster of Troop 189 (both sponsored by Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church and its school, where Mike and Cathy went for grades 1–8). Don continued working with the Boy Scouts for many years, even after Mike had gone on to college. He also was active in other ways with the Church, including doing much work on its public address system over the years.

Don was always quite active. For a long time, he was heavily involved in the Albuquerque Chess Club, including running tournaments and playing regularly (his USCF rating was 1900 at its highest, and he was the Albuquerque city champion in 1963). He loved hiking and camping and did them a lot, mainly with the Boy Scout troop. For many years, he used to bicycle to work. He also enjoyed working with dogs, and got very involved in dog obedience training and competitions, and the Sandia Dog Obedience Club. His dogs were all dachshunds, which are not known for being easy to train. However, Don was quite successful at it, and one of his dogs, Coco, was a top-scoring obedience competitor.

Don always had trouble with his back and knees (going back to injuries in college), and in his later years they got bad enough that he could no longer get out and hike or bicycle. It got even worse in his last few years, when he developed neuropathy, and a loss of feeling and control in his legs made it difficult for him to walk. He became known in his neighborhood for riding around on an electric scooter—often with his dog, Shado, along on a leash. He developed adult-onset diabetes late in life. Diabetes can cause neuropathy, but Don was convinced that his severe back and neuropathy problems were caused by an incident in which he was hit by a car while he was riding his bike. He had back surgery and neck surgery to try to lessen his problems, with
Descendants of Robert Wilson

some limited success. His last back surgery led to his death after the incision in his lower back became infected.

The name on his death certificate is Donald Everett Wilson. Cause of death was staphlacoccus sepsis (presumably this should be staphylococcus). He died at Presbyterian Hospital.
The headstone of his grave says Donald E. WILSON, 1927 - 2009.

1930 census
Listed as Donald E. Wilson, age 2, born in Colorado, both parents born in Colorado. Living with his parents.

1940 census
Listed as Donald Wilson, age 12, born in Colorado. Lived in Clovis, NM, in 1935. Had completed six years of school. Living with his parents.

Donald Everett Wilson and Audrey Faye Gathright were married on 26 Dec 1951 in Elk City, Beckham Co., OK. Audrey Faye Gathright, daughter of David Elmer Gathright and Rosie Mae Kanouse, was born on 14 Feb 1930 in Washita Co., OK. She died on 10 Jun 1998 at the age of 68 in Albuquerque, NM. Audrey was buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Albuquerque, NM.

Audrey grew up on a small farm outside Dill City in western Oklahoma, where she worked hard collecting eggs, milking cows, picking cotton, and other farm chores. After graduating from high school, she worked for a time as a nurse in nearby Elk City at Community Hospital. It was then that she met Don Wilson and married him. They moved around a lot in the early years of their marriage because of his job on an oil-exploration team. They had their two children during this time. (An amazing coincidence is that, when son Michael was born in Houston, TX, the supervising nurse in the pediatric ward was the woman who had been Audrey’s supervisor at the hospital in Elk City, OK.) In late 1958 they moved to Albuquerque, NM, so that Don could work for his father in his electronics business. She lived in Albuquerque the rest of her life, until she died of ovarian cancer in 1998. She was 68 years old.

Her birth certificate says she was born in Dill City, but it also gives the residence of her parents as Dill City, which is not really correct—they lived on their farm near Dill City.

The name on her death certificate is Audrey Faye Wilson. Cause of death was ovarian carcinoma. She died at St. Joseph Hospital - Downtown. The headstone of her grave says Audrey F. WILSON, 1930 - 1998.
Donald Everett Wilson and Audrey Faye Gathright had the following children:

+336 ii. Catherine Sue Wilson.

*Cathy, Mike, Don, and Audrey Wilson*  
Thanksgiving 1956
Augusta County Details

This chapter contains details about the Augusta County, VA, period of this Wilson family history; in particular, about the land and financial difficulties of William Wilson and his family, as learned from wills [5], deeds [5], tax records [4], and two chancery-court cases [6, 7]. Note that this is not a complete listing of documents, but these are the ones that are known at this time. Summary descriptions and book/page numbers for the wills and several of the deeds were in information from Katherine Bushman that was passed on by James Hotchkiss [12]. Others were found because they were referred to in other deeds or in the papers for the court cases. Thanks to Doug Jenkins and JoAnn Pendley for pointing out the chancery-court records, and to Doug Jenkins for pointing out the tax records. Below is a timeline of Wilson family events in Augusta County, followed by a summary of the land tax records and then transcriptions of a number of Augusta County documents.

Timeline

8 Feb 1745  
Samuel Wilson 1\(^{17}\) purchases 461 acres in the Beverley Patent from George and Robert Breckenridge for £50 (Deed Book 1, pp. 12–14; a partial transcription of the deed is in the notes for William Wilson on p. 13).

28 Nov 1751  
Samuel Wilson 1 purchases 400 acres in the Borden Grant from Benjamin Borden (Deed Book 4, pp. 190–?). It is not certain, but this is thought to be the same Samuel who bought the 461 acres in 1745.

3 Jun 1755  
Samuel Wilson 1 sells the 461 acres in the Beverley Patent to Robert Wilson 1, believed to be his brother, for £55 (Deed Book 7, pp. 165–166; referred to in the 23 Jun 1817 deed and the 29 Jul 1819 deed).

7 Mar 1760  
Will of Samuel Wilson 1, leaving the 400 acres in the Borden Grant to “cuzens” Thomas and Samuel Wilson (Will Book 2, pp. 355–356). He names his brother Robert to be his executor. It is not certain, but it is thought that this is the same Samuel who sold 461 acres to Robert Wilson 1 in 1745, that his brother the executor is Robert Wilson 1, and that Thomas and Samuel 2 Wilson are sons of Robert 1. The will was proved on 19 Mar 1760.

9 Sep 1768  
Will of Robert Wilson 1, leaving 260 acres “with the houses and other Improvements” to his son David Wilson 1 and the other 200 acres to his son Robert Wilson 2 (Will Book 4, pp. 161–163; referred to in the 23 Jun 1817 deed and the 29 Jul 1819 deed; a transcription of the will is in the notes for Robert Wilson 1 on p. 6). Son William Wilson is mentioned in the will, but is

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\(^{17}\) In this timeline, numbers are added to distinguish individuals with the same name. There are two Samuel Williams included in the timeline and this is the first one, hence Samuel Wilson 1.
under-age and is only left £40 when he reaches the age of 21. The will was proved on 16 Nov 1768, so Robert died sometime between September 9 and November 16.

**Before 1782**
Robert Wilson 2 dies without issue and his 200 acres go to his brother, David Wilson 1, so now David 1 has all 461 acres (referred to in the 23 Jun 1817 deed and the 29 Jul 1819 deed). It is assumed that Robert 2 died before 1782 because by the 1782 tax book David 1 was paying taxes on the entire 461 acres (see below).

**Before 1790**
William Wilson marries Catharine Yancey, supposedly in Charleston, SC.

**28 Jan 1790**
John Wilson, son of William and Catharine Wilson, is born.

**12 Jul 1792**
David Wilson 2, son of William and Catharine Wilson, is born.

**2 Aug 1796**
Mary (Polly) Wilson, daughter of William and Catharine Wilson, is born.

**6 Nov 1800**
Robert Wilson 3, son of William and Catharine Wilson, is born.

**23 May 1803**
Nancy M. Wilson, daughter of William and Catharine Wilson, is born.

**25 Jan 1804**
Will of David Wilson 1, which specifies that his estate is to go to his brother, William Wilson (Will Book 12, p. 116; referred to in the 9 Sep 1820 complaint by Henry Haupe; also referred to in the 23 Jun 1817 deed and the 29 Jul 1819 deed; a transcription is in the notes for David Wilson 1 on p. 7; there is also a copy of the will in the papers for the Haupe court case).

**17 Dec 1807**
William Adair Wilson, son of William and Catharine Wilson, is born.

**1 Dec 1812**
John Wilson marries Priscilla McCoun in Mercer County, KY. (This date and place are not entirely certain.)

**2 Nov 1813**
David Wilson 3, son of John and Priscilla Wilson, is born in Mercer County, KY. (Once again, the date and place are not entirely certain.)

**25 Dec 1813**
David Wilson 1, with William Wilson his security, borrows $676.70 from Henry Haupe (referred to in the 9 Sep 1820 complaint by Henry Haupe; a transcription of the IOU is below).

**1814**
John Wilson serves in the Virginia Militia in the War of 1812 from 29 Aug 1814 to 10 Dec 1814. He attains the rank of orderly sergeant. David Wilson 2 also served in the war, but his dates of service are not known. According to his War of 1812 pension papers, at the time of John’s enlistment he was a merchant.

**About 1815**
John Tilford Wilson, son of John and Priscilla Wilson, is born, probably in Mercer County, KY. It is not known when Priscilla died, but it is quite possible that she died in childbirth at this time. Perhaps John moved back to Augusta County and went into business with his brother David Wilson 2 after Priscilla’s death.

**3 Aug 1815**
John and David 2 Wilson, with David Wilson 1 their security, borrow $2,740 from James Moffett, due in 15 months (referred to in the 29 Jul 1819 deed).
Descendants of Robert Wilson

About Jan 1816  David Wilson 1 dies and the 461 acres go to his brother, William Wilson, as specified in his will (Will Book 12, pp. 116–117; referred to in the 23 Jun 1817 deed and the 29 Jul 1819 deed; David’s will was proved on 22 Jan 1816—a transcription is in the notes for David Wilson 1 on p. 8).

23 Jun 1817  William Wilson and his wife Catharine sell 200 acres of his land to William Thompson for $3,000 (Deed Book 41, pp. 294–296; referred to in the 9 Sep 1820 complaint by Henry Haupe; a transcription of the deed is in the notes for William Wilson on p. 11).

24 Jun 1817  John Wilson marries Martha T. (Patsy) Woods. (It is not known if John’s children from his first marriage were living with him or with other relatives.)

5 Sep 1818  John and David 2 Wilson, with William Wilson their security, borrow $376.75 from Adam and Samuel Grove, due in 12 months (referred to in the 1 Oct 1819 deed).

19 Oct 1818  John and David 2 Wilson purchase two acres of land adjoining the town of Waynesborough, plus a house and lots in Waynesborough, from Robert Stuart and his wife (referred to in the 27 Mar 1820 deed).

16 Nov 1818  Mary (Polly) Wilson marries Samuel Grove.

11 Mar 1819  John and David 2 Wilson purchase several lots in the town of Waynesborough (including a tavern, which is not mentioned in the deed but features extensively in the Little & Telford court papers), plus five acres of land adjoining Waynesborough, from William Brown and his wife Ann for $1 (included in the papers for the Little & Telford court case; a transcription of the deed is below). Arrangements for payment are made in the 31 Mar 1819 IOUs.

30 Mar 1819  Deed of trust on the land purchased from William Brown in and adjoining Waynesborough, from John and David 2 Wilson to William Fretwell to secure payment of $3,250 to William Brown, to be paid by 27 Feb 1827 (Deed Book 43, pp. 277–278; included in the papers for the Little & Telford court case; referred to in the 19 Jan 1826 complaint by William Brown; a transcription of the deed is below).


3 Jun 1819  David Wilson 2 marries Margaret G. Kinnear in Rockbridge County.

27 Jul 1819  Henry Haupe files suit against William Wilson in county court for the $676.70 plus interest (referred to in the 9 Sep 1820 complaint by Henry Haupe).

29 Jul 1819  Deed of trust on the 260 remaining acres, from William Wilson to Samuel Clarke, to secure payment of the remainder of the 3 Aug 1815 debt of John, David 2, and David 1 Wilson to James Moffett (Deed Book 44, pp. 89–90; referred to in the 9 Sep 1820 complaint by Henry Haupe; also referred to in the 1 Oct 1819 deed; a transcription of the deed is below).
10 Aug 1819  John and David 2 Wilson, with William Wilson their security, borrow $1,120.06 from Adam and Samuel Grove, due on 1 May 1820 (referred to in the 1 Oct 1819 deed).

10 Aug 1819  Deed of trust on the 261 acres, from William Wilson to Michael Garber Jr., to secure payment of $1,666.51 due from his sons John and David 2 Wilson to Jeremiah and James Kyle of Richmond (Deed Book 44, pp. 86–88; referred to in the 9 Sep 1820 complaint by Henry Haupe; the complaint also says that the debt had been transferred to Henry J. Tapp; also referred to in the 20 Nov 1820 deed, which says that the debt had been transferred to Henry J. Tapp and John Garber; a partial transcription of the deed is below).

1 Oct 1819  Deed of trust on the 260 acres, from William Wilson and his wife Catharine, to William Clarke, to secure payment of the 5 Sep 1818 and 10 Aug 1819 debts to Adam and Samuel Grove (Deed Book 44, pp. 159–162; referred to in the 9 Sep 1820 complaint by Henry Haupe; referred to in the 28 Apr 1821 complaint by Little & Telford; a partial transcription of the deed is below).

8 Oct 1819  Deed of trust, from John and David 2 Wilson to William Clarke, to secure payment of debt to their father, William Wilson (Deed Book 44, pp. 325–328; referred to in the 28 Apr 1821 complaint by Little & Telford; referred to in the 27 Mar 1820 deed and the 25 Apr 1820 deed; a partial transcription of the deed is below).

9 Oct 1819  Deed of trust, from John Wilson and his wife Polly [sic], David Wilson 2 and his wife Margaret, and William Wilson and his wife Catherine, to Preston Trotter, to secure payment of a debt of $1,509.91 to Little and Telford by 9 Oct 1821 (included in the papers for the Little & Telford court case; referred to in the 28 Apr 1821 complaint by Little & Telford and the 19 Jan 1826 complaint by William Brown; also referred to in the 27 Mar 1820 deed and the 25 Apr 1820 deed; a transcription of the deed is below). In some places, Telford looks like Tilford, but most places in the court papers it looks more like Telford. The 8 Oct 1819 deed of trust says that Little & Telford were “of the City of Philadelphia”. The office of the Augusta County circuit clerk has said that their records do not show this deed of trust. There is a note at the end of the copy in the court papers indicating that the original was deposited for record but had never been admitted to record because it had not been fully proved. (There is a statement in the complaint by Little & Telford that the deed had not been fully proved because one of the attesters had unexpectedly moved west.) This deed of trust is secured by John’s and David 2’s land in and around Waynesborough, a house and lot in Port Republic, and William Wilson’s 261 acres, as well as most of William’s personal property, all the way down to feather beds and kitchen furniture.

27 Mar 1820  Deed of trust, from John Wilson and his wife Patsy, and David Wilson 2 and his wife Margaret, to William Clarke, to secure payment of the debts itemized in deeds of trust dated 9 Oct 1819 (to Preston Trotter for the benefit of Little & Tilford) and 8 Oct 1819 (to William Clarke for the benefit of William Wilson) (Deed Book 44, pp. 421–423; referred to in the 28 Apr 1821 complaint by
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Little & Telford; referred to in the 25 Apr 1820 deed; a partial transcription of the deed is below).

31 Mar 1820 Deed of trust, from William Wilson to William Clarke (Deed Book 45, pp. 14–16; referred to in the 28 Apr 1821 complaint by Little & Telford). This one is even harder to read than the others, so no transcription is given. It has to do with the debts to Adam & Samuel Grove and William Clarke. It mentions hogs, cattle, sheep, wheat, rye, and other property. According to the complaint of Little & Telford, it included “all the farming & plantation utensils & all other species of personal property of every description whatever belonging to said William Wilson”.

25 Apr 1820 Deed of trust, from John and David 2 Wilson, late trading under the firm of John & David Wilson, to James McNutt, sheriff, apparently giving up the property securing the deeds of trust dated 9 Oct 1819 (to Preston Trotter for the benefit of Little & Telford), 8 Oct 1819 (to William Clarke for the benefit of William Wilson), and 27 Mar 1820 (also to William Clarke) (Deed Book 45, pp. 66–68; a partial transcription of the deed is below). It looks like they are basically declaring bankruptcy and forfeiting property that was collateral on loans (though they are still listed in Augusta County land tax records until 1828; see below).

About 1820 John and Robert 3 Wilson move to Missouri. It is not known whether they went together or separately. One biography of Robert says that he moved to Missouri in the spring of 1820 [10]. John was in Augusta County at least until April 25 (see above). There is a document in the Little & Telford court papers that seems to show that a court summons was served on John on 6 Nov 1821, so it might be that he didn’t leave until after that.

30 May 1820 The sheriff returned a response on the 27 Jul 1819 suit by Henry Haupe, saying that no property was found to seize in payment of the debt, presumably because the property had multiple liens on it already (referred to in the 9 Sep 1820 complaint by Henry Haupe; a copy of this document is included in the papers for the Haupe court case but is not transcribed here).

1 Jul 1820 Deed of trust, to William Clarke for the benefit of Samuel Grove (referred to in the 28 Apr 1821 complaint by Little & Telford).

9 Sep 1820 Henry Haupe files suit against William Wilson in chancery court for the $676.70 plus interest, saying that the 260 acres are liable for the payment of his claim, the other liens notwithstanding (a transcription is below).

20 Nov 1820 Michael Garber Jr. sells the 261 acres to Henry J. Tapp and John Garber for $1,600, they being the highest bidders at a foreclosure auction. The deed states that Michael Garber Jr. had deed to the land (dated 10 Aug 1819) from William Wilson to secure a payment to Jeremiah and James Kyle, and that the benefit of the deed had been transferred to Henry J. Tapp and John Garber (Deed Book 45, pp. 385–387; a transcription of the deed is below).

22/24 Nov 1820 Statements from Adam and Samuel Grove, asking to be dismissed as defendants in the action by Henry Haupe because they never really expected to
get anything from the deed of trust since they knew about the prior liens (a copy of this document is included in the papers for the Haupe court case but is not transcribed here).

1820
Eliza Jane Wilson, daughter of David 2 and Margaret Wilson, is born.

28 Apr 1821
Little & Telford file suit against John, David 2, and William Wilson in chancery court for the $1,509.91 (a transcription is below). In their complaint, they list all the property that was included as security in the 9 Oct 1819 deed of trust, and note that much of it is also security in other deeds of trust. In particular, they note that the 261 acres has already been sold under prior incumbrances. They also note that the personal property of John and David 2 securing the 8 Oct 1819 deed of trust has already been sold by William Clarke. At the end is a statement that David Wilson 2 lives in Lynchburg. William Brown (from whom John and David 2 bought much of their Waynesborough property) is later added as a defendant along with the Wilsons, since he claims to have prior right to income from the property.

14 Jul 1821
The papers of the Haupe court case show a balance due to Henry Haupe (including interest and court costs) of $1,028.56¾ as of this date (a transcription of this document is below). It is unclear whether this was the date that William Wilson actually settled accounts with Haupe, or if this was just an exercise showing the balance as of this date. The court decree of August 1821 would seem to imply the latter interpretation.

Aug 1821
Court decree, saying that William Wilson is to pay Henry Haupe his $676.70 plus interest and court costs by September 1st or the land would be sold at auction to pay it (a transcription is below). This is puzzling, given that the deed of 20 Nov 1820 seems to document that an auction of the land had already occurred.

1 Sep 1821
Some of William Wilson’s personal property is sold by William Clarke for $200 (shown in papers for the Little & Telford case).

17 Sep 1821
More of William Wilson’s personal property is sold by William Clarke for $109.50 (shown in papers for the Little & Telford case).

About 1821
John Henry Grove, son of Samuel and Polly Grove, is born.

28 Mar 1822
The amount of $294.87 is paid by William Clarke to Preston Trotter, agent for Little & Telford (money from the sale of William Wilson’s personal property, less expenses; shown in papers for the Little & Telford case).

14 Nov 1822
John K. Moore buys the 261 acres from Henry J. Tapp and John Garber for $1 (Deed Book 47, pp. 72–73). The $1 was clearly a formality, and the actual payment was in some other form. Perhaps with the conclusion of the Haupe court case, the land was now resolved to belong to Tapp & Garber, so they could sell it to Moore. The deed states that Moore is already living on the land.

About 1823
William I. Grove, son of Samuel and Polly Grove, is born.

15 Sep 1824
Nancy M. Wilson marries Lewis Loop. Lewis and Nancy move to Ohio sometime in the next few years (just when is not known).
Descendants of Robert Wilson

About 1825  William Wilson moves to Missouri, along with wife Catharine and youngest son William Adair Wilson. Samuel and Polly Grove and their two young children also move to Missouri about the same time, but it is not known if they went with William or separately.

17 Jun 1825  John W. Wilson, son of David 2 and Margaret Wilson, is born in Lynchburg, Campbell County.

19 Jan 1826  William Brown files a cross suit against Little & Telford and the Wilsons in chancery court (a transcription is below). In his complaint, he states that shortly after he sold the land to them the Wilsons became insolvent and abandoned the property and they have not made any of the payments. He states that real property values have greatly depreciated and the land could not now bring much more than half the amount owed if it were sold. Because of that, the main point to the suit seems to be that he should get the rent money that has and will be collected, rather than Little & Telford getting it. The suits drag on till 1832, but the Wilsons don’t really seem to have any further involvement. (The chancery court initially ruled in favor of Brown, but was later overruled by an appeals court in favor of Little & Telford.)

4 Mar 1829  Robert H. Wilson, son of David 2 and Margaret Wilson, is born in Rockbridge County.

1830  David Wilson 2 moves to Missouri, along with wife Margaret and their three (or possibly four) young children.

Land Tax Records

Additional information can be obtained from Augusta County land tax records [4]. The relevant information is summarized here.

The tax records that are available start in 1782. From that time through 1815, David Wilson or Willson (David Wilson 1 in the timeline) is listed as paying tax on 461 acres of land. When there is a description, it is said to be on the South River (abbreviated in various ways). In later records, there is also a field for the distance and direction from the county court house. In 1815 David’s land was listed as being 13 miles west (and it was usually listed that way later for William as well). This seems odd because the courthouse was at Staunton and this land was not 13 miles west of there. It was more like southwest or south-southwest of Staunton; maybe saying west was just some sort of shorthand.

William Willson (consistently spelled with double-l in these records) started paying taxes on the 461 acres at the head of the South River in 1816. In 1818, the amount of land being taxed went down to 261 acres and William Thompson (cooper) started paying taxes on the other 200 acres. In 1820, the amount of land being taxed mysteriously increased to 269 acres; no idea why. William was not listed in the 1822 tax list, which is consistent with the land having been sold. The 261/269-acre tract does not seem to be listed under anyone else in 1822, either, though.
Then, in 1823, William Willson was again listed for 269 acres at the head of the South River! There is a note with this 1823 listing, which says “Deed [?] Jno. K. Moore; lives on the land and will pay the Tax” (punctuation added). Then, starting in 1824, John K. Moore (looks like K. John Moore in the tax books) was paying taxes on 261 acres at the head of the South River (back down from 269 acres to 261; why?). As seen above in the timeline, John K. Moore bought the land in November 1822. For some reason, the tax officials still had the land under William’s name in 1823, but Moore was already living there and paid the tax. Perhaps no one paid tax on the land in 1822 because the title was unclear. It is not known where William lived after losing his land until moving to Missouri, probably in 1825.

It is perhaps worth noting that there were six William Wilsons in the Augusta County land tax books during this time period. With occasional exceptions, the others were listed as Rev. William Wilson, Maj. William Willson, William Willson Esq., Capt. William Willson (noted once to be a son of the major), and William Wilson who was a resident of Rockbridge County. In addition to these designations, the different Williams can be distinguished by their amount of land and its location. Starting in 1818, our William was listed as William Willson Sr.

John & David Willson (David Wilson 2 in the timeline) are listed in the tax books for two tracts near Waynesborough (5 acres and 2 acres) from 1820 to 1828, as well as some lots in the town of Waynesborough. The distance and direction of the two tracts were typically listed as being 12 miles east; the direction of Waynesboro (that’s how it is spelled now) from Staunton is more like southeast than east. The listing for 1820 is ambiguous, but looks like six town lots. Four town lots are listed for John & David in 1821, three town lots from 1822 to 1827, and two town lots in 1828. The papers for the Little & Telford court case [7] show that the court appointed a commissioner to oversee John’s and David’s property starting in 1821. The commissioner rented out the tavern on their property and either he would pay taxes out of the rent money or the tenant would pay the taxes (taxes on the 5-acre and 2-acre tracts are never explicitly mentioned in the court papers). Presumably, the remaining property finally reverted to its previous owners or was sold at auction in 1827. Note that John probably moved to Missouri in 1820 or 1821, but David 2 remained in Virginia until 1830.

Transcriptions

The court cases pull a lot of this together, so some of the documents for them will be presented first. The cases are Haupe v. Wilson and others [6] and Little & Telford v. Wilson and others plus Brown v. Little & Telford and others [7], all from the Augusta County chancery court. After the court documents are transcriptions or partial transcriptions of several Augusta County deeds. In most cases, copies of the deeds were obtained from the office of the Augusta County circuit clerk [5]. A few were obtained from the Augusta County Genealogical Society [8] or in the papers of the court cases. In some cases punctuation is added to try to make the transcriptions more readable. Many of the deeds are very hard to read, in part because of the handwriting and in part because the copy quality is often not very good. Even where the words
Descendants of Robert Wilson

are readable, the legal terminology is often hard to understand. Better understanding of early nineteenth century legal terminology would probably aid in deciphering the words as well.

First, the bill of Henry Haupe, filed 9 Sep 1820:

To the honourable John Brown, Judge of the Superior Court of Chancery holden at Staunton.

The bill of Henry Haupe respectfully represents that on the 25th Day of December 1813, David Wilson, with William Wilson his security, executed their obligation to your orator for the sum of Six hundred & Seventy Six dollars & Seventy Cents, payable on demand with Interest from the date thereof till paid, that the said David Wilson afterwards departed this life, having made and published his last will and testament bearing date the 26th day of January 1804, whereby he devised (after the payment of all his Just debts & funeral expenses) all his estate, real & personal, to his brother, the said William Wilson, and appointed him his sole Executor. On the obligation aforesaid, your orator instituted a suit in the County Court of Augusta on the 27th July 1819 against the said William Wilson as the surviving obligor, and prosecuted the same to a Judgment, on which a Fi. fa.18 issued, and a return thereon by the sheriff, “of no property found”, all which will appear by a Copy of the obligation aforesaid, and an extract of the Execution aforesaid & action thereon marked A, and a copy of the said will marked B, which exhibits are herewith filed and prayed to be taken as parts of this bill. Your orator farther represents, that the said William Wilson became possessed under the devise aforesaid of a large and valuable tract of land in the County of Augusta, containing by estimation Four hundred & Sixty acres, that on the 23rd day of June 1817 he sold and conveyed Two hundred acres part thereof to a certain William Thompson, leaving two hundred Sixty acres, which is now in his possession. That on the 29th day of July 1819 he, the said William Wilson, executed a deed of trust to Sam’l Clarke conveying to him the said Two hundred & Sixty acres to secure the payment of a debt to James Moffett of the said County. On the 10th day of August following, he executed another deed of trust to Michael Garber Junr. to secure the payment of a sum of money due from his sons John & David, to Jeremiah & James Kyle of Richmond, which, as your orator is informed, has been transferred to Henry J. Tapp, and on the 1st of October 1819 he executed another deed of Trust to William Clarke on the same land, to secure the payment of a debt due from his said sons to Adam & Samuel Grove.

Your orator is advised that under the circumstances of his case, the said two hundred & Sixty acres of land is liable for the payment of his claim aforesaid, the liens aforesaid notwithstanding, and being without relief in the premises [?] except by the interposition of a Court of equity, where such matters are cognizable, he prays that the said William Wilson, James Moffett, Henry J. Tapp, and Adam & Samuel Grove may be made Defendants to this bill, that they may be severally compelled to answer the same on oath, as fully as if again repeated [?] & interrogated, and that your honour may decree a sale of the said land or so much thereof as may be necessary to satisfy his claim aforesaid, and grant to your orator such other & farther [?] relief as is consistent with equity and the nature of his case, and your orator &c.

Sam’l Clarke P.Q. [?]  

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18 Fi. Fa. stands for Fieri Facias, a court order commanding the sheriff to collect a judgment by either getting the money or selling sufficient property of the person(s) named in the Fi. Fa.
There was an answer from Adam and Samuel Grove, which will not be transcribed here, asking to be dismissed as defendants because they never really expected to get anything from the deed of trust since they knew about the prior liens. Note that Samuel Grove was William Wilson’s son-in-law, having married William’s daughter Mary on 16 Nov 1818. Also note that the three prior liens that Haupe listed are not the only ones, as Little & Telford also had a lien on William’s land (dated 9 Oct 1819; see below). Perhaps Haupe’s lawyer overlooked that deed of trust because it had not been entered in the deed books. The complaint of Little & Telford and the deed of trust of 8 Oct 1819 (see below) also mention Philip Dold and Robert Johnson & son as having liens against William Wilson, but those might not be against the 260 acres.

Copy of the obligation, from 25 Dec 1813:

On demand, we or either of us promise to pay or cause to be paid unto Henry Haupe or assigns the just and full sum of Six Hundred and Seventy Six Dollars and Seventy Cents of lawfull Virginia Currency for value received in Cash lent, bearing Interest from the date hereof. And for the true performance of which we or either of us do bind ourselves, our heirs, Exrs., &c. jointly and severally by these presents. In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this 25th day of December 1813.

Teste

David Willson   (Seal)
Jacob Cridor    (?)
Wm Willson     (Seal)
Thomas Doak

Next, the court decree, from August 1821. As noted above, the part about auctioning the land if the amount due was not paid by September 1 is confusing since there appears to have already been an auction of the land before this (see documents below).

This cause came on this    day of August 1821 to be heard - the Bill, answers of the Defts. Adam & Samuel Grove, Conditional Decrees (which had been duly executed) against the Defts. Wilson, Moffett, & Tapp, exhibits, and was argued by Counsel; Whereupon the sd. Defts. Wilson, Moffett, & Tapp, as to whom the Plfts. Bill has been heretofore taken (?) as confessed, having failed to show cause to the contrary, It is adjudged, ordered, & decreed, that the Deft. Wilson do pay to the Plft. the sum of $676.70 with Int. thereon at the rate of 6 pr. cent. pr. ann. from the 25th day of Decr. 1813 until paid, & the further sum of $9.67 (the costs of his Judgment at law) & his costs by him about his suit in this behalf expended. ... or failure to pay the same on or before the 1st day of September next, It is further adjudged, ordered, & decreed, that the Marshal of this Court, having first advertised the time & place of sale for at least four Weeks in some newspaper published in the Town of Staunton, do proceed to sell, at public auction, for ready money, so much of the Tract of land in the Bill mentioned (estimated at 260 acres) as will be sufficient to discharge the Debt, Interest, & Costs aforesaid, together with the charges of such sale; And out of the monies arising therefrom, after defraying the costs of sale, to pay unto the Plft. the sum herein decreed to him, with Interest & costs as aforesaid; and it is farther ordered that the said Marshal make report of his proceedings herein (?) to this Court.

Next, an accounting page. The timing is confusing here as well. It looks like this is the final accounting, implying that the debt was paid off on 14 Jul 1821. However, since that is earlier
than the date on the decree above, perhaps this is just showing the balance as of that date, and not the final accounting:

Henry Haupe

vs.

William Wilson, Surviving obligor of David Wilson & Wilson

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debt</td>
<td>$676.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intst. from the 25th Decr. 1813 till pd. 14th July 1821</td>
<td>306.65 ¾</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of Suit at Law</td>
<td>$9.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ditto of &quot; in Chancery to this date</td>
<td>35.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: $1028.56 ¾

The bill of Little & Telford, filed 28 Apr 1821:

To the Honourable John Brown, Judge of the Staunton Chancery District Court, humbly complaining shew unto your Honour,

Your Orators, Little & Telford,

That John, David & William Wilson, of Augusta county being indebted to your Orators in the sum of fifteen hundred & nine dollars & ninety one cents, in order to secure the payment thereof – on the 9th day of October, in the year 1819, the said Wilsons executed a deed of trust by which they conveyed to Preston Trotter as trustee the following property, to wit, lots No. 26, 13, & part of lot No. 14, lot No. 12, & an out lot of five acres, all in the town of Waynsborough [sic], & purchased by said John & David of William Brown – also the house & lots in said town, which said John & David purchased of Robert Stuart – also a house & lot in the town of Port Republic which the said John & David purchased of William B. Coalter – The said deed also conveyed a tract of land containing 261 acres in Augusta county, & the following personal property, to wit, one waggon, four horses & gear, six feather beds & furniture & all other kinds & descriptions of household & kitchen furniture in the house of the said Wm Wilson.

The said deed was signed, sealed, & delivered by the said John, David & Wm Wilson & the said Preston Trotter, on the day it bears date, & attested by A. M. Fackler & James M. Beard as to all the parties; by James Crawford as to the said David & William; & by Henry Hartman & David L. McIntosh as to the said John. Within a few days after its date, it was acknowledged by the said Preston Trotter & proved by the said James M. Beard, James Crawford & Henry Hartman in the clerk’s office of Augusta county, & there left, where it has remained ever since. The said deed has never been fully proved. Your Orators, who reside out of the Commonwealth were unable to attend to the business themselves, & the trustee was prevented from procuring full proof by the sudden & unexpected removal of the said A. M. Fackler to the western country. A copy of said deed is herewith exhibited as part of this bill.

The said 261 acres of land has been sold under prior incumbrances – so that your Orators cannot resort to that fund.
As to the remaining fund, your Orators are advised that although the formalities of the law have not been truly pursued with regard to the probate of said deed, yet that the same is good between the parties & as to all others having notice thereof.

A certain Samuel Grove sets up a claim to a lien on the aforesaid personal property, under a deed of trust executed by said William Wilson to William Clarke, on the 31st March, 1820, to secure a debt to the said Samuel. That deed conveys 13 head of cattle, 26 head of hogs, 27 head of sheep, & the increase, if any, of said cattle, hogs & sheep, 70 bushels wheat, 40 bushels of rye, all the farming & plantation utensils & all other species of personal property of every description whatever belonging to said William Wilson, or in which he had any interest

Your Orators are advised that the sweeping conveyance in the last mentioned deed of all other species of personal property is void for uncertainty. They charge moreover that it never was the intention of the parties to include the said waggon & team & furniture. The whole of this property was then in the possession of said Wm Wilson, & surely would have been particularly mentioned had the parties intended that it should be embraced in the deed. The fact is that they will know the same had already been conveyed by the aforesaid deed of trust for the benefit of your Orators, & it was not until very lately that the said Wm Clarke, trustee for said Grove conceived the idea of setting up a claim on said waggon &c

A sale under said deed of the 31st March 1820 & also under another deed to said Clarke for the benefit of said Grove dated the 1st July, 1820, was advertised by said Clarke for the 24th March last (1821). The deed last mentioned embraced only the crops on the farm. It will be seen from the advertisement, which is herewith exhibited as part of this bill [this advertisement is not included in the papers obtained from the Library of Virginia, by the way], that the property first advertised was all the stock of cattle, hogs & sheep, the crops of corn, wheat, rye, oats & hay, & all the other personal property in said Wilson’s possession or to which he had any title, except such of his property as he had incumbrances previous to the date of said deed. It will also be seen from said advertisement, that the time originally fixed for the sale was postponed until the 14th April, & the trustee advertises that in addition to the property first advertised, he will sell one waggon, four horses & gear, six feather beds & furniture, & all other kinds & descriptions of household & kitchen furniture in the house of the said Wm Wilson, pursuing precisely the language of the aforesaid deed of trust for the benefit of your Orators. It was after the first advertisement that said Clarke conceived the project of subjecting the property mentioned in his supplemental advertisement to sale for payment of said Grove’s debt –

Your Orators expressly charge that the said Grove & Clarke well knew at the time the deed of the 31st March was executed, & always knew from the date of your Orators’ deed of trust that the personal property aforesaid was conveyed by the deed of trust last mentioned. It is impossible to believe that such was not the fact. On the 1st Oct 1819, the said Wm Wilson executed a deed of trust to the said William Clarke, to secure the aforesaid debt to said Grove, & conveying for that purpose the 261 acres of land mentioned in your Orator’s deed of trust. A few days afterwards, & the day before the date of your Orators’ deed, to wit, on the 8th Oct. 1819, the said John & David Wilson executed a deed of trust, conveying to said Wm Clarke, various articles of personal property, to indemnify the said Wm Wilson for having become security for the said John & David in several debts, & amongst them the aforesaid debt due your orators. On the 27th March 1820, four days before the date of the deed under which the aforesaid claim is set up by said Grove, the said Wm Wilson executed a deed of trust, to said Wm Clarke, which recites that the said John & David & said
Descendants of Robert Wilson

William Wilson had by deed of trust dated the 9th Oct 1819 conveyed to Preston Trotter in trust for Little & Telford (your Orators) certain real estate, the property of said John & David, & that the said John & David by their deed of the 8th Oct 1819 had conveyed to Wm Clarke for the benefit of the said Wm Wilson certain personal property – the deed then, for the purpose of securing said Wm Wilson on account of his securityships for said John & David, conveys the property mentioned in said recited deeds, besides other property.

After the said Clarke had advertised the waggon team &c your Orators’ attorney spoke to him on the subject, & informed him that they intended prosecuting their aforesaid right. It was then agreed between your Orator’s attorney & said Clarke, that the said Clarke might proceed to sell the property, & that he should hold the proceeds thereof in his hands until the controversy should be settled. The said Clarke has since informed your Orators’ attorney that he did not sell the property, as he was apprehensive from the small number of persons present on the appointed day that it would be sacrificed – but that he intends proceeding to sell shortly.

Under the said deed of trust of the 8th Oct. 1819, executed by the said John & David Wilson to the said Wm Clarke, to indemnify the said Wm Wilson on account of his securityships for said John & David Wilson, the said Clarke has proceeded to sell the property thereby conveyed, & still holds the proceeds in his hands. The creditors to whom sd. Wm Wilson was so bound as security were your Orators, James Moffet, Adam & Samuel Grove, Philip Dold, J. & J. Kyle, & Robert Johnson & son. Of these the debt due the said Moffet has been paid – also the greater part of the debt due the said Dold, who has departed this life leaving Dold his executor – Some of said creditors claim that the proceeds of said sale shall be applied to the discharge of the debts due them. The ground of their claim your Orators understand to be that the creditors ought in a court of equity to be permitted to stand in the shoes of the said Wm Wilson. If this claim should be sustained, then your Orators will be equally entitled to the benefit of it, with the other creditors aforesaid –

The said deed of the 27th March 1820, executed by said John & David Wilson to Wm Clarke for the indemnification of said Wm Wilson conveyed as already stated the real estate belonging to said John & David Wilson mentioned in the aforesaid deed of trust for the benefit of you Orators, & the personal property of the said John & David Wilson mentioned in the said deed of the 8th Oct. 1819 – it also conveyed five acres of land adjoining the upper end of Waynsborough purchased by said John & David Wilson from Wm Brown – & two acres adjoining the said town or the alley thereof conveyed to said John & David Wilson by Robert Stuart.

The only object of your Orators being to assert their just right, & wishing to avoid all further litigation than is necessary for that purpose, their attorney has agreed with the said Wm Clarke attorney & trustee for the said Samuel Grove, & with Wm Kinney the attorney for several of the aforesaid creditors, that for the present your Orators will file this bill against the said John & David & Wm Wilson only – but that the said Grove & Clarke & the said creditors may come forward within a reasonable time, if they choose to set up their claims, & file their answers to this bill, whereupon they shall be considered & treated as defendants in this cause –

In tender consideration of the premises, & that your Orators are without relief except in a court of equity, your Orators pray that the said John Wilson, David Wilson, & Wm Wilson may be made defendants to this bill, & compelled to answer the same on oath; that the lots convey[ed] by the aforesaid deed for the benefit of your Orator[s] be sold, & the proceeds applied to the pay[ment] of the debt due them as aforesaid – that the said waggon, horses, gear, beds & [other] furniture, may also be sold, if
The bill of William Brown, filed 19 Jan 1826:

To the Honorable John Brown, Judge of the Superior court of Chancery holden at Staunton –

Humbly complaining sheweth unto your honor, your orator William Brown, by leave of the court first had & obtained [?] –

That John & David Wilson on or about the 30th day of March 1819, purchased of your orator certain real property in & adjoining the town of Waynesborough, to wit, Lot No 26, Lot No 13, Lot No 12 & one out lot supposed to contain five acres, at the price of $ . That at the time of the sale aforesaid the said Wilsons paid to your orator the cash payment and on receiving a conveyance for the property, they executed to your orator eight several single bills, for the deferred payments of the purchase money, to wit, Five hundred dollars, to be paid “in bonds, due & assigned by said Wilsons” (as was the contract) on or before the 25th day of February, in each of the years 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825 & 1826, and two hundred and fifty dollars, to be paid in like manner, on or before the 25th day of February 1827. [Note that these amounts would add up to $3750. The papers for this case do not contain a copy of a bill for the year 1821. If that is subtracted, the amounts would sum to $3250.] Which single bills except the first (which fell due on the 25th Feby 1821 [1820?]) are now in the possession of Henry J. Tapp, of Staunton, and will be exhibited if required by the court. The other having been assigned & sued on as is hereafter stated, is filed in the office of the county court of Augusta, a copy of which will also be exhibited if required by the court. The said Wilsons at the same time executed to a certain William Fretwell, as trustee, a deed of trust on the property so purchased by them of your orator, to secure the payment of the said single bills – which deed having been duly acknowledged & recorded in the county court of Augusta, is herewith exhibited as a part of this bill marked A.A.

Some time after the purchase and execution of the single bills & deed of trust aforesaid, Messers Little & Tilford of filed their bill in this honorable court setting forth amongst other things that the said John & David & a certain William Wilson being indebted to them in the sum of $1509.91cts, in order to secure the payment thereof – on the 9th day of October 1819, the said Wilsons executed a deed of trust, by which they conveyed to Preston Trotter as trustee certain property (including the property sold by your orator to the said Jno & David Wilson as aforesaid & which they had conveyed to the said Fretwell, as trustee, to secure to your orator the deferred instalments of the purchase money as aforesaid) and praying among other things that your honor would decree a sale of the property so conveyed to said Trotter for their benefit, and that the proceeds of such sale might be applied to the payment of the debt due them. a transcript of the bill & exhibition, which suit he prays may be taken as part of this bill.

The said John, David & William Wilson were the only defendants made to the bill aforesaid, and they having failed to answer the same after having been served with a decree nisi, 19 this honorable

19 A decree nisi is a court order that does not have any force unless a particular condition is met.
court having made several orders appointing com’r to rent out the property (the said Wilsons having abandoned the possession thereof) on the day of June 1825, by a decree of that date directed the commissioner theretofore appointed to proceed & collect the rents then due & the rents thereafter to fall due & pay the same over to the plffs in part satisfaction of their debt –

Your orator states that all the rents (or nearly all) embraced by the decree aforesaid are derived from the property sold by your orator to said Wilsons. That shortly after the said sale, the said Wilsons became entirely insolvent & abandoned the property, and your orator has not been able to recover any part of the purchase money intended to have been secured where [?] by the single bills & deed of trust aforesaid – and as a proof of this it will be seen by the certificate herewith marked B.B. that your orator assigned the single bill for the first deferred instalment which fell due on the 25th Feby 1821 [1820?], to a certain William Trotter but the obligor having failed before the same became due, the said Trotter instituted suit against this respondent as the assignor to recover the amount thereof on his assignment, and that suit is now depending in the court of Augusta county.

It will be seen by the single bills aforesaid and the trust deed to secure their payment that the principal sum thereby secured saying nothing of the interest which has already & will hereafter accrue thereon amount to the sum of $3250.

Your orator not being at liberty by the terms of the trust deed aforesaid to cause a sale of the trust property before the last instalment becomes due, which will be on the 25 Feby 1827 – the said Wilsons having failed to pay any of the single bills aforesaid – and thereby suffered the interest to accumulate & thus adding to the debt already too large, – and real property of every description having greatly depreciated in value, the security cannot now be considered as any thing like adequate to the payment of his debt – indeed be believes that if sold now it would not bring much more than one half that sum.

Your orator is advised that under these circumstances a court of equity will decree to him the rents & profits of the Trust property towards satisfying his debt & interest against the claim of other subsequent trust creditors, not only on the ground that your orators claim is for the purchase money of the trust property, of which the said Little & Tilford had notice, but on the ground that the trust under which he claims is prior, & the legal title to the property having been vested in the said Fretwell, as trustee, – the trustee in the second deed could take nothing but the equitable claim of the said Wilsons – the equity of redemption.

Your orator was not apprised of the existence of the said Little & Tilfords suit aforesaid (not having been made a party thereto as he is advised he ought to have been) until a short time since – he knew that the property was rented by authority from this honorable court, but was under the impression (having been so informed) that the money arising therefrom would be retained until his deed of trust could be acted upon & that there was no suit depending for the purpose of selling the rights of creditors to the rents & profits of the property. It is possible therefore that under the decree aforesaid a portion of the rents & profits have been paid over by the commissioner to the said Little & Tilford – if so, your orator is advised that your honor will also decree them to refund to your orator so much as they have received, to be applied toward satisfying his claim.

In tender consideration therefore, your orator prays that the said Little & Tilford, John Wilson, David Wilson & William Wilson may be made defendants to this bill & compelled to
answer the same on oath. That the decree entered by your honor on the 25th of June 1825 may be finally rescinded – that the said Little & Tilford may be compelled to refund any portion of the rents & profits of the property aforesaid which they may have received with interest. – that the whole of the said rents & profits may be sequestered, & decreed to your orator in part satisfaction of his debt & interest aforesaid – and that your honor will grant such other & further relief as shall seem just &c.

Now, on to various deeds of interest. First, the sale of land from William Brown and his wife Ann to John and David 2 Wilson, 11 Mar 1819 (included in the papers for the Little & Telford court case):

This Indenture made this 11th day of March in the year Eighteen hundred nineteen between William Brown and Ann his wife of the one part and John & David Willson of the other part all of the County of Augusta Witnesseth that the said William Brown and Ann his wife have bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said John & David Willson for and in consideration of the sum of one Dollar to them in hand paid by the sd John & David Willson the following lots of land situate in the town of Waynesborough in the County of Augusta to wit one lot No 26 one lot No 13 and so much of No 14 as the house of No 13 stands on One lot No 12 one out lot supposed to contain five acres be the same more or less it being one of the out lots purchased by James Hays of David Young To have and to hold the said lots of land with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto in any wise belonging unto the said John & David Willson their heirs & assigns and to their proper use and behoof and the said William Brown & Ann wife for themselves their heirs Executors & administrators do hereby covenant to and with the said John & David Willson their heirs and assigns that the said William & Ann their heirs Executors & administrators the said lot s of land aforesaid with their appurtenances unto the said John & David Willson their heirs & assigns against the claim or claims of them the said William & Ann & their heirs and of all and other every person or persons whatsoever shall & will warrant and defend forever. In testimony whereof they have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written [signatures, etc. follow]

Deed of Trust from John and David 2 Wilson to William Fretwell, 30 Mar 1819 (included in the papers for the Little & Telford court case; noted to be a copy of a deed in Deed Book 43, p. 277):

This Indenture made this 30th day of March one thousand Eight Hundred & Nineteen between J & D Wilson of the 1st part William Fretwell of the 2nd part & Wm Brown of the 3rd part – Whereas the sd J & D Wilson are justly indebted to the sd Wm Brown in the sum of three thousand two Hundred & fifty Dollars to be paid (as p' bonds) by the 25th day of Feby one thousand Eight Hundred & Twenty seven which debt the sd J & D Wilson is willing & desirus to secure to the sd Wm Brown – Now this indenture witnesseth that for and in consideration of one Dollar to the sd J & D Wilson in hand paid by the sd William Fretwell at & before the sealing & delivery of these presents the recp' whereof is hereby acknowledged they the sd J & D Wilson have given granted bargained & sold & by these presents do give grant bargain & sell & confirm to the sd William Fretwell his heirs or assigns forever all the following real property lying & being in the Town of Waynesborough in the County of Augusta & State of Virginia Viz one lott No 26 One lott No 13 & one lott No 12 & one out lott suppos'd to contain five Acres being the lotts bot by James Hayes of David Young, to have & to hold the sd lotts of Land with all and singular the appurtenances thereto belonging unto the sd William Fretwell his Heirs & assigns forever: & the sd J & D Wilson for themselves their Heirs Ex'tors &
administrators, do hereby covenant & agree to & with the s'd William Fretwell his Heirs &c forever against all person whatsoever shall & will warrant & defend by these presents; upon Trust nevertheless that the s'd William Fretwell his Heirs & assigns &c shall permit the s'd J & D Wilson to Remain in quiet & peaceable possession of the aforesaid lots of Land & appurtenances thereto belonging & take the profits arising from the same to their own use & benefit until default be made in the payment of the s'd Sum of three thousand Two Hundred & fifty Dollars & thereupon this further Trust, that he the s'd William Fretwell His Heirs, assigns &c, shall & will so soon after the happening of such default in the year aforesaid or as soon thereafter as he the s'd Wm Fretwell may think proper or as soon thereafter as the s'd Wm Brown may direct as [?] shall proceed to sell the above nam'd lots of Land with their appurtenances or such part thereof as the trustee or his representative hereby authoris'd, to act [?] as he shall think sufficient to defray expences of sale & am'l of such default of payment &c to the Highest bidder for Cash at publick Auction for the aforesaid primeses, after having given forty days previous notice in some publick newspaper publish'd in the Town of Staunton Augusta V'a & on the door of some publick House in the Town of Waynesborough & in person or by writing give s'd J & D Wilson notice of the sale – and out of the monies arising from such sale shall after satisfying the charges thereof all other expences attending the primese pay to the s'd Wm Brown His Heirs Ex's adm'rs or assigns, the am'l of such default or as much thereof as shall be rais'd by s'd sale with Interest thereon of all sums due according to dates of the notes then remaining unpaid & the Balance if any, shall pay to s'd J & D Wilson their Heirs Ex's or administrators &c. But if the whole of the above mention'd three thousand Two Hundred & fifty Dollars shall be fully paid off to the said Wm Brown his Heirs Ex's administrators or assigns on or before the 25th Day of Feby 1827 so that no default of payment of the s'd sum of three thousand Two Hundred & fifty Dollars as specified in the Bonds given by the s'd J & D Wilson to s'd Wm Brown bearing this date then this Indenture shall be null & void or else to remain in full force, Given under our hands & seals this 30th of March 1819 [signatures, etc. follow]

Deed of Trust from William Wilson to Samuel Clarke, 29 Jul 1819 (Augusta County Deed Book 44, pp. 89–90):

This Indenture made on the 29th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred & nineteen, between William Wilson of the County of Augusta & State of Virginia of the one part and Samuel Clarke of the Town of Staunton and State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth that whereas John Wilson & David Wilson Jr. with David Wilson Senr. did on the 3rd day of August, 1815, execute their note under their Seals, thereby binding themselves, or either of them to pay unto James Moffet fifteen months after the date thereof the sum of Two thousand seven hundred & forty dollars with Int, from the 5th day of November next ensuing the date of the said note on which said note [?] the Sum of fifteen hundred dollars has been paid as per and an amount thereon the 7th day of May 1817, and whereas the said David Wilson Senr. hath departed this life first having made and published his last Will and Testament bearing date the 25th day of January 1804, whereby after directing all his Just debts, to be paid, he divided [?] the whole of his Estate both real & personal to the above named William Wilson who he also made his Excr [? abbreviation for Executor, but I'm not sure exactly what the letters are] and who in his character of Excr, as well as devisee is liable for the said debt and which said debt, he the said William Wilson honestly desires to secure and pay to the said James Moffet his heirs or assigns on or before the 29th day of July, 1820, with the accruing interest –. Now therefore this Indenture Witnesseth that the said William Wilson for and in consideration of the promises and for and in the further consideration of one dollar to him in hand paid by the said Samuel Clarke the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath granted bargained
and sold and by these presents doth grant bargain and sell unto the said Samuel Clarke his heirs and assigns a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the said County of Augusta on the head waters of the South River, containing by estimation, Two hundred and Sixty acres, be the same more or less, being the same land now in the occupancy of the said William Wilson and the residue of the same tract of land conveyed by Samuel Wilson to Robert Wilson by deed bearing date the 2nd day of June 1755, and devised by the said Robert Wilson to his Sons David Wilson and Robert Wilson by his last Will and Testament dated the 9th day of Sept 1768 part whereof to wit [?] – that devised to Robert … fell to the said David by the death of the said Robert without issue, he the said David being his heir at Law, whereby the said David became possessed of the legal title to the whole tract devised by Robert Wilson as aforesaid, and which was afterwards devised by the said David Wilson to the said William Wilson as aforesaid by the residue [?] of the said tract is to be understood all the land which is embraced [?] by the aforesaid conveyance & wills, except two hundred acres sold and conveyed by the said William Wilson & wife to William Thompson all which conveyances and wills are duly admitted to record in the County Court office of Augusta together with all and singular [?] the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining – Two [sic] have and to hold the said Two hundred & sixty acres of land with its appurtenances unto the said Samuel Clarke his heirs and assigns to the only … the said Samuel Clarke his heirs and assigns forever – and the said William Wilson for himself his heirs – Exors & Admrs doth … with the said Samuel Clarke his heirs and assigns that he the said William Wilson his heirs Exors & Admrs the said tract or parcel of land with its appurtenances with the said Samuel Clarke his heirs and assigns against the claim or claims of the said William Wilson and his heirs and of all and every person or persons whatsoever shall & will … and forever defend [?] by these presents – Upon … Nevertheless that in case the said William Wilson his heirs Exors or Admrs shall fail to pay with the said James Moffet his heirs or assigns the balance due upon and [?] note after deducting the payment … as aforesaid with the Interest that has and may hereafter accrue thereon on or before the said 29th day of July, 1820, then and in that case it may and shall be lawful for the said Samuel Clarke his Exors or Admrs, as soon as convenient after the said 29th day of July, 1820, … either by the said James Moffet or the said William Wilson … having [?] advertised the time and place of the Sale of the said land for at least one month in some newspaper published near to where the said land lies, to proceed to sell the same at public auction to the highest bidder for ready money and out of the money [?] arising from such sale, in the first place to pay and satisfy all the … expenses incurred in the execution of this trust including the recording thereof and then the balance of the note aforesaid with all the interest due thereon and the residue of the money rising from the said Sale (if any) to be paid over to the said William Wilson or to such other person or persons as may be legally entitled to receive the same. In Testimony whereof the said William Wilson & the said Samuel Clarke have hereunto set their hands [?] & Seals the day and year first above written. [signatures, etc. follow]


This Indenture made the 10th day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and nineteen, Between William Wilson of the County of Augusta & State of Virginia of the one part and Michael Garber Jr. of the County of Augusta & State aforesaid of the other part. Wittingeth that the said William Wilson in order to secure the payment of Sixteen Hundred and Sixty dollars, fifty one cents, which the said William Wilson … justly indebted unto Jeremiah & James Kyle as security for Jno and David Wilson and honestly desires to secure and pay to them, and in consideration of the Sum of one dollar to the said William Wilson in hand paid by the said Michael Garber Jr at or before
the ensealing and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof they doth hereby acknowledge and thereof and every part thereof do exonerate and discharge the said Michael Garber Jr his Exrs and Admrs, the said William Wilson hath granted bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said Michael Garber Jr. or his assigns a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in the County of Augusta adjoining the land of John Tate and others, and being the same tract or parcel of land on which the said William Wilson now resides and containing by estimation Two Hundred and Sixty one acres, be the same more or less, and the …

Deed of Trust from William and Catharine Wilson to William Clarke, 1 Oct 1819 (Augusta County Deed Book 44, pp. 159–162):

This Indenture, made the 1st day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen, Between William Wilson & Catharine his wife of the County of Augusta & State of Virginia of the one part and William Clarke of the County of Augusta & State of Virginia of the other part. Witnesseth that the said William Wilson & wife, in order to secure the payment of the following Sums of money ... Three hundred & Seventy Six [?] dollars and Seventy five cents due by single bill executed by J. & D. Wilson & the said William Wilson to Adam & Samuel Grove on the 5th Septr. 1818 & payable twelve months after date, subject to a credit for Thirty one Dollars & forty one cents paid the 25th Septr. 1819. Five Hundred & Sixty Dollars & three cents for Single bills executed to Adam Grove by the same persons and the like Sum of Five Hundred & Sixty dollars & three cents for Single Bill executed to Samuel Grove, both these last bills dated the 10th Augst. 1819 & payable the 1st May the next [?] following – which the said William Wilson stands Justly indebted unto the said Adam & Samuel Grove and honestly desires to secure and pay to them [?] – and in consideration of the Sum of one dollar to the said William Wilson ... in hand paid by the said William Clarke at or before the executing [?] and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof [?] they do hereby acknowledge and thereof [?] and ... thereof [?] do exonerate and discharge the said William Clarke, his Excrs and Admrs they the said William Willson & wife have granted, bargained, and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain, & sell unto the said William Clarke & his assigns a certain Tract or parcel of land situate [?] in the said County of Augusta on the head waters of the South River, containing by estimation Two Hundred & Sixty acres, be the same more or less, being the same Tract or parcel of land now in the possession & occupancy of the said William Wilson & which is more particularly described in a deed therefore [?] executed by the said William Wilson to Samuel Clarke in Trust for the benefit of James Moffett bearing date on the 29th day of July 1819, & of record in the Clerk’s office of the County Court of Augusta ...

Deed of Trust from John and David 2 Wilson to William Clarke, 8 Oct 1819 (Augusta County Deed Book 44, pp. 325–328):

This Indenture made the Eight day of October in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and Nineteen, Between John Wilson and David Wilson of the County of Augusta and State of Virginia of the one part and William Clarke of the Town of Staunton in the County & State aforesaid of the other part. Witnesseth That the said John Wilson & David Wilson in order to secure [?] and indemnify their Father William Wilson of the said County of Augusta against any loss or injury he may sustain in consequence of having become security for them in sundry obligations executed [?] to the following persons , to Wit [?] James Moffett, Adam & Samuel Grove & Philip Dold of the said County J & J Kyle and Robert Johnson & Son of the City of Richmond & Little & Tilford of the City
of Philadelphia as also for any other [?] securityship [?] either now or hereafter to be entered into by him for … and in consideration of the Sum of one dollar to the said John Wilson & David Wilson in hand paid by the said William Clarke … [gets very hard to read after this]

Deed of Trust from John Wilson and his wife Polly [sic], David Wilson 2 and his wife Margaret, and William Wilson and his wife Catherine to Preston Trotter, 9 Oct 1819 (included in the papers for the Little & Telford court case):

This Indenture made the ninth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and nineteen Between John Wilson & Polly Wilson his wife David Wilson & Margaret his wife & Wm Wilson & Catherine his wife of the County of Augusta of the one part and Preston Trotter of the County of Augusta of the other part, Witnesseth that the said John David and William Wilson in order to secure the payment of fifteen hundred and nine dollars and ninety one Cents with Interest from this date, which the said John David & William stand justly Indebted unto Messrs Little & Telford and honestly desires to secure and pay to them and in consideration of the sum of one Dollar to the said John, David, & William Wilson in hand paid by the said Preston Trotter at or before the ensealing and Delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof they doth hereby acknowledge, and thereof and every part thereof doth Exonerate and discharge the said Preston Trotter his Executors and administrators, they the said John, David & William Wilson have granted, bargained and Sold, and by these presents doth grant bargain and Sell unto the said Preston Trotter his heirs Executors administrators and assigns, the following real Estate to wit One Lot No 26 Lot No 13 and so much of No 14 as the house stands on Lot No 19 and one out Lot supposed to Contain five acres be the same more or less it being all the property — which the said John and David purchased from William Brown Situated in the town of Waynborough and the house and Lot which the said John & David Wilson purchased from Robert Stuart in the said town of Wainborough which will more fully appear reference being had to the deed of the said Stuart to the said John and David Wilson of record in the County Court of Augusta and also a certain house and Lot Situate in the town of Port Republic which the said John & David Wilson purchased from William B Coalter which will more fully appear reference being had to deed of Record in the County Court of Rockingham also a certain tract or parcel of Land, Situate in Augusta County supposed to Contain Two hundred and sixty one acres be the same more or Less. It being the same tract or parcel of Land on which the said William Wilson now resides adjoining the Land of Col. Robert Doak, John Doak’s heirs & others and also the following personal property to wit one Wagon, four horses and Gear Six father [sic] beds and furniture and all other kinds, and Descriptions of household and Kitchen furniture in the house of the said William Wilson and the reversion and reversions [?], remainder and remainders, yearly and other rents issues and profits thereof, and of every part and parcel thereof, and also all the Estates right, title interest, trust, property, Claim and Demand whatsoever, both at Law and in equity of – in to or out of the said Land, … to … and premises: To have and to hold the said houses Lots and parcels of Land herein before mentioned to be hereby granted or intended to be granted, with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Preston Trotter his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns forever: to the only proper use and behoof of him the said Preston Trotter his heirs and assigns forever; and the said John Wilson David Wilson & William Wilson hereby covenant for themselves and their heirs with the said Preston Trotter his heirs and every of them shall and will Warrent and forever defend the said Lots and parcels of Land, and every part and article thereof with all and Singular their appurtenances unto the said Preston Trotter and his heirs and assigns forever against them the Said John, David, & William Wilson and their heirs and every of them, and against every other person whomsoever. Upon Trust nevertheless that the said Preston Trotter his executors
or administrators shall as soon as he conveniently can after the ninth day of October one thousand eight hundred and twenty one or as soon thereafter as the said Little & Telford or their Legal representatives shall require or the s’d John David & William – shall request (which ever of these two circumstances shall first happen) and after having given thirty days notice of the time and place of the sale of the property before mentioned in some public newspaper Published in Staunton or Richmond proceed to sell the same to the highest bidder, for the best price that can be obtained in ready money, and out of the monies arising from such sale, discharge, pay, and Satisfy, to the aforesaid Messrs Little & Telford the above mentioned sum of fifteen hundred and nine dollars & ninety one cents Lawful money of Virginia with legal Interest thereon from the date of these presents, until the Same shall be fully discharges, and the expence attending the drawing and recording this Indenture, and the contingent charges of the sale ad aforesaid and other necessary expences that attend the securing and obtaining the above mentioned money, or performing any thing that shall be necessary relative to the intent of this Indenture:  And the said Preston Trotter his executors or administrators shall pay or cause to be paid the residue, if any remain from such sale as aforesaid to the use of the said John David & William Wilson their executors administrators or assigns, or to such person or persons as they by writing under their hands shall appoint, and in default of such appointment to such person or persons as would thereto entitled by virtue of the statute for distribution of intestate estates.  Provided always and upon Condition that if the said John, David, or William, their heirs executors, or administrators, shall and do well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said Messrs Little & Telford their executors, or administrators or assigns, the full and Just sum of fifteen hundred and nine Dollars and ninety one cents with interest as aforesaid and the expence accruing on or before the 9th day of October one thousand Eight hundred, and twenty one, then in such case, these presents and the Estate hereby granted, and every Clause and Sentence herein contained shall cease, determin [?], and be utterly void to all intents and purposes, any thing herein Contained to the contrary notwithstanding.  In Witness whereof [?] the said John and Polly his wife, David Wilson & Margaret his wife & William Wilson & Catherine his wife have hereunto set their hands & seals on the day & year first above written [signatures, etc. follow]

Augusta County Clerks office, to wit,
I Nichol [?] Kinney Deputy Clerk of the County aforesaid do hereby certify that the aforesaid is a true copy from the original deposited in this office for record, but which has never been admitted to record, the same never having been fully proved

Nichol [?] Kinney  DCAC  [not sure of third character]

Deed of Trust from John Wilson and his wife Patsy, and David Wilson 2 and his wife Margaret, to William Clarke, 27 Mar 1820 (Augusta County Deed Book 44, pp. 421–423):

This Indenture, made the 27th day of March in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and Twenty, between John Wilson and Patsy his Wife and David Wilson and Margaret his Wife of the County of Augusta & State of Virginia of the one part & William Clarke of the Town of Staunton in the County and State aforesaid of the other part.  Witnesseth That whereas the said John Wilson & wife & David Wilson & wife, together with William Wilson & His wife, by their deed bearing date on the 9th day of October 1819 did convey unto Preston Trotter in Trust for the benefit of Little & Tilford certain Real Estate the property of the said John & David Wilson and ... the said John Wilson & David Wilson by their [?] deed bearing date on the 8th day of October 1819 & of record in the Clerks office of the County Court of Augusta did convey unto [?] the said William Clarke in Trust for the benefit of William Wilson certain personal property and whereas the said John Wilson &
David Wilson and ... fully to secure and indemnify the said William Wilson in consequence of his having become bound & ... security for the payment of sundry sums of money to sundry persons [?]. Now this Indenture Wittesteth that the said John Wilson & wife & David Wilson & wife for and in consideration of the promises & for the further consideration of one dollar ... in hand paid by the said William Clarke, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged paid ... granted bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said William Clarke & his assigns all this [?] Estate & property both Real & personal ... or included in the two deeds aforesaid together with the following additional Real and personal property to wit [?]. Five acres of land, be the same more or less, lying in or adjoining the upper end of Waynesborough & which was purchased by the said John & David Wilson from William Brown ... the legal Title to which is yet in Elijah Churchmans [?]. Two acres of land, be the same more or less, adjoining the Town or the ... of the Town of Waynesborough, being the same Two acres that were conveyed [?] Together with other Lots in the said Town of Waynesborough by Robert Stuart & wife to the said John & David Wilson by deed dated the 19th day of October 1818 & of record in the Clerks office aforesaid and a quarter section of Military Bounty Land in the Territory of Missouri conveyed by Sherod H. Martin [?] to the said John & David Wilson by deed bearing date the ... day of and a negro girl named Katy [?] aged about Twelve [?] or thirteen years, together with ... [gets very hard to read after this]

Deed of Trust from John and David Wilson, late trading under the firm of John & David Wilson, to James McNutt, sheriff, 25 Apr 1820 (Augusta County Deed Book 45, pp. 66–68):

This Indenture made the 25th day of April in the year of our Lord one Thousand Eight hundred and Twenty Between John Wilson and David Wilson late trading under the firm of John & David Wilson of the County of Augusta and State of Virginia of the one part and James McNutt, Sheriff of the said County of Augusta of the other part, Witnesseth that the said John Wilson & David Wilson being now in the custody of the Sheriff of the said County under sundry executions & being about to take the benefit of the act of assembly provided for the releif [sic] of Insolvent debtors & for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar lawful money of Virginia to them in hand paid by the said James McNutt Sheriff as aforesaid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hand [?] granted bargained and sold and by these presents do grant bargain and sell unto the said James McNutt Sheriff as aforesaid his heirs and assignes all their Interest right title claim and demand at – law or in equity in and to – certain real & personal property contained in the following deeds of Trust to wit – one to Preston Trotter for the benefit of Little & Tilford dated 9th October 1819, one to William Clarke for the benefit of William Wilson dated 8th October 1819, & one to the same for the benefit of the same dated 27th March 1820 – all which deeds are of record in the Clerks office of the County Court of Augusta & the contents of which will more fully appear reference being had thereto – together with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any way appertaining To have and to hold the said Interest in and to the said real and personal property with its appurtenances unto the said James McNutt Sheriff as aforesaid his heirs and assigns forever To the only proper use and behoofs of him the said James McNutt Sheriff as aforesaid his heirs and assigns forever – and the said John Wilson & David Wilson for the … their heirs Exrs and Adms do covenant with the said James McNutt Sheriff as aforesaid his heirs and assigns that they, the said John Wilson & David Wilson their heirs, Exrs and Adms, the said Interest in and to the said real & personal property with it appurtenances unto the said James McNutt Sheriff as aforesaid his heirs & assigns, against the claim or claims of them the said John Wilson & David Wilson & their heirs and assigns and every person or persons whatsoever – shall and will warrant and forever defend by these
presents – In Witness whereof the said John Wilson & David Wilson have hereunto set their hands and Seals on the day and year first above written [signatures, etc. follow]


This Indenture, made the 20th day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty, between Michael Garber Jr. of Staunton in the County of Augusta of the one part and Henry J. Tapp and John Garber of the same place of the other part: Whereas William Willson of the said County of Augusta did on the tenth day of August in the year 1819 execute to the said Michael Garber jr. a deed for the tract of land hereinafter mentioned for the purpose of securing to Jeremiah and James Kyle the payment of a certain sum of money therein mentioned as by reference to the said Deed of record in the County Court office of Augusta will more fully and at large appear. And whereas the said Michael Garber jr. in pursuance of the Deed aforesaid and of the request of the aforesaid Henry J. Tapp and John Garber (to whom [sic] the Benefit of the Deed aforesaid had been assigned and transferred) and after having given more than thirty days notice of the time and place of Sale in the Republican Farmer, a newspaper published in the town of Staunton, did on this 20th day of November 1820 proceed to sell the tract of Land conveyed by said Trust deed hereinafter mentioned to the highest bidder for Cash when the said Henry J. Tapp and John Garber became the purchasers at the sum of sixteen hundred dollars (subject however to all other prior claims, particularly the claims of Henry Haupe and James Moffett), they being the highest bidders. Now therefore this indenture Witnesseth that the said Michael Garber jr. for and in consideration of the premises [?] and of the sum of one thousand six hundred Dollars aforesaid in hand paid by the said Henry J. Tapp and John Garber, their heirs and assigns, a certain tract or parcel of Land lying and being in the County of Augusta, adjoining the Lands of John Tate and others, and being the same tract or parcel of Land on which the said William Willson now resides, and containing by estimation two hundred and sixty one acres, be the same more or less, being the same tract of Land conveyed by said William Willson to said Michael Garber jr. by the Trust Deed aforesaid, by reference to which will more fully appear. To have and to hold the tract of Land aforesaid with its appurtenances unto the said Henry J. Tapp and John Garber, their heirs and assigns, and to their only proper use and behoof forever ... the said Michael Garber jr. for himself, his heirs, Executors, and administrators. The said tract or parcel of Land with its appurtenances unto the said Henry J. Tapp and John Garber and their heirs and assigns against the claim or claims of him the said Michael Garber jr. and his heirs & against them only shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents. In testimony whereof the said Michael Garber jr. hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of M. Garber jr. (Seal)
John Tapp
Vincent Tapp
Vincent L. Tapp

Augusta County Clerk’s office April 5th 1821
This Deed of Bargain and sale from Michael Garber jr. to Henry J. Tapp and John Garber was presented in the office aforesaid, and being acknowledged before me, Vincent Tapp, deputy Clerk of the said Court by the said Michael jr., is admitted to record.

Teste
Vincent Tapp DCAC

Augusta County April Court 1821
The acknowledgement of this Deed being duly certified and reported to the Court is ordered to be entered on this ....

Teste
Erasmus Stribling CC
William Adair Wilson and Family During the Civil War

Introduction

The Abiel Leonard Papers of the State Historical Society of Missouri Manuscript Collection [39] are a great resource—thousands of letters and other papers from the 1800s. It contains quite a few letters from members of William Adair Wilson’s family because Mary Reeves Wilson was Jeanette Reeves Leonard’s sister. Much of the correspondence involves land transactions and other business (Abiel Leonard was a big land speculator); there is disappointingly little personal family information. However, there are several interesting letters from the Civil War period, which provide a rather sad view of conditions in Marshall, MO, during that time. This chapter includes transcriptions of several of those letters, along with other materials to provide additional context, most notably several excerpts from the 1881 *History of Saline County, Missouri* [46]. Throughout, letters are not necessarily typed exactly as is, but rather punctuation and an occasional spelling correction have been added to improve readability. Hopefully nothing is misrepresented or mistyped; the handwriting is very difficult to read in some places.

Mary and Jeanette Reeves were daughters of Benjamin Harrison Reeves, who was the second lieutenant governor of Missouri and one of three commissioners appointed by the president to survey the Santa Fe Trail in the 1820s. Jeanette married Abiel Leonard, who was a prominent lawyer and judge in Fayette, MO (Howard County), even serving on the Missouri supreme court for a time. Mary married William Adair Wilson, who was also a lawyer and judge. Mary and William lived in Howard County at first, but moved west to Saline County, on the other side of the Missouri River, not too long after they were married.

These were the members of their family:

- William Adair Wilson (born 17 Dec 1807 in Augusta County, VA)
- Mary Elizabeth Reeves Wilson (born 25 Mar 1817 in Christian County, KY)
- Benjamin Harrison Wilson (born 10 May 1836)
- Martha Catharine (Kate) Wilson (born 1839)
- Adair Wilson (born 16 Nov 1841)
- Annette Wilson (born 25 Nov 1843)
- Leonard Wilson (born 13 Jan 1846)
- Horace Everett Wilson (born 12 Oct 1855)
- Byrd Lincoln Wilson (born 12 Jul 1860)
Several members of the Leonard family are mentioned in the following letters, so it is worth listing their family members as well (also showing marriages that took place before or during the time of this story):

Abiel Leonard (born 16 May 1797 in Windsor, VT)
Jeanette E. Reeves (born 24 Dec 1812 in Christian County, KY; married Oct 1830)
Mary Leonard (born 4 Feb 1833; married Horace Everett on 14 Jul 1851)
Martha Leonard (born 1 Jan 1836; married Joseph Darnell Smith on 16 Jun 1854)
Reeves Leonard (born 6 Nov 1838)
Ada Leonard (born 6 May 1841; married Cicero Stephens Hawks on 28 Jan 1864)
Katherine (Kate) Leonard (born 12 Mar 1844)
Abiel Leonard Jr. (born 26 Jun 1848)
Nathaniel William (Willy) Leonard (born 24 Jun 1851)

A biography of William Adair Wilson in *History of Saline County* (pp. 415–416) mentions that Judges Wilson and Leonard had “a very strong social, personal and political attachment”, and there are suggestions of that in some of these family names; most obviously, Leonard Wilson might have been named for Abiel Leonard, though there is no proof of that. Second, note that Horace Everett Wilson was apparently named for the husband of the Leonards’ oldest daughter, Mary. Horace Everett was from a distinguished Vermont family, but the naming might be more because the Wilsons were especially close to Mary Leonard Everett. In a letter from Mary Reeves Wilson to Jeanette Reeves Leonard dated 12 Feb 1856 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers), Mary wrote “… I don’t believe I have a child that I love any better than I did little Mary Leonard.” In fact, a child before Horace, Mary L. Wilson, who died young, was probably Mary Leonard Wilson.

William and Mary were married on 4 Jun 1835 in Fayette, MO. According to the biography just mentioned, they moved from Howard County to Saline County in August 1836. If this is correct, then the oldest son, Ben, would have been born in Howard County and all the other children in Saline County. They initially moved to Old Jefferson, which no longer exists; it was on the Missouri River in the northeastern part of the county. Later, they moved to Marshall; from letters in the Abiel Leonard Papers, it looks like they moved from Old Jefferson to Marshall in late 1844. (Marshall was made the Saline County Seat in 1839.) Thus, probably Kate, Adair, and Annette were born in Old Jefferson and Leonard, Horace, and Byrd were born in Marshall (there is additional confirmation of this for Adair, Leonard, and Byrd).

On the next page is an old map [27] showing some of the places mentioned in this chapter. Old Jefferson was near where Cambridge is on this map.
1859–1860

We begin a bit before the War with a letter from W.A. Wilson at Marshall to Abiel Leonard at Fayette, dated 10 Aug 1859 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers):

Dr. Sir —

It is true, as you have heard, that I was beat for both offices, But I am not cast down about it, or depressed in spirit, at all. I can bear it with as much philosophy, and composure of mind, as almost any person — My friends, throughout the Co. seem to take my defeat much more to heart than I do — In many respects, I feel greatly relieved. I have been as complete a servant for the public as ever man was; toiling from morn til 9 or 10 o’clock at night, waiting upon the people — Such a canvass; I have never witnessed such extraordinary means as were resorted to defeat me, never to my knowledge were used before. Lying & slandering were the potent means used. But the main cause of my defeat was, a corrupt bargain was entered into between some few of my political friends and the Loco’s, and the Loco’s made it a party matter. I can count from 2 to 400 Loco’s who promised to vote for me & said so, up to within 10 days or a week of the Election, and then voted against me — Those of my friends (political) who went against me were aspirants, who blamed me for keeping them back &c. &c. —
I have never seen as much bitterness of feeling exhibited — on any election occasion — at this place; there had liked to have been a general battle. Pistols, knives, sticks, & rocks were exhibited on every side. Fortunately the Loco’s backed down — had a lick been struck, a dozen men would have been killed —

I have no idea, as yet, what I will go at. It is a pretty hard matter, for a man without capital to get into business. I shall be engaged, busily, from this to 1 Jany. next (the expiration of my time) in fixing up my business, collecting the fees due me, &c. I will be glad to receive from friends any suggestion in regard to business arrangements.

We are all well.

Yours truly
W.A. Wilson

We would be pleased to see you & Jeanette over here.
W.A.W.

There is additional information on this election in *History of Saline County* (pp. 266–267):

The county election of 1859, was probably one of the most exciting ever held in Saline. Party lines were drawn with exceeding bitterness and a rigor never known before. W. A. Wilson, who for some years had held the consolidated offices of circuit and county clerk, the leader of the Americans, or whigs, as they were afterwards called, the Bell and Everett party, was a candidate for re-election. The democrats determined to bring out a separate candidate for each office, circuit and county clerk, and nominated John Sheridan for circuit clerk, and Jesse Davis for county clerk.

The election totals are given as 898–795 for circuit clerk and 969–740 for county clerk. The term “Loco’s” is explained by Frederic Culmer in End Note 3 of “‘General’ John Wilson, Signer of the Deseret Petition: Including Letters from the Leonard Collection” [22]:

Short for locofocos (spelled with or without a capital), a term applied to members of a faction of the Democrats (and later applied by Whigs to any Democrats), at whose meeting in 1835 the regular or Tammany Democrats put out the lights, whereupon the meeting proceeded by candle and locofoco light. A locofoco (or self-lighting cigar) had been invented in New York the year before.

We can see from the description of the election and from the letter that the political situation was already quite strained.

The following year, of course, Abraham Lincoln was elected President, setting in motion the events that led to the Civil War. This part of Missouri has sometimes been called “Little Dixie”. Most of the residents had come from the South, and *History of Saline County* says (p. 269) that Lincoln didn’t get a single vote in Saline County. The Wilson and Reeves families were from Virginia and Kentucky as well, and were slave-owners. Abiel Leonard was from Vermont, but he, too, became a slave-owner after moving to Missouri. Nevertheless, William Adair Wilson and Abiel Leonard were both strong Union supporters. During this time, the last Wilson child was born on 12 Jul 1860. It is interesting that Byrd’s middle name was Lincoln. It’s tempting to
infer from this that the Wilsons were big Lincoln supporters, and yet William must not have voted for Lincoln since there were no Lincoln votes in Saline County.

The other family event of note was that Kate Wilson married Dr. John Bright Grove shortly after the lost county election, on 6 Oct 1859. She was 20 and he was 30 at the time. Their first child, Ada, was born shortly after the Presidential election, on 29 Nov 1860. (Since one of the Leonards’ daughters was named Ada, it suggests that maybe Kate named her daughter for a favorite cousin.)

At the time of the 1860 census, the Groves were apparently living next door to the Wilsons, as the two families are listed next to each other. William’s occupation was listed as Lawyer, and he was shown as having real estate worth $5,000 and personal estate worth $3,000. He owned seven slaves, ranging in age from 1 to 44. Mary, Benjamin, Adair, Annette, Leonard, and Horace were listed in the household, with Ben’s occupation given as Clerk and Adair’s as Law Student. John was listed as Dr. J. B. Grove, with occupation given as Physician. The value of his real estate is difficult to read, but his value of personal estate was $2,500. Along with Kate, a Benj. Sandidge was listed in his household (28 years old, Clerk); presumably he was boarding with them.

1861

William Adair Wilson became an important Union leader in Saline County. History of Saline County (p. 416) says “It is not saying too much, when we say, he formed the nucleus around which the Union element of this county rallied, more, perhaps, than any one else.” It is worth noting that his older brother, Robert, who lived near St. Joseph, MO, was one of the most important Union supporters in the state. An obituary published in the New York Times on 18 May 1870 [65] included the following:

In 1861 he [Robert Wilson] was elected to the State Convention, called to consider the relations of Missouri with the Federal Government. This Convention was called by the Secessionists, but the Unionists elected a majority of the delegates. In the organization of that body—the most important one that was ever held in Missouri, for it deposed the Governor, turned out the State officials and installed a Provisional Government throughout, with HAMILTON GAMBLE for Governor, and WILLARD P. HALL for Lieutenant-Governor—the Unionists voted for STERLING PRICE, then an avowed Union man, for President, and Gen. WILSON for Vice-President. Both were elected. STERLING PRICE went off with CALIB. [sic] JACKSON into the rebellion, and Gen. WILSON became President of the Convention. … Before adjourning, the country was plunged into civil war, and the two United States Senators, WALDO P. JOHNSON and TRUSTEN POLK, having wandered off into the Confederacy, were expelled, and the Governor appointed Gen. WILSON to fill one of the vacancies. He took his seat in the Senate of the United States in 1861 and served till his successor, Hon. B. GRATZ BROWN, was elected by the Legislature in December, 1863.

The situation was complicated. According to History of Saline County (p. 273), the loss of support for the Union was not immediate (perhaps similar to Sterling Price’s change at the convention just described). The candidates sent from Saline County to the convention were also Union supporters, at least at first:
As the result of the election and the sending of such pronounced Union men as Jno. F. Phillips, S. L. Sawyer, and Vincent Marmaduke proved that as late as the 18th of February, 1861, the Union feeling in Saline was still stronger than ever. And thus it continued until the proclamation of President Lincoln, on the 15th of April, 1861, calling for volunteers to suppress the rebellion.

At this time, nine out of every ten of the citizens of Saline were from Virginia, Kentucky, or Tennessee. They had a strong sentimental love of the Union, but they were generally opposed to coercion; and the president’s proclamation produced a complete revulsion of feeling and sentiment, leaving, for the time, hardly any Union men in the county.

There was a meeting in Marshall in May, in which William played a key role, but which doesn’t seem to have had much real effect. From History of Saline County (p. 275):

Irritated by President Lincoln’s call for troops, and carried away by the fierce wave of excitement which swept over the state and almost frenzied the people, caused by the capture of Camp Jackson and the killing of many innocent citizens, men, women and children, on the 10th of May, 1861, in St. Louis, the people of Saline County assembled in the court house in Marshall, to express their sentiments, and to determine what to do. Under the angry excitement caused by the events of the tenth of May in St. Louis, this meeting included some men who, afterwards, in cooler moments, became the most earnest of Union soldiers, but who seemed now ready to aid in carrying the state into the arms of the Southern Confederacy. The people gathered into Marshall by hundreds, and the excitement was intense. The meeting organized in the court house by electing Judge McDaniel president, and W. A. Wilson, vice-president. A series of resolutions were offered by Col. W. A. Wilson and unanimously adopted, strongly reprobating the course of Gen. Lyon in St. Louis, the president’s call for troops, and calling on the convention then sitting to resist coercion and, if need be, for the immediate passage of some act that would vindicate the majesty of the state.

At this meeting a finance committee was appointed for the raising and disbursement of money for military purposes, which committee, as finally fixed, consisted of Dr. C. E. Smith, H. S. Mills and T. W. B. Crews, Esq. Col. Wilson, F. M. Fulkerson, with one or two other prominent men, guaranteed the sum of $5,000 for arming Saline soldiers; but as events shaped themselves these gentlemen soon withdrew their names from the guaranty.

From this, it appears that William joined with his fellow citizens in being upset about Union actions, but subsequent events would show that he continued to support the Union even if he had reservations.


Dr. Sir.

I want to get Leonard into Wespoint. He is just the age required, to enter it – he will be 16 in January next. I do not know exactly how I am to do it. Our Congressman Reid of course will never go back to Congress. I suppose he is in the army, at least he was aid to Genl. Price at Lexington. Unless I can get the President to appoint him – I think there is a vacancy in this Congressional Dist.
I have thought, perhaps, you could aid me by writing to Atty. Genl. Bates for me — or any way you think advisable. — On the 5th of Oct. I recd. a letter from Adair dated Sept. 2nd in Salt Lake City. He was well & had got along that far without any trouble or difficulty. Their mules were in good order — He intended stopping there a week to rest & look around. From there to Sacramento Cal. it is 680 miles. I suppose he reached San Francisco about the 8th [?] of Oct.

I also, on the 5th Oct., recd. a letter from Bro. John, dated Sept. 5th. Also at same time recd. one from Mr. Letcher dated Augt. 31 (12 pages long). My Bro. & family are well. Mr. Letcher & my Bro. are practicing law in partnership in San Francisco — Mr. L. is well pleased with the county and is a strong Union man. He wrote to me to say to any Union man I meet in Saline, that “he loved him as a Brother” — We are tolerably quiet here now though our county seems to be full of rambling secesh soldiers — When Price’s Army was at Lexington, one of the officers in his Army told my wife that when the Army reached Saline, on its way to Boonville, Jeff. City & St. Louis, it would arrest me & Ben — that it was all understood & talked over in Lexington — I should not have run, had the Army come this way — Several of the lower strata of secesh here said myself & Ben ought to be hung & if Price did not do it he would think he, Price, ought to be hung. One of them said that if he could get 5 men to go with him, that I would be found missing some morning — I am not the least alarmed. I have got used to these things. I don’t believe they will trouble me —

Myself & Ben are pretty near all the Union men in Marshall & immediate vicinity that publicly acknowledge to be Union men. Most of the pretended Union men in Marshall & vicinity are on the fence [?], though we have some mighty good ones in the County. Dr. Parks was at my house a few days ago, he is well and is a true friend to the Stars & Stripes, true as steel. All well.

W.A. Wilson

From this letter, we can see that things were getting ugly in Marshall. “Genl. Price at Lexington” refers to the First Battle of Lexington, which took place in September 1861 at Lexington, MO, which is in Lafayette County, immediately to the west of Saline County. Gen. Price was Sterling Price, who was a former governor of Missouri and whose leaving the secession convention to join the Confederacy left Robert Wilson in charge.

Leonard was the third son of William and Mary Wilson, and he apparently was not successful at getting into West Point. “Bro. John” was William’s oldest brother, John Wilson, who had moved from Missouri to San Francisco in 1849. Adair was the Wilsons’ second son; he was almost 20 years old at this time. Like his father, he became a lawyer and judge, prominent in Colorado in the late 1800s. According to a biography of Adair Wilson [17], he studied law with his uncle Abiel Leonard and was admitted to the Missouri bar in 1860. After moving to San Francisco in 1861, he practiced law with his uncle John Wilson for two years. Ben was the Wilsons’ oldest son; he was 25 years old at this time. He became an officer in the Missouri State Militia on the Union side. Dr. Parks was probably Thomas Davis Parks, a first cousin of Benjamin Harrison Reeves and author of the Parks Family Record [53].

1862–1863

During 1861, hundreds of soldiers were recruited in Saline County for the Confederate cause (and many more later, as well). William Adair Wilson’s old law partner, T.W.B. Crews, became
William Adair Wilson and Family During the Civil War

captain of a Confederate cavalry company. However, there was little to no activity on the Union side. *History of Saline County* (pp. 277–278) says:

> Meantime, what were the Union men of Saline county—those who sympathized with “the North,” as the Federal government was called—what were they doing? Nothing. Only waiting, watching and hoping. A few only wished to fight against their old neighbors and friends. The rest were waiting to see what time would tell, watching the movements of the Secessionists, and hoping for the best. Some of them, living in the northern part of the county, crossed the river later in the season, and making their way into northern Missouri, joined the Union organizations, known as Home Guards. Others went to Georgetown and joined a company making up in Pettis county, and possibly a few went to Boonville and joined Eppstein’s battalion, of German Unionists.

Not until the spring of 1862 was there a full company of Federals organized in the county, Capt. Benj. H. Wilson’s company F, 7th cavalry, Missouri state militia, being the first organized at Marshall.

Continuing, on pp. 286–287:

> The first U. S. troops regularly stationed in Marshall came in the spring (April), 1862, consisting of Captain Wakefield’s Irish company (Co. D), of the Seventh regiment, Missouri infantry volunteers, Col. John D. Stevenson. From this time on, Marshall was almost continuously a post occupied by U. S. troops. Capt. Wakefield’s company remained only a short time, and was succeeded, in May or June, 1862, by a battalion of the Seventh regiment, Missouri cavalry volunteers, under Maj. McKee. Under the general order of Gen. Fremont, declaring martial law, Maj. McKee established the post, and appointed Capt. Love, company L, same regiment, provost marshal of Saline county. Maj. McKee remained in command only two or three months, and was succeeded by Lieut.-Col. W. A. Wilson, of Marshall, then of the 71st enrolled Missouri militia.

> ... Col. Wilson was in command of the post at Marshall until June, 1863, when he was succeeded by Major Geo. W. Kelly, of the 4th cavalry, Missouri state militia, who continued in command for some months.

Also, *History of Saline County* says on p. 415 that “In 1862, Judge Wilson was appointed by Gov. Gamble, circuit and county clerk of the county”. These are the positions that he lost in the election of 1859. Presumably, the election winners had run off and joined the Confederates. (As mentioned above, Hamilton R. Gamble had been appointed governor because the elected governor, Claiborne F. Jackson supported the Confederacy. A lot more could be said about this, obviously.)

Some additional information on military service is available at the web site of the Missouri Secretary of State, which has old soldiers’ service cards online. The card for Benj. H. Wilson shows that he enlisted 12 Feb 1862 at Marshall, mustered in on 17 Apr 1862 at Georgetown [MO], and mustered out on 22 Apr 1865. It also has a physical description of him (5 ft. 11½ in., dark hair, hazel eyes, dark complexion), gives his occupation as clerk, and says he was a native of Fayette, Howard Co., Mo. The card for W. A. Wilson doesn’t have as much information, but

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20 [http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/soldiers/]
says he was enrolled on 27 Aug 1862 at Marshall, was ordered into active service 1 Sep 1862 at Marshall, and was relieved from duty 9 Feb 1863; 162 days of actual service. This doesn’t quite agree with the information from History of Saline County (leaving command in February vs. June). Perhaps he was relieved from military duty when he was appointed to the circuit and county clerkships?

A summary of Ben H. Wilson’s Civil War service (see the notes for Benjamin Harrison Wilson on p. 72) indicates that he initially tried to enlist in the Fall of 1861 but was not mustered. He entered service as a private on 12 Feb 1862 and was appointed and commissioned the captain of Company F of the 7th Regiment, Missouri State Militia Cavalry, on 17 Apr 1862. The regiment was organized in central Missouri at Sedalia and Warrensburg, and organization was completed on 1 May 1862. Ben was initially at Georgetown, then moved to Syracuse, MO. He saw action at Pink Hill, MO; Raytown; Pleasant Hill; Columbus; Independence; Lexington; the Battle of Lone Jack; and Springfield, MO. In September and October, he was attached to Totten’s Command in the Southwest District of Missouri. With them, he saw action at McGain’s Ferry, was detached as judge advocate of a military commission for a while, and then rejoined his regiment at Crane Creek and moved to Cassville. He was then attached to the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Division of the Army of the Frontier and saw action at Old Fort Wayne, Fayetteville, Oxford Bend, and Huntsville. He moved to Cross Hollows and then to Newtonia and engaged in operations against Livingston’s guerillas until December 11. After that, he moved to Pea Ridge, AR, and had duty there until 11 Jan 1863. He was involved in the campaign against Marmaduke, being sent to the relief of Springfield, then towards Hartsville, and then was moved to Greenfield, MO, on January 20.

On a personal, family level, the second daughter of John and Kate Grove, Florence, was born on 26 Aug 1862. Interestingly, Dr. Grove was post surgeon to the Union army at Marshall for a time [74], under the command of his father-in-law, Col. William Adair Wilson.

The next letter of interest is a short one from W.A. Wilson at Marshall to Abiel Leonard, dated 24 Jan 1863 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers):

Dr. Sir.

I did not receive yours of the 26th ult., until today. My military affairs, about the meeting of the Legislature, were such that I could not leave at that time; I may probably be able to get to Jeff. City about 1st Febry. This new Conservative Democratic Secession party will ruin the country yet, if it is not arrested in its career soon. They call Jo Davis a Democrat, I wonder if he can stand that. Who would have thought it —

Your house & part of the fence are still there yet, and a man living in it. I presume nothing about it has been improved much —

All well except Mary, who has been very much afflicted with a Carbuncle, upon the back of her neck for several weeks & still confined to her bed. The last letter we had from Ben (8th Jany.) he was down in Arkansas. He is very anxious to be ordered further South. He was well & hearty —

Truly yours
I have discharged, for the present, all my men but 150, who are still in active service. I am catching these recruiting officers of the C.S.A. very often. Caught one a few days ago, also a mail carrier, South, with 29 letters to the C.S.A. in Ark., written in Carroll Co.

A quick search for the Conservative Democratic Secession party didn’t turn up anything about them. Jo Davis might refer to Joe Davis, who was a well-known lawyer in Fayette and also represented Howard County in the state legislature (like William A. Wilson and Abiel Leonard, he was a Whig; see Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar of Missouri [10], pp. 183–184). The house and fence refer to a farm that Abiel Leonard owned near Marshall; there are several letters in the Abiel Leonard Papers from before this that deal with William’s efforts to sell or rent it for Abiel.

Ben had duty at Linden, Christian County, and Newtonia. He saw action at White River, Carthage, Hartsville, Mountain Store, and Carthage again. He was transferred to the Central District of Missouri on August 1 and had duty there operating against guerrillas and bushwhackers until October. He was involved in the campaign against Shelby in October. He saw action at Warsaw, Blackwater, Lamine crossing, and Marshall. The expedition of Confederate forces under Colonel Joseph Shelby into Missouri culminated in the Battle of Marshall on 13 Oct 1863, in which Union forces (including Ben) under General E.B. Brown were able to turn back Shelby’s raid.\(^\text{21}\) Following that, Ben was at Merrill’s crossing, Jonesboro, and at the capture of Shelby’s wagon train. He was placed in charge of captured prisoners by General Brown. After that, he was detached as ordnance officer at Jefferson City, MO, under General F.S. Callender until September 1864.

It is worth saying more about guerrillas and bushwhackers. *History of Saline County* (p. 288) has this to say:

… from the spring of 1862, to the close of the war, there were many small skirmishes and unimportant encounters between the Confederates and Union men, or Federals. These were for the most part between scouting parties of the Federal militia and the Confederate partisan rangers, or “bushwhackers,” or “guerillas,” as they were termed—the latter being organizations led by men who held no military commissions, but did as they pleased, or as they could. They lived on the country, armed and uniformed themselves, and took their pay out of what they could capture.

These little skirmishes usually amounted to an exchange of shots, the killing or wounding of one or two men, and a speedy retreat.

Wikipedia\(^\text{22}\) says that “The term ‘bushwhacker’ came into wide use during the American Civil War (1861-1865): it became particularly associated with the Confederate guerrillas of Missouri, where such warfare was most intense.” It also says “… the most dire of the attacks involved ambushes of individuals or families in rural areas. In areas affected by bushwhacking, the

\(^\text{21}\) http://mocivilwar.org/marshalls-part-civil-war-historically-small-locally-significant/ (accessed 30 Jul 2017; link no longer works)

actions were particularly inflammatory since they often amounted to fighting between neighbors, to settle personal accounts.’’

An article about the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Marshall also says this about guerilla warfare in Saline County:

By 1863 the county was largely under Union control, but guerrilla bands from both sides continued to roam the county, each demanding loyalty and assistance from civilians, who may have born the brunt of the conflict.

According to [administrator of Arrow Rock State Historical Site Michael] Dickey, there was so much guerrilla warfare in the area that “Union men found it safer to serve in the military than to stay home in Saline County.”

A family-related example is on p. 315 of History of Saline County:

Soon after this affair [a fight with guerillas], two young men, Grove, a nephew of Colonel Wm. A. Wilson, and Gilliam, a son of A. W. Gilliam, Sr., of the northeastern part of the county, were captured on the Miami road by a scouting party of Federal soldiers from Marshall. Major Kelly, then in command of the post, says they were taken straggling in the rear of a band of Quantrell’s guerillas, whom they had recently joined. The relatives of these unfortunate men contend that they had not joined any guerilla band, and did not intend to, but they were making their way to the Confederate army. On the night of the 29th of July, about midnight, a party of soldiers in Marshall, without the knowledge of their officers, took Grove and Gilliam from the guard, with or without the connivance of the guard, dragged them into the woods north of town, and there hung them. The bodies of these two ill-fated men were found the next morning, quite dead, and buried by the citizens.

The Grove referred to was presumably a son of Mary (Polly) Wilson Grove, a sister of William A. Wilson. Interestingly, Polly was married to Samuel S. Grove, who was an uncle to John Bright Grove (Kate Wilson Grove’s husband). It’s too bad they didn’t give the first name of the accused Grove, but it must have been Robert W. Grove, who is known to have died on 30 Jul 1863. Quantrill’s Raiders, of course, was a famous/infamous guerilla group.

1864

Things got much worse in 1864. In August, the Federal garrison at Marshall was moved to Lexington. When the Confederates heard about this, they took over the town of Marshall for several hours and burned down the courthouse. The courthouse had been used by the Union forces, but it had been emptied of offices and records at the time of the burning (the records had been sent to Lexington for safe keeping).

A large force of Confederates under General Price went through Saline County in October, as part of what was called Price’s Last Raid. History of Saline County (p. 311) says:

During their stay in Saline county, the Federal sympathizer felt the displeasure of the Confederates, in many instances very severely. Many a meal was eaten, many a horse taken, many a dollar’s worth
of other property lost at their expense, while there were other things done of a sadder, more tragic and serious nature.

… The army was in this county about ten days, coming into the county on the 12th of October, and leaving it on the 20th.

Ben Wilson was involved in fighting against Price’s invasion of Missouri. He was assigned to duty on the staff of General Alfred Pleasanton in September and October. He saw action at Osage River, Morceau Bottom, Boonville, California, Boonville again, and Sedalia. After that, he was back to duty in the ordnance department at Jefferson City until April 1865.


Dear Jeanette

I have not heard from you for some time, and therefore have concluded to write you a few lines, hoping you may answer me and let me know how you are getting along through the troubles of the country and also, of the health of yourself & family. I returned here about the first of Nov. I am entirely alone here. Leonard is in Oxford with his Ma. This county was desolated by the Rebels. Price, with his whole Army, went through Marshall. I lost by the Rebels some $800 to $1200 – I can’t yet tell how much I did lose by them. They broke open my iron safe, took out my Books, papers, notes &c. &c. and destroyed & scattered them over the town, got $136.00 in P. O. money, and broke & destroyed a great many things they could not carry off. They got at Glasgow, a pair of fine young match horses, 2 saddles & 2 briddles, Blankets of mine, Revolvers, &c. — The match horses were worth in St. Louis $500. I had fortunately sold all my other horses, before the Raid. The only bed & bedding I had here, they took and all of Leonard’s clothes & some of mine I had left in my office. Saline County is nearly without horses, except some few that were hid in the Brush – Some 250 or 300 persons went off with Price. A number of them have returned, and say they were conscripted.

I am satisfied from what I can learn, that all the Rebels & Rebel sympathizers, here, were of the opinion that Price was going to occupy and hold the State and thereupon concluded that it would be best for them to manifest a willingness (though in some cases, reluctant it might be) to give him their services in carrying out his plan of occupation, as it seemed to be generally understood by them that those who failed to respond promptly would share the fate of the poor Union men and have to leave the State. No stores have been in this place for several months, until within the last 10 days, there are now 2 small stores here, and another will be here in a few days. When I first returned here the town looked like desolation itself, only 2 or 3 men could be seen in the place. Occasionally you could see a lone woman moving about or a child. The men had left the county, or were hid in the wood, or gone to Dixie. The future prospects of quiet in some parts of Missouri, are anything but flattering at the present writing. It is to be hoped, that the general aspect of affairs may change for the better, before the leaves come out in the Spring. A large majority of our Union men talk about leaving here in the Spring; quite a number will go, but many can’t.

I got a letter from Annie, dated Oxford, Decr. 1. All were well and getting along smoothly & quietly. Dr. Grove has, I learn, located in Columbus, Indiana. It is quite a business place, and
Descendants of Robert Wilson

growing rapidly, several Rail Roads passing through it, and is a place of considerable size. I was there myself several days and was pleased with the place as a business place. I learn that Kate & the children are still at Oxford and will stay this winter, most probably.

I got a letter from Adair a short time since. He is still living at Austin, Nevada and enjoying good health. I am quite lonesome here. Most of my old acquaintances have left the place, and strangers have come in. There are 2 companies of soldiers here.

Ben is at Warrensburg. There are not many Bushwhackers in this County, at present; at least, if there are, they keep themselves very quiet. 60 of them passed out, South, one day last week. They crossed the road east of this place, some 8 or 9 miles from here. Remember me to all the family.

I Remain your [?] friend truly
W.A. Wilson

The weather is extremely cold.

First, note that Abiel Leonard had died on 28 Mar 1863, so now William was writing to Jeanette rather than Abiel. Annie was the younger daughter of William and Mary, who had recently turned 21 years old. Aside from the personal details of the devastation caused by Price’s raid, the other important thing we see here is that things were so dangerous that William had sent his family to live in Oxford, OH. It is not known just when they left, but a good guess might be that it was as Price’s troops approached in late 1864. They may have chosen Oxford because it is fairly near to where William’s sister, Nancy Wilson Loop, lived (in Somers Township, near Camden, OH). The dangerous conditions in Marshall are why Dr. Grove decided to relocate to Columbus, IN, as well (he stayed there, and did not move back after the war). In his biography in Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana (1880) [74], it says:

That part of the state, becoming the field of operation for both the contending armies, was neither safe nor pleasant as a residence, and in 1864, when General Price overran the country with his devastating army, Dr. Grove determined to seek a more peaceful locality. He accordingly removed to Columbus, Indiana, where he still resides, and where he soon acquired a large and remunerative practice.

The mention that Adair was in Austin, NV, is interesting. The biography of Adair Wilson in Portrait and Biographical Record of Denver and Vicinity, Colorado [17] mentions that, after practicing law for two years with his uncle John Wilson in San Francisco, he moved to Nevada and went into the newspaper business as city editor, first in Virginia City and then in Austin. Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens) was in Virginia City at the same time as Adair, working for a different newspaper. There is a newspaper obituary (newspaper and date are unknown, unfortunately, but his death was in 1912), which says:

Judge Wilson practiced law in San Francisco with his uncle, General John Wilson, until 1863, when he went to Virginia City, Nev., to become city editor of the Virginia City Union, while Mark Twain was city editor of the Virginia City Enterprise. The two men, while rivals in the newspaper field, were personally cronies and remained warm friends until Mark Twain’s death a few years ago.
(Mark Twain died in 1910.) A copy of a 1907 letter from Adair to Mark Twain was provided by Todd Adair Wilson, a great-great grandson of Adair. The original letter is believed to be in the Mark Twain Papers at the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley. Adair’s letter was typed, but a handwritten note on the letter, presumably by Mark Twain, says that Adair Wilson “was a man who justified Horace Greeley’s remark go west, young man, go west. He was a reporter & then student of law with a shyster lawyer & then practiced & finally became a judge.” Could the “shyster lawyer” comment refer to John Wilson?

Another letter from December 1864 is from the Union Provost Marshal collection of the Missouri State Archives [48] (this letter is on Reel F1380). It is difficult to read, so some of the details could be off. The letter is from Captain B.H. Wilson at Warrensburg, Mo. The addressee is something like Col. Jos. Daro Jr. at the Pr. Marshal Office, St. Louis. It is dated 6 Dec 1864.

Col.

I saw Charles Q. Shouse of Pettis County, Mo., in regard to John N. Parker, alias Micajah C. Sandidge (now a prisoner at Rock Island, Ill.), having taken the Oath of Allegiance to the United States in 1862. He says he was present when Sandidge took the Oath. I have not been able to get into Saline to learn of others who know anything about it.

I am Col. Very Resp.
Your observer [??]
B. H. Wilson, Capt. Co. F
7th Cavy., Missouri [?word?]
[two more indecipherable lines]

There is a biography of Micajah C. Sandidge on pp. 773–774 of History of Saline County. In later years, he was elected to several terms as Saline County recorder. Of relevance to this letter, though, it says that he was in Company D of the First Missouri Cavalry (Confederate), and “In May, 1864, he was sent in the Federal lines as a spy, taken prisoner, and sent, first to the Arkansas penitentiary, at Little Rock, then to Rock Island, Illinois, where he remained until February, 1865…” Apparently, as a spy he had taken the alias of John Parker (it is not certain if the middle initial is N; it’s hard to read in the letter). Micajah Sandidge was from Saline County, so it’s possible that Ben knew him from before the war. In any case, this is interesting because in 1868 Ben’s brother Leonard married Micajah’s sister Mary. With them having been on opposite sides in the war, one wonders what it was like at the wedding or other family get-togethers! (Also, a little mystery is that Leonard and Mary were married in Johnson County rather than Saline County; could they have eloped or something?).

Before moving on, let us consider a few other family tidbits. On p. 754, History of Saline County says that Leonard Wilson (just mentioned above) was deputy postmaster of Marshall from 1862 to 1864. In 1864 he served in Captain Bingham’s company of the Enrolled Missouri Militia, but he was taken prisoner at Glasgow, which ended his military service. (There is some question about this, though. The military service card for Leonard Wilson at the Missouri Secretary of State web site shows enrollment on 30 Apr 1864, but says “Exempt by physical disability.” Nothing else is known about a disability.) The web site of the Missouri Secretary of
Descendants of Robert Wilson

State also shows that B.H. Wilson was elected to the state house of representatives in 1864 from Saline County, with a note that he resigned. There is nothing about that in the History of Saline County, and it is unclear why he ran for office and then resigned (or how he even could run while on active duty).

1865

There is more about the family situation in another letter written just a few weeks later, from W.A. Wilson at Marshall to Jeanette Leonard, dated 1 Jan 1865 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers):

Dear Sister, Your kind letter, dated Dec. 18th came yesterday. Mary is not “content” to be away from me, but still she is not constantly day & night harassed, with excitement & dread of life & property, as she was here. She does not hear the cry, at all hours of the night, the “Bushwhackers are coming.” She knows that I am the better able to take care of myself in times of danger, than if “encumbered” with my family about me. It is not my intention to abandon Missouri. My interest & my property is here, though little it be. But I am the creature of circumstances; a great many people have left this county, many more are preparing to do so in the Spring, and still a greater number talk of leaving in the Spring. I think that quite a number will go, a greater number can’t.

In regard to your situation, as you state it, it is very difficult to arrive at a “satisfactory” conclusion; to leave your premises, unless left in the possession of some responsible and careful person, it would, in one year, go to destruction. I have “ocular demonstration” of that fact, in my own premises here! But still there are other things that must be attended to, even if those premises should be destroyed, chief of which is a living. My opinion is that, if you could get a reliable person to take charge of your premises, it would be best for you to change your residence, for a time, at least. But where to go to, is a difficult question to decide. I think you would soon get tired of living with Ada, not but she & others would not treat you well. But you have had a house of your own too long to be satisfied long, in another’s house. If you desire to go to St. Louis to live, rent you a comfortable & suitable house for your family, and keep it yourself, that is my advice. Your son Willie could go to school there. I would be much gratified to see you, so that we could have a full & free consultation, or conversation, about these matters. The cost of living anywhere now is enormous, and much higher in St. Louis than Fayette, I doubt not. But by a removal from Fayette to some other place, you might, with greater facility economize and contract your outlays. You would not have so many friends (I use the word friends in its general sense), you would not be so universally acquainted. I find that this is a matter of consequence to my family, where now located! Oxford is 32 or 33 miles, by Rail from Cincinnati on a Branch Rail Road from Hamilton, Ohio, that runs up into Indiana towards Indianapolis. It leaves the great RR route, from Cincinnati via Dayton & Columbus, Ohio, at the town of Hamilton, 12 miles from Oxford. Hamilton, 12 miles from Oxford, contains upwards of 10,000 Inhabitants, in which place I have a Niece residing; her husband was a Lt. in the U.S. [?word?], but whose term has expired and returned home whilst I was there. At Oxford they receive the Cincinnati morning papers at 9½ o’clk A.M. and the 3 o’clk papers at about dark same day. Morning & evening train from Cincinnati every day but Sunday. Dr. Grove has located in Columbus, Indiana, 90 or 100 miles from Oxford. I have been in the place, and I am pleased with it. It is a very business place, from 5 to 10,000 inhabitants in it and improving rapidly. Two important Rail Roads center there. I got a letter from him a few days ago. He says he is doing as well as he

could expect, had several patients, and prospects quite fair for a respectable practice. He had not been able to procure a house yet. Kate & chldr. are in Oxford with her Ma. It is almost impossible to get or rent a house in any of the towns in those states, all full. You can purchase one, and at reasonably fair rates, but none to rent, all full.

Adair is still in Austin, Nevada, & was well 7th Nov. 64. Leonard was at Oxford but I expect him here in a few days. He prefers the excitement here, to the calm there. Ben is in Jefferson City at present and well on the 28th ult. I am here boarding. If Leonard returns he will be some company for me. His Ma, I know did not want him to come back, but he prefers being where I am if there is more danger. I will always be glad to receive a letter from you, and my opinion is, that it is not only our privilege but our duty, to keep up a correspondence and thereby a lively interest in one another’s welfare, and also of our families respectively. Because my experience is that the world is becoming more selfish every day —

I would suppose that you ought to apply to your Representative in Congress to get Abiel into Westpoint and the sooner you make it the better. —

I remain sincerely yours.
W.A. Wilson

P.S. Give my love to all your family.
W.

P.S. Leonard Wilson arrived here this evening direct from Oxford. Left there last Wednesday, 28th ult., all quite well there. Leonard has fattened up very much since there. Leonard met his Bro. Ben in St. Louis & come up with him to Jefferson City. He was quite well. Leonard is going into the Mercantile Business with a Gent. of this place. They go into partnership as equal partners – they sell for cash altogether, they will not go into it on a very extensive [?word?], at present. His partner has been at the business for only a month, or 6 weeks. No B.W.s heard of for 10 days, all quiet — W.A.W.

Three of the Leonard children were mentioned in this letter: Ada, 23 years old, who had married the Episcopal bishop of Missouri, Cicero Stephens Hawks, and was living in St. Louis; Willie (Willy), who was the youngest child, 13 years old at this time; and Abiel Jr., who was 16 at the time, and who later became an Episcopal bishop himself (and did not go to West Point). This was just before Leonard Wilson’s 19th birthday, by the way. The identity of the niece referred to is not known; probably a daughter of William’s sister, Nancy Wilson Loop.

A few months later, there was a letter from W.A. Wilson at Marshall to Jeanette Leonard, dated 24 Apr 1865 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers):

Dear Sister,
I received a letter from Mary last night, dated April 16th. She says they were all well. Annie was at Columbus, Id., with Kate. She says she is quite lonesome, since Annie had left. Mary is anxious to come back to Mo. She greatly prefers Mo. to any other place with which she is acquainted, and says she is willing to be absent from me this Summer, but no longer —
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Everett is going to school in Oxford, Birdie stays with his Ma; he is a very sprightly boy. —

My opinion is that our troubles are mostly over. The War is over, certainly, and peace and quiet will follow rapidly — our troubles in Mo. will gradually grow less. I was never so shocked in my life, as I was when I learned of the horrid and infamous Murder of that Great and Good man, President Lincoln. His place in every respect cannot, in my opinion, be filled. — There are some B.W. s in this Co., and they do some robbing occasionally. Ben was mustered out of service yesterday & has gone to St. Louis. Leonard is here, merchandising in partnership with Mr. Buie. No farming has been done here yet, or very little — I am pretty busy, now getting ready for our Circuit Court (May 8th) — Mary inquired of me, in her letter, whether I had heard from you lately or not —

If I should go on to Oxford during the Summer, what say you to going with me, take a trip for your health. — I would be much pleased to see you, but cannot be thus gratified under existing circumstances. Give my love to all your family, and I greet you, as ever, with a brother’s love — W.A. Wilson

P.S. I have not any communication for Mr. Nat L. relative to that Land. I am always glad to hear from you, and will write you, letter for letter, although I have a great many to write — I write about 3 a week to my Mary, besides great numbers I have to write on business. I write letters every night, nearly, to 10 & to 12 o’clik. — I can’t sleep when I go to bed, therefore I sit up late — W.A.W.

Of course, the most interesting thing about this letter is the reaction to President Lincoln’s assassination, which had occurred on April 14th (he died on April 15th). And saying that the war was certainly over is presumably a reference to the surrender of the Confederate army (Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9th).

This is the only letter here that mentions the two youngest Wilson children, Horace Everett and Byrd, who were ages nine and four at the time. “Nat L.” was probably Nathaniel Leonard, Abiel Leonard’s brother, who lived in Cooper County, MO.

The letter mentions that Ben had just been mustered out of the service. The summary of his Civil War service says that Ben was mustered out at Warrensburg, MO, and discharged at St. Louis on 22 Apr 1865. It also says that he was commissioned Colonel but not mustered in because of the close of war.

Lastly, here is a short note from Leonard Wilson at Marshall to Reeves Leonard, dated 15 Aug 1865 (from the Abiel Leonard Papers):

Dear Cousin

I enclose your Deed to you which has been duly recorded. I would have sent it sooner but Father has been so unwell that I was was [sic] unable to attend to it. He is not improving any; we have sent for Mother. She will be here in a few days.

Yours in haste
Leonard Wilson
William Adair Wilson didn’t have much longer. He was able to write a will on August 24th and then he passed away on 28 Aug 1865. He was just 57 years old. Hopefully his wife and family arrived in time to see him before he died, but there are no further letters known from this time period. A death notice from the Howard Union (in Glasgow, Howard County; obtained from Newspapers.com) says that William died “after a painful illness of more than three weeks of typhoid fever.”

Reeves was the oldest son of Abiel and Jeanette Leonard. He was a major in the Missouri State Militia (Union) during the Civil War, and was 26 years old at the time of this letter. Presumably Leonard was recording this deed for Reeves in his role as deputy circuit clerk.

Let us close with a little bit about the way the Civil War tore apart families. The Wilson and Reeves families had members on both sides in the war. Here’s a bit of a letter by Ben H. Wilson [78]:

Uncle Billy Reeves’ boys all entered the Army. One of his sons, Ben, was killed by the Rebels in the last Battle we had in Missouri. He was ambushed. ... Uncle Ben Reeves, Mother’s brother, was in the Union Army, so was my Father. Cousin Jim Wilson, Reeves Leonard & myself all in the Federal Army. Uncle Grove’s boys & Uncle David’s went into the Rebel Army. [Robert?] Grove was killed. [Givens?] Wilson is still alive. He was in Bledsoe’s Rebel Battery. Your Grandmother Wilson’s youngest brother was in Company C, 2nd Kentucky Cavalry, Basil Duke’s Regiment, Jim Morgan’s Brigade [Confederate].

Probably, the Grove referred to here is the same as the one mentioned in the discussion of bushwhackers earlier. No first name here, either, unfortunately.

Since the Sandidge family was briefly mentioned earlier, note that there were Sandidges on both sides of the war as well. Martin Sandidge reported [61] that

Like so many other families of that time, some descendants of the Sandidge/Sandridge/Sandage family found themselves on opposite sides in that conflict. Of the approximately 78 family members serving in that war, 23 were Union soldiers and the remainder was Confederate soldiers.
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Index of Names

Allen
Betty Jane (b. 1924) ........................................ 180
David Richard (b. 1880) .................................. 95, 135
David Richard Jr. (b. 1914) ........................... 137, 181
David Richard III .......................... 137, 182
Denise ............................................. 182
Edith Irene (b. 1906) .................................. 137
Elizabeth Lois (b. 1878) ............................. 95
Hazel Marie (b. 1903) .............................. 137, 181
John Thomas (b. 1845) .............................. 95
Margaret Elizabeth (b. 1912) ....................... 137, 181
Martha Sue (b. 1932) ................................ 181
Melvin Roscoe (b. 1918) ............................ 137, 182
Richard Earle (b. 1930) ............................ 180
Russell Aubrey (b. 1901) ........................... 137, 180
William Thomas (b. 1921) ......................... 137, 182

Almon
Mary Jane ................................................ 56

Bagley
George .................................................. 171
Patricia Marie ........................................... 172

Beeding
Annie (b. 1846) ......................................... 108

Bell
John .................................................... 63

Berry
Theresa (b. 1860) ....................................... 128

Betro
Betsy .................................................... 184
Charlie .................................................. 184
Louis Angelo (b. 1923) ............................. 183
Phil ...................................................... 184

Bishop
Emily .................................................... 150

Boner
Elizabeth Mahalia (b. 1840) ....................... 69

Bowen
Nell B. (b. abt 1897) .................................. 155

Boyce
Lila E. (b. 1872) ....................................... 120

Brecht
Anna Elizabeth (b. 1753) ............................ 38

Brents
Maria Louisa (b. 1816) ............................... 88

Brommer
Clara Ann ............................................... 139
John Drury .............................................. 139
Robert Kelly (b. 1896) .............................. 138

Brommer
Robert Kelley Jr. (b. 1927) ......................... 139, 182

Brown
Ann ...................................................... 154
Austin A ................................................ 155
Austin A. (b. 1919) .................................. 155
Austin Adair (b. 1897) ............................ 123, 155
Austin Howard (b. 1861) .......................... 122
Dorothy Katherine .............................. 154
Wilson Johns ........................................ 123, 154

Bryan
Archibald Morgan (b. 1904) ..................... 113, 144
Harvey McKinney (b. 1869) ....................... 113

Bullock
Josephine (b. abt 1903) ............................ 139

Burch
? ........................................................... 179

Cannon
Belle (b. abt 1877) .................................... 64
George A. (b. 1853) .................................. 64
Juliette K. (b. 1881) .................................. 64, 113
Mamie L. (b. 1879) .................................. 64
Margaret (b. 1876) .................................... 64, 113

Carroll
Clara M. (b. 1869) .................................... 96

Cole
Marcia Rae (b. 1934) ................................ 181
Raymond Thornton (b. 1905) ..................... 181

Cooper
Harry Clay (b. 1862) .................................. 104
Helen W. (b. 1890) ................................... 106, 142

Cotton
Irene ................................................... 143

Cox
Alma Edith (b. 1898) .................................. 146

Dabney
James Kennon (b. 1901) ............................ 149

Davis
Annette (b. 1899) ...................................... 119, 147
Dorothy (b. 1903) ...................................... 119
Earnest Randall (b. 1901) ......................... 181
Marvin McDonald (b. 1897) ...................... 119
Marvin Middleton (b. 1870) ...................... 118

Davisson
Sarah E .................................................. 117

Dennis
Collis Huntington (b. 1880) ................. 103
Index of Names

Dennis
  George Robertson (b. 1882) .................................. 103
  William Johnston (b. 1857) .................................. 102
Dingwall
  Travis Thomas (b. 1890) .................................. 142
Donley
  Martha (b. 1785) .................................. 51
Douglas
  Margaret Allene (b. 1919) .................................. 161
Driskill
  Joel Edmon ........................................ 183
Duggins
  Susan V. (b. 1833) .................................. 66
Dukić
  Elizabeta (b. 1875) .................................. 167
Duncan
  Annetta Eliza (b. 1867) .................................. 97
Dyer
  Seth Gregory ........................................ 153
Edelen
  Cloyd Chambers (b. 1903) .................................. 147
  Robert P. (b. 1930) .................................. 147
Edwards
  Carol Rae ........................................ 180
  Lillian Alma (b. 1890) .................................. 98
  Margaret Eliza (b. 1844) .................................. 82
  Warren Millender ........................................ 180
Elliott
  Eleanor Elaine (b. 1927) .................................. 180
Ewers
  Carl Fort (b. 1888) .................................. 94, 135
  Clark David (b. 1884) .................................. 94
  Eugene E. (b. 1851) .................................. 94
  Leslee Ann ........................................ 180
  Mida (b. 1877) .................................. 94, 133
  Murlie (b. abt 1879) .................................. 94
  Pearl (b. abt 1882) .................................. 94, 134
  Richard Carroll (b. 1921) .................................. 135, 179
  Shirley Rae (b. 1925) .................................. 135, 180
  Tracy Marie ........................................ 180
Ezby
  Ruth ........................................ 182
Fanning
  Frank Haskell (b. 1859) .................................. 115
Ford
  Henry Lambert (b. 1822) .................................. 59
  John Henry (b. 1852) .................................. 60
Foster
  Carole ........................................ 183
  Cheryl ........................................ 183
  Clyde Leroy (b. 1912) .................................. 183
  Dave ........................................ 183
  Diane ........................................ 184
  Judith Lee (b. 1940) .................................. 183
  Patty ........................................ 183
  Susan ........................................ 183

Fulmer
  ? .................................................. 140
Gathright
  Audrey Faye (b. 1930) .................................. 187
  David Elmer (b. 1892) .................................. 187
George
  Martin Terrill (b. 1924) .................................. 184
Goss
  Betty Lee ........................................ 154
Graff
  Johann Wendel (b. 1745) .................................. 38
Griffiths
  Sara Jane (b. 1902) .................................. 180
Grove
  Ada (b. 1860) .................................. 79
  Adam (b. 1786) .................................. 77, 124, 191
  Belinda C. (b. abt 1834) .................................. 39, 66
  Elizabeth Lewis (b. 1862) .................................. 65, 113
  Emma Lucretia (b. 1853) .................................. 124
  Florence (b. 1862) .................................. 79
  Henry Clay (b. 1854) .................................. 65
  Jane Isbell (b. 1856) .................................. 65
  John Bright (b. 1829) .................................. 77, 124
  John Henry (b. abt 1821) .................................. 39, 64
  Katie (b. 1866) .................................. 79
  Mary Willie (b. 1855) .................................. 65
  Robert W. (b. 1828) .................................. 39, 65
  Samuel S. (b. 1794) .................................. 38, 77, 191
  Susan J. (b. abt 1832) .................................. 39
  William I. (b. abt 1823) .................................. 39
Harkness
  William Roland .................................. 141
Harper
  Herman Bert (b. 1911) .................................. 183
Harris
  Jane (b. 1798) .................................. 63
  Milo Jenkins (b. 1862) .................................. 119
Harrison
  Bettie Crafton (b. 1841) .................................. 101
  Mildred M ........................................ 143
Hayden
  Henry Clay (b. abt 1833) .................................. 66
  Henry Clay Jr. (b. 1870) .................................. 67
  Ida Lou (b. 1860) .................................. 67
  Mabel (b. 1862) .................................. 67, 114
  Marie (b. abt 1867) .................................. 67, 114
  Susan (b. abt 1864) .................................. 67
Heddens
  James Monroe (b. 1837) .................................. 117
  Katherine Louise (b. 1870) .................................. 117
Hellem
  Emil Frederick (b. 1904) .................................. 179
  Tamsin Judith (b. 1935) .................................. 179
Hill
  Sarah Clark (b. abt 1826) .................................. 56
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Hoggatt
  Wilford Bacon (b. 1865)............................... 114

Hollister
  ? .................................................. 149

Hotchkiss
  Douglas Stephen ....................................... 161
  Edward Adair .......................................... 162
  James Miller (b. 1881) .............................. 124
  James Miller Jr. (b. 1927) ......................... 1, 124, 161
  Joseph Alva .......................................... 162
  Lauren Sean .......................................... 161
  William Joseph (b. 1919) ......................... 124, 161
  William Joseph III .................................. 161
  William Josephus (b. 1858) ....................... 124

Howard
  Judith B. ........................................... 152

Jakobsdotter
  Sigrid (b. 1843) ..................................... 129

Jones
  Rosa B. (b. abt 1849) ............................ 99

Kanouse
  Rosie Mae (b. 1898) ................................ 187

Keller
  Marie Llewellyn (b. 1886) .......................... 121
  Kelley
    Ida Belle (b. 1882) ................................ 137

Kinnear
  Margaret G. (b. 1798) ............................. 34, 191

Lamm
  ? .................................................. 70

Landry
  Ema Lee ............................................. 139

Lares
  Anna Katherine (b. abt 1913) .................... 157, 160
  Della Ruth (b. 1911) ................................ 156, 161
  Harvey Nicholas (b. 1878) ....................... 156, 160

Laurance
  Berta Adaline (b. 1922) ......................... 174

Lehman
  Anna R. (b. 1848) .................................. 71

Leighton
  Winslow L. (b. abt 1868) ....................... 125

Leonard
  Abiel (b. 1797) ..................................... 214
  Abiel Jr. (b. 1848) ................................. 214
  Ada (b. 1841) ....................................... 214
  Katherine (b. 1844) ................................ 214
  Martha (b. 1836) ................................... 214
  Mary (b. 1833) ...................................... 214
  Nathaniel William (b. 1851) .................... 214
  Reeves (b. 1838) ................................... 214

Lewis
  Agnes W. (b. abt 1825) ............................ 65

Lincoln
  Abraham (b. 1809) .................................. 216, 218, 229

Lino
  Dominick (b. 1856) ............................... 128
  Rose (b. 1883) ...................................... 128

Loop
  Anna .................................................. 69
  Charles A. (b. 1866) ................................ 69
  Eliza Jane (b. 1833) ................................ 46, 70
  John A. (b. 1877) ................................... 71
  John Anderson (b. abt 1842) .................... 46, 70
  Julia Ann (b. 1835) ................................ 46, 70
  Lavinia Catherine (b. abt 1829) .............. 46, 69
  Lewis (b. 1797) ..................................... 45
  Lucy L. (b. 1877) ................................... 71
  Mary S. (b. 1876) ................................... 71
  Robert (b. 1839) .................................... 46
  Susanna (b. abt 1838) ............................. 46
  William Wilson (b. abt 1829) ................. 46, 69

Lovelace
  Hazel Irene (b. 1917) ............................. 181

Mac Donall
  Lucille Blair (b. 1903) ............................ 150

Matkin
  Charles Marcus (b. 1880) .......................... 133
  Eugene LeRoy (b. 1903) ............................ 134, 177

McChristy
  John (b. abt 1828) .................................. 70

McCoun
  Priscilla ............................................ 26

McDonald
  Annette Vance (b. 1868) ........................... 69, 118
  Catherine Louise (b. 1898) ....................... 117, 146
  Gerald Evander (b. 1929) ......................... 146
  James Wilson (b. 1896) ............................ 117, 146
  John Irving (b. 1858) .............................. 69, 115
  John Irving Jr. (b. 1881) ....................... 115
  Leonard Eugene (b. 1930) ....................... 147
  Louise (b. 1884) .................................... 117
  Maggie Beattie (b. 1856) ......................... 69
  Marie (b. 1875) ..................................... 69
  Mary Ann (b. 1903) ................................ 118, 147
  Mattie Lee (b. 1864) ................................ 69
  Olivia Calhoun (b. 1919) ......................... 146, 184
  Orlando Gerald (b. 1898) ....................... 146
  Robert Heddens (b. 1894) ....................... 117, 146
  Robert Wilson (b. 1866) ......................... 69, 117
  Rufus Lee (b. 1832) ................................ 67
  Rufus Lee (b. 1888) ................................ 117
  Rufus Lee Jr. (b. 1871) ............................ 69
  Thomas H. (b. 1901) ................................ 118, 146

McGrew
  George T. (b. 1907) ................................ 164

McMillan
  Mary Alice (b. 1909) ................................ 144

Mellen
  Henry William (b. 1865) .......................... 114
### Index of Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lola</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adair</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adair W. (b. 1912)</td>
<td>121, 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Griffin (b. 1867)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Griffin Jr. (b. 1909)</td>
<td>121, 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Griffin III</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chesley MacDonall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conrad H.</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guy B. (b. 1907)</td>
<td>121, 149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion (b. 1914)</td>
<td>121, 152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minewski</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mooney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James (b. abt 1868)</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John (b. 1907)</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary (b. abt 1903)</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mooney (Ray)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark F. (b. abt 1911)</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth J. (b. 1914)</td>
<td>134, 178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James W. (b. abt 1906)</td>
<td>134, 178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moruza</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabel Gandarillas (b. 1925)</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marietta (b. 1891)</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May (b. 1866)</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murphy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ruth</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip James</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip James Jr.</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navarro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen Andrea (b. 1914)</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nielsen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerda (b. 1901)</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Maria (b. 1885)</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nils (b. 1846)</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olmsted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Matlack (b. 1895)</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orear</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erma Helen (b. 1884)</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary S. (b. 1819)</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loretto Dorothy (b. 1902)</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilcher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret (b. 1894)</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive Agnes (b. abt 1849)</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulliam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Robertson (b. 1802)</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>?</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffety</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lillie Agnes (b. 1902)</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rankin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Seawright (b. 1803)</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raub</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theone M.</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth J.</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank C. (b. 1885)</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James F.</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert J.</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirley L.</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David (b. abt 1863)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walter E. (b. 1866)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William N. (b. abt 1832)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reeves</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Harrison (b. 1787)</td>
<td>51, 52, 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanette E. (b. 1812)</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Elizabeth (b. 1817)</td>
<td>51, 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reid</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ada (b. 1847)</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Jane (b. 1923)</td>
<td>144, 183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloris Almyne (b. 1912)</td>
<td>143, 183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David William (b. 1845)</td>
<td>63, 106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James D. (b. 1881)</td>
<td>112, 143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James William (b. 1802)</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Helen (b. 1915)</td>
<td>144, 183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stillborn (b. 1911)</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stillborn (b. 1918)</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner Wilson (b. 1883)</td>
<td>112, 143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rinker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Ellsworth (b. abt 1869)</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Catherine (b. 1911)</td>
<td>126, 163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Paul</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Wilson (b. 1901)</td>
<td>126, 162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Barry</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John David (b. 1909)</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melba Maxine (b. 1933)</td>
<td>140, 183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilson Douglas</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Elaine (b. 1869)</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leila Viola (b. 1904)</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandidge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Wood (b. 1809)</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Wood (b. 1850)</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micajah Carr (b. 1835)</td>
<td>87, 226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth M. (b. abt 1849)</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney Ray (b. abt 1921)</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Descendants of Robert Wilson

Smith
   Alma Louise (b. 1889) .................................. 156, 160
Snoddy
   Margaret (b. bef 1804) .................................. 43
Stafford
   ? ........................................................... 113
Swasey
   Alice Cathryn (b. 1879) .................................. 124
Swinney
   Margaret Kring (b. 1871) ................................. 64, 112
   Thomas (b. 1785) ......................................... 63
   Thomas A. (b. 1823) ..................................... 63
Sykes
   Otto T. (b. abt 1893) .................................... 140
Tobias
   Delphia Anna .............................................. 182
Trickey
   Lloyd George (b. 1913) .................................. 172
   Lloyd George Jr. ......................................... 172
Trinaistich
   Elizabeth Marie (b. 1904) ............................... 167
Trinaistić
   Mate (b. 1874) ........................................... 167
Truman
   Harry S (b. 1884) ........................................ 144
Turner
   Mary (b. 1855) ........................................... 108
Twain
   Mark (b. 1835) ........................................... 81, 225
unknown
   Bernadette .................................................. 185
   Donna ....................................................... 182
   Grace E. (b. abt 1910) .................................. 178
   Helen M. .................................................... 177
   Irene (b. abt 1906) ...................................... 155
   Mary ......................................................... 7
   Sue T. ...................................................... 174
Vaeth
   Lorene Elizabeth (b. 1892) ............................... 147
Vance
   Berenice W. (b. 1884) .................................. 86
   John Randolph (b. 1835) ................................ 84
   Mary M. (b. 1870) ........................................ 85
   Rufus A. (b. abt 1872) ................................... 85
Vaughan
   Charles Welles (b. 1941) ............................... 154, 184
   Charles Welles Jr. ....................................... 184
   David M. .................................................... 145
   Harry Hawkins (b. 1893) ............................... 114, 144
   Janet Lyle ............................................... 145
   Margaret McNaught (b. 1888) ....................... 114
   Michael William ...................................... 154
   Robert Randolph (b. 1856) ........................... 114
   Timothy Wilson ........................................ 185
   Virgil William (b. 1908) .............................. 153
   William .................................................. 184
von Seutter
   ? .................................................................. 182
   Suzanne ..................................................... 182
Wagner
   Julia Huldah .............................................. 182
Wakeman
   Ferdinand Oscar (b. abt 1825) ......................... 62
   Katherine Inge (b. 1856) ............................... 62, 101
   Maude Campbell (b. 1866) ........................... 62
Wall
   Virgil D. ..................................................... 138
   Virgil D. Jr. .............................................. 138
   William Monroe ......................................... 138
Walz
   Charles A. (b. 1872) .................................... 138
Webb
   Helen (b. 1905) ........................................... 181
Whitson
   Helen W. (b. 1865) ....................................... 70, 119
   Lurton H. (b. 1872) ..................................... 70
   Milton Thomas (b. 1836) .............................. 70
Wier
   Barbara (b. 1930) ...................................... 138, 182
   Eugene S. .................................................. 138
   Gene Carroll (b. 1924) ............................... 138
Wilhelm
   Elizabeth L. (b. abt 1883) ............................ 123
Wilson
   ? .................................................................. 89
   Ada Lee (b. abt 1869) ................................. 99
   Adair (b. 1841) .......................................... 53, 79, 213
   Adair (b. 1909) .......................................... 123, 155
   Alva Adams (b. 1879) ................................. 82, 123
   Amelia Jane ............................................... 139
   Andrew Givens (b. 1838) ............................ 37
   Ann ............................................................ 8
   Annette (b. 1843) ....................................... 53, 83, 213
   Annie F. (b. abt 1872) ............................... 99
   Benjamin Harrison (b. 1836) ...................... 53, 71, 213
   Benjamin Powell (b. 1874) ....................... 76
   Berenice (b. 1870) ....................................... 75
   Betty Jo ..................................................... 139
   Byrd Lincoln (b. 1860) ............................... 53, 91, 213
   Carole Anne ............................................... 175
   Carrie Ruth (b. 1888) ................................. 98
   Carroll Volumnia (b. 1898) ......................... 96, 138
   Catherine Sue ............................................ 188
   Clara Sara (b. 1898) .................................. 97, 138
   Clarence Ralph (b. 1943) ............................ 174
   Clarence Robert (b. 1922) ......................... 131, 173
   David ......................................................... 7, 189
   David (b. 1813) ........................................ 27, 55
   David S. (b. 1792) .................................... 19, 33, 190
   David W. (b. abt 1835) .............................. 58, 99
   Donald Everett (b. 1927) ......................... 169, 185
   Dorothy Elizabeth (b. 1930) ..................... 169
### Index of Names

| Wilson          | Mary Ann (b. 1835) ........................................ | 44, 67 |
|                | Mary Eleanor (b. 1869) ................................... | 82    |
|                | Mary Eliza (b. 1836) ..................................... | 32, 60 |
|                | Mary Eliza (b. 1856) ..................................... | 57    |
|                | Mary G. (b. abt 1838) ................................... | 58, 100|
|                | Mary L. (b. abt 1849) ................................... | 53    |
|                | Maud Adair (b. 1872) .................................... | 75, 76, 120 |
|                | Micajah D. (b. 1831) .................................... | 31    |
|                | Michael Leonard ........................................... | 188   |
|                | Muriel A. (b. 1899) .................................... | 120, 149|
|                | Nancy M. (b. 1803) ...................................... | 19, 45 |
|                | Norman Adair ................................................ | 160   |
|                | Nyman Adair ................................................. | 131, 172|
|                | Nyman Adair Jr. ............................................ | 173   |
|                | Omega (b. 1914) ........................................... | 98, 140|
|                | Ophelia (b. 1916) ........................................ | 98, 140|
|                | Ouida Elaine ................................................. | 173   |
|                | Paul .......................................................... | 161   |
|                | Paulina E. (b. 1833) .................................... | 37, 63 |
|                | Priscilla David (b. 1855) ................................| 57, 93 |
|                | Richard Raub ................................................ | 175   |
|                | Robert ....................................................... | 3, 8, 189|
|                | Robert (b. 1800) .......................................... | 19, 40 |
|                | Robert (b. 1844) .......................................... | 32    |
|                | Robert H. (b. 1829) .................................... | 35    |
|                | Ruth Ann ..................................................... | 161   |
|                | Sallie Jane (b. 1914) ................................... | 121, 153|
|                | Samuel ....................................................... | 7, 8, 189|
|                | Samuel (b. 1908) .......................................... | 97, 139|
|                | Sara Lee ..................................................... | 154   |
|                | Susan Ann (b. 1858) .................................... | 57    |
|                | Susan Anne (b. abt 1830) ................................| 31, 59 |
|                | Suzanne ..................................................... | 139   |
|                | Thomas ....................................................... | 7, 189 |
|                | William (b. 1870) ........................................ | 89    |
|                | William (b. abt 1756) .................................. | 8, 9, 189|
|                | William A. (b. 1869) .................................... | 75, 119|
|                | William Adair (b. 1807) ................................| 19, 47, 213|
|                | William Edwards (b. 1913) ................................| 123, 160|
|                | William Henry ............................................... | 30    |
|                | William Martin ............................................. | 160   |
|                | Woods ........................................................ |       |
|                | Marth T. (b. 1796) ...................................... | 28, 191|
|                | Yancey ....................................................... |       |
|                | Catharine (b. abt 1761) ..................................| 18, 190|

**Wilson**

|                        | Edmund/Edward T. (b. 1842) ................................ | 59, 100 |
|                        | Edna (b. 1892) ............................................ | 96, 137 |
|                        | Edward Adair ................................................ | 161    |
|                        | Edwards Adair (b. 1874) .................................. | 82, 123 |
|                        | Eliza Jane (b. 1820) ..................................... | 35, 63 |
|                        | Elizabeth Talbot (b. abt 1861) .......................... | 57, 95 |
|                        | Francis Adair (b. 1907) .................................. | 124    |
|                        | Genevieve (b. abt 1874) .................................. | 75     |
|                        | Harry Brock (b. 1882) .................................... | 76, 121 |
|                        | Harry Everett Jr. (b. 1922) ................................| 131, 174|
|                        | Harry Powell Jr. (b. 1921) ................................| 121, 154|
|                        | Horace Everett (b. 1855) ..................................| 53, 89, 213|
|                        | Horace Everett (b. 1882) ..................................| 89, 126 |
|                        | infant son (b. 1891) ......................................| 96     |
|                        | infant son (b. 1896) ......................................| 96     |
|                        | James ....................................................... | 7      |
|                        | James (b. 1742) ............................................ | 5      |
|                        | James Leonard ............................................... | 170    |
|                        | James Madison (b. 1831) .................................. | 43     |
|                        | James Wesley (b. 1865) ....................................| 57, 97 |
|                        | Jeffrey Powell ............................................. | 154    |
|                        | John (b. 1790) ............................................ | 19, 21, 190|
|                        | John (b. 1827) ............................................ | 43     |
|                        | John David (b. 1862) ..................................... | 57, 95 |
|                        | John H. (b. abt 1840) .................................... | 58     |
|                        | John Tilford (b. abt 1815) ................................| 27, 57 |
|                        | John W. (b. 1825) ......................................... | 35     |
|                        | John W. D. (b. 1902) ..................................... | 97, 139|
|                        | Juliette W. (b. 1843) .................................... | 37, 64 |
|                        | Katherine Thompson (b. 1872) ................................| 82, 121|
|                        | Laurance Robert ............................................ | 174    |
|                        | Leonard (b. 1846) ......................................... | 53, 86, 213|
|                        | Leonard Everett (b. 1904) ................................| 129, 164|
|                        | Leonie (b. 1873) .......................................... | 89, 125|
|                        | Leonie Eileen (b. 1916) ..................................| 131, 170|
|                        | Lettie ...................................................... | 8      |
|                        | Lillian (b. 1897) ......................................... | 98, 139|
|                        | Linda Louise ................................................ | 160    |
|                        | Mabel (b. 1894) ........................................... | 96, 138|
|                        | Mamie G. (b. abt 1876) ................................... | 99     |
|                        | Margaret A. (b. 1831) .................................... | 37     |
|                        | Margaret Jean ............................................... | 174    |
|                        | Margaretta (b. 1885) ......................................| 82, 124|
|                        | Martha Catharine (b. 1839) ................................| 53, 76, 213|
|                        | Mary (b. 1796) ............................................ | 19, 38, 77|

**Woods**

|                        | Marth T. (b. 1796) ...................................... | 28, 191|

**Yancey**

|                        | Catharine (b. abt 1761) ..................................| 18, 190|