

SAMUEL HUGHES FITZHUGH WILSON & JOSEPH AUGUSTUS WILSON
Born in Moundsville, They Resided in Iowa & Served in the Civil War
Sons of George Wilson & Rebecca Parriott

Presented by Linda Cunningham Fluharty, March 2021.

The Wilson brothers were among a number of Marshall County natives who had moved to Iowa and served during the Civil War. Neither of the Wilsons died in the war, but they were of interest because their mother was Rebecca Parrott, the daughter of William Parrott, a slave owner, and Susanna Jane Turner, who had moved from Berkeley County, (West) Virginia to settle in Marshall County. William was a descendant of Christopher Parrott/Parriott, a family that is the subject of several genealogy books compiled by my friend, Joseph D. Parriott.

Joe knew of the births of Samuel and Joseph Wilson, and he knew that Samuel and Joseph had moved to Iowa with their widowed mother. He also knew that the brothers had served in the Civil War, but he had no details or additional information about them in his most recent book.

The information found by this writer several years ago was promptly mailed to Joe because he was intending to revise his genealogy book again. – But it's possible he won't be including some of the information because he does not like to publish information that he says might "embarrass the family." The tragic death of Joseph Augustus Wilson might be something Joe would not publish because he considers it unseemly.

In any case, Joe referred another researcher to me, one who happens to be a descendant of Samuel Hughes Fitzhugh Wilson. Joe remembered the information I had sent him, particularly about Joseph's death, but he did not seem to have it to share with the descendant – and I had not kept it. Because I don't want to have to research this again, I am posting it here for posterity.

REBECCA PARROTT married GEORGE W. WILSON on March 25, 1825 in Marshall County. Their son Samuel H. F. was born January 30, 1827 and Joseph A. was born about 1829. George W. Wilson died on June 12, 1834 at the age of 34 years, 9 months. He is buried at First Street Cemetery, Moundsville.



A year after her husband's death, Rebecca Parrott Wilson moved to Iowa with her two young sons. Her widowed mother, Susan (Turner) Parrott, and Rebecca's siblings also moved to Iowa. Susan died in 1851.

Burlington Weekly Telegraph, 10 May 1851

DIED—yesterday morning, near this city, of Erysipelas, MRS. SUSAN PARROTT, aged about 68 years.

The deceased was formerly from the vicinity of Wheeling, Va., and settled in this place in the year 1837. From that time to the present we have been intimately acquainted with her and have had an excellent opportunity of learning her true character.— She was a worthy and highly respected member of the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years previous to her death, and as such was true to her professions in an eminent degree. In all her relations with the world she was proverbially amiable, charitable and ever exhibiting a true christian-like spirit. As a mother she was remarkable for her affection and kindness to her large family of children. As a friend and neighbor she was esteemed and beloved by all who knew her. To the numerous relatives and friends of the deceased, we offer our warmest sympathy for this bereavment.

In Iowa, Rebecca Parrott Wilson married Charles Madera and they had several more children.

At the time of the 1850 census of Burlington, Des Moines, Iowa, Samuel and Joseph lived with their mother and step-father, as well as siblings, Ellen, William, Susan, Edgar, Sheppherd, Frederick and George. They were with their widowed mother in 1860, and siblings Susan, Edgar, Shepherd, Frederick and George.

Rebecca died July 15, 1860 and she is buried at Aspen Grove Cemetery, Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa.

SAMUEL HUGHES FITZHUGH WILSON's life story is told in a biography, found in the 1905 book, *Biographical Review of Des Moines County, Iowa: Containing Biographical and Genealogical Sketches of the Prominent Citizens of To-day and Also of the Past.*

engaged in the breeding and raising of cattle, having about one hundred and fifty head upon his place each year. He also feeds about the same number of hogs, and his stock-dealing interests are bringing him very gratifying success.

Sept. 14, 1897, Mr. Evans was married to Miss Florence Bowman, a daughter of Henry Bowman, and they now have four children: Henry, born Aug. 10, 1898; Dorothy, born Feb. 9, 1900; Tom, born July 12, 1902; and Mary Frances, born Aug. 25, 1904.

Mr. Evans, as the result of his study and consideration of the political issues and questions of the country, has given his support to the Republican party. He belongs to the Alpha Beta society, a Greek letter fraternity with which he became connected while attending college at Mount Pleasant. He also belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, and is now serving on its official board. He is a young man of strong purpose, laudable ambition, and determined will, qualities which are always essential in a successful business career, and in the control of extensive farming and stock-raising interests he displays excellent business ability and executive force.

SAMUEL H. F. WILSON.

SAMUEL H. F. WILSON, one of the venerable citizens of Franklin township, was born in Moundsville, near Wheeling, W. Va.,—then a part of Virginia,—June 30, 1827, and when a youth of eight years was brought to Iowa by his mother in 1835. He is a son of George and Rebecca (Parrott) Wilson. The father was born in the east-

ern part of West Virginia, and throughout his entire life followed the occupation of farming. His death, however, occurred in Virginia when he was thirty-two years of age, his son Samuel being at that time a young lad of seven summers. He was a member of the Methodist church, his life was honorable and upright, and in his business undertakings he prospered, being recognized as one of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of his community. His political allegiance was given to the Whig party. His remains were interred at Moundsville, Va.

The following year the mother brought her family to Iowa. She was born in Berkeley county, Virginia, and was educated in the common schools of her native State. Her parents were William and Susan (Turner) Parrott. Her father was a farmer and slave-owner of West Virginia, and a very prominent and influential man in that State, where his death occurred. Mrs. Parrott afterward came to Iowa. She had a family of nine children, all of whom accompanied her to this State in 1836. She brought the first slave into Burlington, and freed him here, and continued a resident of Burlington until her death. For a short time she conducted what was then called the Wisconsin Hotel, but the name was afterward changed to the Mansion House. It stood on the northeast corner of Columbia and Main Streets, and the location is now used as a restaurant. On disposing of the hotel business, Mrs. Parrott went to West Burlington, and her death occurred in 1851, when she had reached the advanced age of seventy years. She had three sons and six daughters, all of whom have now passed away, namely: Christopher C.; Lawson S.; William; Mrs. Rebecca Wil-

son; Mary Ann, who married Aaron Phillips; Martha, who became the wife of Thomas Baltzer; Isabella, the wife of William F. Johnson; Jane, the wife of Robert Chalfant; and Elizabeth, who married Shepherd Loeffler. All became residents of this county, and were prominent to a greater or less extent in business life and public interests, but all have now passed away. Mrs. Wilson, coming with her two sons to Des Moines county, located in Burlington, where she lived until her death.

For her second husband, Mrs. Wilson married Charles Madera, then a resident of Burlington, and one of the early settlers of the county, who became a man of marked prominence and influence in his community. For some years he served as judge of the probate court, and was afterward county treasurer, filling the latter position at the time of his death. He acted as probate judge from 1837 until 1842, and during that period had charge of every estate settled at that time. Various positions of trust and responsibility were conferred upon him, and he was widely known for his fidelity and reliability. He was recognized as a leader in political matters, and had the entire confidence of his fellow-men, even those who differed from him in political views respecting him for his honesty and worth. His business career was equally notable. He was engaged with Shepherd Loeffler in the dry-goods business at Burlington for a number of years, and built and owned the first saw-mill on Flint River. He passed away when about fifty years of age, and Mrs. Madera died at the age of fifty-one years in Burlington. She held membership in the Methodist church, in which she was an active and devoted worker. His fraternal relations were with

the Odd Fellows Society, and in the lodge, in public life, and in his social relations he was esteemed for his genuine worth. By this marriage there were a daughter and four sons, but only one is now living.

Samuel H. F. Wilson and his only brother, Joseph A. Wilson, remained with their mother after her second marriage, making their home with Mr. and Mrs. Madera while they lived.

Mr. Wilson, of this review, was educated in the common schools of Burlington, and he and his brother were among the early pupils of Mrs. Sheldon, who taught one of the first schools in the city, and was well known as "Mother Sheldon." When sixteen years of age he entered upon his business career as a salesman in the dry-goods store of John R. Campbell & Company, with whom he remained for some years, and then began clerking for H. H. Scott & Company, in whose employ he continued until 1850. He next went to California, where he engaged in mining for some years, and he also carried on the stock business, buying and selling cattle and horses. He returned to Burlington in 1856, and after a short stay in that city, again made his way to the West. He was wagon-master for Majors Russell and Waddel during the Mormon war in Utah, continuing with the army throughout the Mormon troubles until 1860. He then engaged in freighting, transporting freight by ox-teams from Nebraska City to Denver, it requiring thirty days to make that trip. The winter of 1859 was spent in Denver, and the next spring he took a train of twenty-seven wagons and hauled lumber for the express company, the lumber being used in the building of stations along the express line for a distance of three hundred miles. In

1860 he returned to Iowa, where he remained until the following year.

When the country became engaged in the Civil War, Mr. Wilson, his patriotic spirit aroused, offered his services to the government, enlisting at Burlington in Company C, First Iowa Cavalry, with which he spent three years and four months, receiving an honorable discharge at Davenport, where he was also mustered out. He was stationed most of the time in Mississippi, and took part in a number of important battles and skirmishes. His only brother, Joseph, who was a harnessmaker by trade, was also in the army, and died at St. Louis, Mo. When the war was over he returned to Burlington, where he engaged in the feed and livery business for about two years, and then conducted a dairy and engaged in farming in Franklin township on the place where he now resides. He has made all of the improvements upon this farm. His original house was destroyed by a cyclone in 1890, and during the summer the family lived in tents until the new residence was erected. For the last forty years, Mr. Wilson has been engaged successfully and extensively in the breeding of Poland China hogs, and his stock has taken many premiums at the State and county fairs. He has one hundred and sixty acres in the home place, and the farm is valuable because of the care and labor which he has bestowed upon it and the practical and modern methods which he has followed.

Mr. Wilson was married in 1865 to Mrs. Lydia Upton, née Eagle. Her mother has been three times married, her second husband being Levi Gridley, and her third husband, Hezekiah Archer. She is now more than ninety-eight years of age, and makes her home with Mr. and Mrs. Wilson.

By their marriage eight children have been born: George, who died in infancy; Dan, who resides upon the home farm; Fannie, the wife of Ernest Starbuck, a wood-turner of Peoria, Ill., by whom she has two children, Daisy W. and Julian B.; Susan, who died at the age of seventeen years; Nellie, who died at the age of two years; Sam, who is engaged in the hotel business in Kansas City; Fred, who is operating the home farm; and Daisy, the wife of E. H. Lutton, of Mediapolis, Iowa.

Mr. Wilson votes with the Republican party, which stood by the Union in the dark days of the Civil War, and has always been the party of reform and progress. In all matters of citizenship he is as loyal to his country as when he wore the blue uniform of the nation. He has never sought to figure prominently in public life, however, preferring to give his attention to his business interests, and as an agriculturist has won creditable success, becoming the owner of a valuable farm. His life history has been a varied one, and during his service on the plains and on the battle-fields of the South he has had many interesting and exciting experiences, which, if written in detail, would prove the old adage that "truth is stranger than fiction." He is now living amid comfortable surroundings, spending the evening of his days in quiet upon the home farm, and is one of the respected and worthy residents of Franklin township.

GEORGE SWENY.

ONE who has for a long term of years occupied a prominent place in the development and material and spiritual progress of Burlington is George Sweny, who was born

Roster and record of Iowa soldiers in the War of the Rebellion:

Samuel was in Company "C" 1st Iowa Cavalry

Wilson, Samuel H. F. Age 32. Nativity Virginia. Enlisted July 18, 1861, as First Sergeant. Mustered July 31, 1861. Reduced to ranks at his own request Oct. 7, 1861. Mustered out Sept. 9, 1864. Davenport, Iowa, expiration of term of service.

Samuel died in Des Moines County, Iowa on December 16, 1911. He is buried at Linn Grove Cemetery.

JOSEPH AUGUSTUS WILSON, a harness maker by trade, served in the Civil War, according to his brother's biography. The *United States Registers of the U.S. Army, 1798-1914*, indicates he served in the Regular Army, in the 11th U. S. Infantry. He was enlisted on February 11, 1862 at Burlington, Iowa by Capt. Newman to serve three years. Born in Marshall County, Virginia, age 30, he was a Saddler with hazel eyes, brown hair and fair complexion. He was in the 11th Infantry, Company "E" (& possibly "H"). He was discharged February 11, 1865 by expiration of service, at City Point, Virginia, a Private.

At the time of the 1870 census of Flint River, Des Moines County, Iowa, Joseph, age 38, was living with his brother Samuel & family. The occupation of both brothers is "Dairyman."

Joseph apparently didn't marry until April 3, 1888, at which time his marriage to Josephine Cox took place at the New McCutchen House in Des Moines, Iowa.

[State Board of Health, Form 2.]
This Return is to be carefully filled out and attached to and returned with the Marriage License. This Return does not take the place of the Certificate which comes attached to the License, but is in addition thereto.

IOWA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Return of a Marriage to County Clerk.

1. Full Name of GROOM, *Joseph A. Wilson*
2. Place of Residence, *Des Moines County Iowa*
3. Occupation, *Saddler Harness Maker*
4. Age next Birthday, *58* years. Color, *W*. Race, *Am*
5. Place of Birth, *Marshall County Virginia*
6. Father's Name, *George Wilson*
7. Mother's Maiden Name, *Melissa Carr*
8. Number of Groom's Marriage, *First*
9. Full Name of BRIDE, *Josephine Cox*
Maiden Name, if a Widow,
10. Place of Residence, *Des Moines County Iowa*
11. Age next Birthday, *38* years. Color, *White* Race, *American*
12. Place of Birth, *Des Moines County Iowa*
13. Father's Name, *Philip Cox*
14. Mother's Maiden Name, *Louisa Ward*
15. Number of Bride's Marriage, *First*
16. Married at *the New McCutchen House* in the County of *Des Moines* and State of Iowa, the *3^d* day of *April* 188*8*
17. Witnesses to Marriage, *A. Fullerton*

N. B.—At Nos. 8 and 15 state whether 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, &c., Marriage of each. At 17 give names of subscribing witnesses to the Marriage Certificate. If no witnesses, give names of two persons who witnessed the ceremony.

April 3^d 1888

We Hereby Certify that the information above given is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.

J. A. Wilson (Groom.)
Josephine Cox (Bride.)

I Hereby Certify that the above is a correct return of a Marriage solemnized by me.

Dated at *Burlington Ia* } *A. J. Willhauer*
 this *3^d* day of *April* 188*8* }

Acres, Blackmar & Co., Printers, Burlington.

A glimpse of the next years of the life of Joseph Augustus Wilson is found in the story of the tragic deaths of Joseph and his wife, Josephine.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 3 Dec 1896

STRYCHNINE WAS HIS AGENT.

It Took Four Men to Hold Him on the Table.

At 10 o'clock Thursday morning Jacob Matzenbough rushed into the new Fourth District Police Station and notified Sergt. Woodlock that Joseph A. Wilson had taken poison at his home, 1307 North Eighth street. Officer Roach went to the house, and finding the report true, called an ambulance.

The man was on the verge of spasms when he arrived at the Dispensary and it took the officer and four ambulance drivers to hold him on the table.

The stomach pump was applied, but the delay had been too great and he died on the table. The body was sent to the morgue.

Wilson took 10 cents' worth of strychnine at 9 o'clock. The act was caused by drink. He had been employed by Chas. F. Bergesch, the livery stable man at Sixth and Carr, for six years, but was recently discharged on account of his dissipated habits.

Two weeks ago his wife left him on the same account. He had been on a continuous spree since Thanksgiving Day.

He has a brother, Samuel L. Wilson, living in Iowa. The present whereabouts of his wife are unknown. The dead man was 66 years old.

Mr. Bergesch, his old employer, said he would telegraph Wilson's brother, who is a well-to-do stock raiser.

Sad Plight of Mrs. Josephine Wilson, a Suicide's Widow.

Mrs. Josephine Wilson, wife of Joseph Augustus Wilson, who killed himself in this city Dec. 5, was found dying Saturday morning in a pile of fallen leaves in the woods near Maxwell, Mo.

She was removed to the County Hospital, where it was said that she had starved so long that she could not recover.

Years ago Mrs. Wilson was a bareback rider in Barnum's circus. She was one of the celebrities of the sawdust ring. Her husband was an animal trainer.

But they deteriorated and several months ago he secured a position as hostler in a livery stable at Sixth and Carr streets. He and his wife occupied a room over the stable.

The night of Nov. 27 Wilson went to the room while drunk and had a quarrel with his wife. She left him and walked until she was far out into the country.

Dec. 5 Wilson committed suicide in his room. A week later his wife was found half dressed in the woods near Maxwell and she was taken in charge by the Sheriff. She was kept for two days and then set at liberty. Since then she has been wandering about in the woods, begging meals from the farm houses.

Saturday morning two little children went into the woods to play and found the withered and shrunken form of the woman, who had partly buried herself under the leaves. She was so weak she could not talk. The children told of finding her and she was rescued.

FOUND WANDERING IN THE WOODS AND CRAZED FROM FEAR.

MRS. JOSEPHINE WILSON'S HUSBAND
MISTREATED HER AND SHE
FLED FOR SAFETY.

DERANGED BY A CRUEL BLOW.

GRIEF-STRICKEN BY HIS BRUTAL-
ITY, WILSON SWALLOWS
POISON AND DIES.

SHE IS IGNORANT OF HIS DEATH

Yesterday morning Frank T. Kelsey, recording clerk in the office of the Chief of Police, received a letter from Judge W. J. Kirk of Maxville, Mo., containing an account of the finding of a well-dressed woman in the woods near Maxville on the night of December 15. According to the woman's statement she had been living outdoors in the woods and fields for three weeks. She was attired in four complete dresses when she was found. She gives as her reason for wearing so many dresses that it saved the inconvenience of carrying a bundle.

When questioned the woman gave her name as Mrs. Josephine Wilson. She said she had run away from St. Louis to avoid mistreatment at the hands of her husband, Joseph Augustus Wilson. With tears in her eyes she begged Judge Kirk not to inform her husband of her whereabouts.

"He will kill me," she declared. "The day I left him he hit me on the head with a club and the scar still remains to show how badly I was hurt. He drinks and is abusive. I would rather die than be compelled to return to him."

The scar on her head was plainly visible. Judge Kirk decided that the exposure to which she had subjected herself, together with the mental worry and the blow on her head, had caused her to become temporarily deranged. He placed her in the care of the wife of a resident of Maxville, but she was not satisfied to remain. Wednesday afternoon she was allowed to go her way without further restraint.

Before leaving Maxville she told the woman with whom she had spent the night that her maiden name was Josephine Cox, and that prior to her marriage to Wilson she was a bareback rider in circuses. She declared her intention of continuing her wanderings.

"I will sleep in the woods and beg my living rather than return to my husband," she said.

The letter from Judge Kirk was referred to Chief Harrigan, and then came developments which lend a most pathetic tenor to the story of Mrs. Wilson's wanderings.

Her husband, Joseph Augustus Wilson, committed suicide on the morning of December 3, just a week after she left him. He bought 10 cents worth of strychnine at a drug store on Eighth and Biddle streets and swallowed it. Death ended his sufferings while he was under treatment at the City Dispensary. Ten minutes before he died he said to Officer Nick Roach, who accompanied him to the Dispensary: "I did this because my wife left me. She is a good woman, and I don't blame her for leaving me. I mistreated her. But I wish I could see her just once more."

His body was taken to the Morgue and was later buried in potter's field.

Wilson worked at Bergesch's livery stable, Sixth and Carr streets. He was at one time a wealthy stock raiser. In 1887 he met Josephine Cox at Burlington, Io. She was much younger than he, and a very beautiful woman. They were married, but drink soon ruined their home. Wilson came to St. Louis and worked as a hostler. He went from bad to worse, and when his wife could no longer stand his abuse she left him. That was November 27. A week later he was a corpse and she was wandering about in the woods and sleeping in fields to escape the indignities to which he could no longer subject her.

She is still ignorant of the fact that he killed himself because of the remorse which overcame him. Maybe she will wander about for weeks before she learns the sad truth.

Mrs. Wilson's relatives reside in Des Moines, Io. Wilson has a brother, Sam L. Wilson, who is a prosperous stock raiser near Des Moines.