



The Eleven Children of John Wilson

Seven Move West to Illinois and Indiana; Two Remain Behind; Two Die Young

George Ulmer Wilson (1804-1889)

John Wilson's eldest son and first child (aside from what are believed to be his four as-yet unknown children by his first wife) was George Ulmer Wilson, named after Mary Ulmer's father, George Ulmer. George Wilson was born in 1804 and married Harriet Huse in Lincolnville in 1827. George acquired the Wilson family gristmill on Batchelder (Kendall) Brook through his cousin George Ulmer Russ in 1823. Being a tanner by trade, he then added a tannery to the other facilities there.

Harriet bore him at least two children (maybe three), all daughters. The first girl, whose name is not known, is indicated on the 1840 census to have been born between 1820 and 1825, which is problematical in that George and Harriet weren't married until 1827. Probably she was just a hired servant, or someone else's daughter visiting at the time of the census-taker's visit. She is not referred to in the family Bible, although the following two daughters are: **Sarah Jane Wilson**, born July 1827--just two months after her parents' wedding--, and **Harriet Huse**

Wilson, born in March of 1830. All are present on the 1830 census, living right nextdoor to George's father John.

George sold out his gristmill, tannery and farmland to his brother John on 16 March 1830, for \$700, and moved his family to Belfast. Probably he wanted to establish a tannery closer to a commercial distribution center. But then tragedy struck. Sadly, little Harriet died five months after the move, on August 25, 1830. Her sister Sarah died a few days later on September 4, and their mother died a few days after that, on September 17. They were probably victims of the cholera epidemic of 1830, more of a danger in a bustling seaport city like Belfast than in the rural countryside. Only George survived.

It is interesting to note that George Ulmer Wilson's wife, Harriet Huse, was the sister of Emily [Emela] A. Huse, who married Gen. George Ulmer's grandson, George Ulmer Russ (son of Sarah Ulmer, sister of Mary Ulmer, George Ulmer Wilson's mother). In other words, first cousins George Wilson and George Russ married sisters Harriet and Emily Huse, who were daughters of John Huse and his wife, Mehitable. Harriet and Emily had two brothers, Stephen Huse (born 27 Jan 1807) and John Adams Huse (born 28 Feb 1802) who died by drowning at the age of three. One wonders whether it was the Ducktrap Steam that claimed another victim in the family, along with Sukey Ulmer (in 1789, at age four) and Henry Neild Wilson (in 1812, at age six).

About four years after his first wife's death George Ulmer Wilson made a second try at building a family, and this time it lasted. He married Sarah Ulmer Russ (born 1817), daughter of Maj. John Russ and Sarah Ulmer (a daughter of Gen. George Ulmer, from whom they both derived their middle name) on December 15, 1834, in Belfast. The ancestry of John Russ (1768-1849) is given in Albert Rusts's *Record of the Rust Family* (1891). He was descended from Henry Rust (ca. 1605-1684/5) of Hingham, Norfolk County, England who emigrated to Massachusetts in 1633-1635 along with 48 other former Hingham residents, and together they established a town there which they named after their hometown. Henry's son Nathaniel (born 1642) removed to Ipswich where he died in 1672. Nathaniel's son Joseph I (born 1696), had a son Joseph II (1726-1771), who in turn was the father of yet another Joseph Rust III (1749-1844). Joseph III was a ship's captain and a Revolutionary War soldier. He moved to Booth Bay, Maine where he lived out his life. He was said to be the first person from Maine to sail to the West Indies in 1768. His son John (1768-1849), who inexplicably decided to spell his last name "Russ," married Sarah Ulmer, daughter of General George Ulmer and sister of Mary Ulmer who married John Wilson of Tattenhall and Lincolnville. John Russ was a merchant, shipbuilder and farmer; he is said to have opened the first store in Belfast, Maine. According to *The History of Belfast, Maine*:



Courtesy Ann Wilson Stark

Sarah Ulmer Russ (1817-1886)
Wife of George Ulmer ilson (1804-1889)

Major John Russ was one of the many hardy, strong-willed, enterprising men, who came here to build up a home in the comparative wilderness in the early part of the present century. He was at one time extensively interested in real estate in the village, and in navigation. At the commencement of the War of 1812 he was the sole or principal owner of a brig just launched. She lay in the dock westerly of the railroad wharf until the close of the war, at a heavy loss to her owner. The wharf which stood near the dock belonged to him and was known as long as it remained there as "Russ's Wharf." The precise year when he removed his residence and business to the locality now known as City Point [in Belfast] is not remembered. Prior to his removal, it was known as Clary's Point; afterwards and for many years as Russ's Point. He was a man of great muscular power but never exercised it to the detriment of his fellow men. He was a man of humor, but his mirth was never boisterous. His wife was the daughter of Major-General George Ulmer, one of the prominent men of this section of the country in the early part of the century.

Maj. John Russ and Sarah Ulmer had 11 children: George Ulmer Russ (1800), Joseph Reed Russ (ca. 1802, "lost on the Mississippi River"), John Augustus Russ (1804), Theodore Russ (1806, died a year later), Charles Austin Russ (1808), Mary Elizabeth Russ (1810), Francis Anderson Russ (1811), Jane Anderson Russ (1816), Sarah "Sally" Russ (1817) who married George Ulmer Wilson, Caroline Augusta Russ ("who died at 18 years of age") and Maria Antoinette Russ (who died in infancy).

George Ulmer Wilson and Sarah Russ had 12 children (ten of them girls!) between 1835 and 1860, all born in Belfast, Maine, where the family is found in the 1840, 1850 and 1860 censuses. The 1840 census shows George and Sarah with three young daughters under 5 years old (which would be Sarah Jane, Caroline and Harriet), and a teenage servant girl.

Although George was a tanner by trade, some of his surviving letters show that George made a part of his livelihood as a sea captain sailing his own cargo vessel (probably a schooner) south along the Atlantic Seaboard following the harvest season. He would stop at southern ports such as Charleston, South Carolina and Jacksonville or St. Augustine, Florida where he would anchor in the harbor and then go ashore to find buyers for his cargo of lumber and farm produce (potatoes, beets, apples, turnips). This process took months, and he was therefore away from home during the winter season, leaving Sarah to care for the children, brave the harsh Maine winter, and face the creditors demanding payment (a circumstance causing him to feel some guilt).

George's daughter Caroline was born on Mach 2, 1838, at a time when George was normally still on his annual trading expedition. Sarah named the baby Caroline Augustine Wilson (as shown in the Belfast Vital Records), and my guess is that she chose the middle name

of Augustine because George was on that day still in St. Augustine, Florida. Upon his return, however, it seems that George did not like that name, which was a constant reminder that he had been absent at the time of his daughter's birth. This was perhaps particularly inconvenient in a family where children were routinely called by their middle name. So George appears to have unofficially renamed her Caroline Elizabeth, and called the child Elizabeth from then on. Consequently I have rendered her name here as Caroline Augustine Elizabeth Wilson. Oddly enough, her younger sister, Harriet (born November 1839) was also given the middle name of Elizabeth, but George called her "Harriet."



Oil painting of Sarah Russ Wilson (1817-1886), wife of George Ulmer Wilson. It passed to her daughter Harriet Elizabeth Wilson (1839-1920), then to Harriet's daughter Clio Klein Wilson (1881-1982), and finally to Clio's granddaughter Sarah Russ Wilson Wellington. Photo courtesy of Sarah Russ Wilson Wellington

Like many men in Maine, George was a sea captain and apparently oversaw the construction of his own vessels. When they had completed the sale of their cargo each year they sought paying freight which they could carry back to Maine. Failing that, however, they would sell the ship and hitch a ride back to Maine with another sea captain. Once home, they would begin the construction of a new ship in the spring. George was not well suited for life as a sea captain, though, inasmuch as he suffered miserably from seasickness. Despite trying various remedies, he was unable to eat much during a voyage. And when the seas were rough he comments that it was “enough to sicken me of a seafaring life.”

Two letters from George to Sarah survive from 1839, currently in the possession of George’s great-great-granddaughter, Ann Wilson Stark. The situation that year during George’s trading expedition was particularly uneasy because Sarah was having a difficult pregnancy and was feeling ill when he left. George anticipated the birth in his absence, and speculated that “the little tot” would have curly hair when he saw her upon his return. Unfortunately the child died within a few hours of birth. The Text of the two letters is as follows:

Charleston, S.C.
Jany. 29, 18[3]9

My Dear Sarah,

We arrived at this place Saturday evening about 6 o’clock. I immediately wrote a few lines to you and came on shore Sunday morning to deposit it in the office but, ascertaining that it would not leave until today, I thought it best to defer mailing a letter until I should ascertain what course we should pursue, that is, whether we should sell our cargo here or proceed to St. Augustine. We have learned that business is very dull in Florida, as the [Seminole] Indian War is [at] a stand[still] and in fact it is also very dull at this place, but then I think we can sell here to make a saving and on some articles good freight. But as we have had but a few hours to try the market I cannot say what place we shall adopt.

Our passage has been as pleasant as would be expected for the season and as short as could be expected. My last letter was dated the 14th – it should have been 12th Saturday. We put to sea next Monday morning. We experienced some few heavy blows at all points, enough to sicken me of a seafaring life. From seasickness I certainly suffer very much considering the length of time. For the last week I took no nourishment, or certainly not to the amount of half [a] pound .

I can assure you when I arrived here I felt anything but well. I begin to recruit however, and in a few days shall be smart as ever.

How many hundred times did I wish for my dear wife's company to administer that kindness and attention that I am ever blessed with at home. I know you have frequently told me I did not appreciate rightly your kindness and attention and [you were] in hopes [that] I would at some future time, but my dear I can assure you I have always had a very excellent opinion [of] you and if I have at times been petulant and hasty you will have the more to overlook and forgive. As all were sold as well, I would rather spend my time at home than any other place, especially so [as] to be by these dear little daughters. How I desire to see them or even hear that they are in good health. Give each a dozen good kisses for Father and take them to be good children. I fancy I can hear them making many ingresses where I am.

I regret I had not desired you to direct your letter to this place, as it is uncertain whether I go farther. I hope you will lose no time in writing to me and if we should leave here we shall probably return before I come home, and put in hopes that all is well and you are getting along comfortably, but yet [I] cannot help at times making myself very unhappy.

I shall send money to pay some of those notes as we sell something to produce it, and people must wait until that can be done, which will not be long. There is one [note] that will probably be sent [to you] in the hands of James White the lawyer. If it should be, please ask [my brother William] Faulkner to mention it to [illegible] Wilson and have it put off. If we sell our cargo as I feel in hopes we shall, you will see me at home in March, but if we are compelled to go farther and be troubled to get freight for the vessel it will be [illegible] later as selling [illegible] is out the question as times are at present.

At all events I shall write often and apprise you of our movements. Give my love to all. I will not [illegible] I say all [illegible] friends and
believe me to be your most affectionate
Husband G. U. Wilson

Jacksonville, Fa
Feb. 16, 1839

My Dear Sarah,

We arrived here four days since but could write no sooner on account of the mails, which leave here once a week. I have certainly felt very unhappy in consequence of not being able to write since we left Charleston, knowing as I well do how very anxious you will be to hear from us. My dear I hope you will not

censure me in neglect for I can assure you I have felt very unpleasant on not being able to write as often as I should wish and receiving a line from home.

I consider our prospects [here in Jacksonville] much better than at Charleston. I have sold but little lumber as yet, business being dull, but have no doubt but we can sell to pay good freight. Have been selling potatoes for \$3.00 /p [scratched out], turnips for \$3.50, beets \$4.00 /c. but perhaps shall not be able to sell the whole at those rates. Business was as good as last year, we should make a first rate voyage. Your barrels of apples sold for four dollars. All the Apples were rather rotten. Some of the potatoes came out in bad order by being frozen before they were picked.

I gave you encouragement in my last [letter] that I might be at home in March, but perhaps you had better not expect me until first of April. Your health was so very poor when I left that I sometimes reflect on myself for leaving home under such circumstances but, as you are in the middle of friends, I hope and trust you will be comfortable and happy.

Give my love to the dear little daughters. I shall expect Sarah Jane [age 3] and Elizabeth [=Caroline, age 1] to be good girls and take good care of mother until Pa returns. And they shall have a fine present. Give them all some kisses for me. I shall expect [the] little tot will have a curly head when I see her.

I am in hopes you have a good smart girl to assist you, as it is impossible for you to get through the winter with any degree of comfort without such a one. I charge you to be very careful of yourself. Make yourself comfortable in every respect. Let your chief study be the ease of yourself and family. I am more particular because I know at times you are rather improvident as respects your own ease and comfort.

The [illegible]fasing business I renounce altogether unless it should operate more favorably on my passage home than when we came out. Every moment while at sea since I left home I was very sick, but since we arrived my health has been good and I begin to recruit.

I met with Capt. Phineas Pendleton and Capt. Wording at Charleston and spent much time very agreeably with them. Capt. Wording will return first of April and gave me an invitation to take passage with him which I shall except, provided I can meet him in Charleston in season.

I have some money to send to have distributed to pay those notes but it is impossible to get exchanges at this place to make remittances. I shall do everything in my power to send the money or drafts or make as quick dispatch as possible and come myself as fa[illegible] very anxious to have those notes paid. At all events I shall be obliged to go to Charleston to get drafts or money that will answer. The Indian War is rather at a stand and the money in circulation poor, which makes it rather difficult to do business.

I was in hopes we might have an opportunity of selling the vessel but I think we shall not be able to do so at present. If we should build a [missing corner] this year they will probably not commence until I return.

The weather here is equal to summer in Maine, quite as pleasant and warm, the gardens green, but the people so idle that they would rather buy at the rates I have been speaking of than raise for themselves. In fact, a lazier set of fellows I never got met with.

I shall write again in a few days and give to Mother's family, your mother and Jane and all in [corner missing] friends.

I am, my dear wife, your most affectionate husband,
Geo. U. Wilson

It is interesting to note that the Capt. Phineas Pendleton (1780-1873) George mentions was a prominent Maine sea captain who, the previous April, had carried George's brother William Faulkner Wilson to Manchester, England to visit their late father's brother, Sheen Wilson (as documented in a letter from Sheen Wilson, also in the possession of Ann Wilson Stark).

In 1844 George, who apparently was truly sick of the seafaring life, made a reconnaissance trip west to check out possibilities for establishing himself there as a tanner. He took with him his sisters Jane and Sarah. Jane was apparently promised in marriage to Isaac Hills, formerly of Lincolnville, Maine, who now operated a school in Illinois somewhere. They were scheduled to meet up with Isaac in St. Louis, but after waiting there for two weeks George received a litter from Isaac saying that he could not get away for another six weeks. George then continued on up the river to the Dubuque and Galena, Illinois area—Galena having been named after the lead sulfide ore mined thereabouts—and stayed for a time with the Ladd family, probably Timothy and Deidemia Ladd (the only people of that name there on the 1840 census). They then met up with Isaac Hills six weeks later in St. Louis, where Isaac and Sarah were wed. George may have brought trade goods with him on the trip, because he seems to have acquired a hundred dollar bill along the way, which he promises to break in order to send part of it home to his wife.

The tanning process that George had used in Maine involved soaking the hides in a lime solution until the hair fell off, then burying them in a tanning pit, interlayered with oak, beech or willow bark. The tannic acid from the decaying bark "tanned" or softened the leather, which was then dug up after six months and carefully oiled and prepared by a currier. Therefore the availability of bark on the Great Plains was of concern for George, and he concluded that life might just be easier there for a farmer rather than a tanner.

George's timing for the trip was not good. He arrived in the wake of the Great Flood of 1844, which crested in St. Louis on June 17th at 38 feet 7 inches above normal, and was at that time the worst flood in 150 years. Over 700 square miles of the country's finest bottom land was submerged and ruined, the topsoil washed away or covered by many feet of sand. Such a flood was not again equaled in Illinois and Missouri until 1993.

Two letters (the second being only a fragment) dating to this time period from George to his wife back in Belfast have been preserved, currently in the possession of Ann Wilson Stark. The text is as follows:

Dubuque July 16th, 1844
Ten thousand kisses for
My dear wife

My Dear Wife,

I suppose before you receive this [you] will have thought many a time [that] I had lost all concern for my dear family or else some evil had befallen me. But the thoughts of you all are constantly in my mind. Once when you take into consideration the disadvantages I have laboured under you will excuse me.

After waiting a fortnight at St. Louis I received a letter from Mr. [Isaac] Hills [stating] that he could not leave his school [in] under 6 weeks and [that he] wished [my sister] Sarah to remain with Mrs. Ladd until that time. He regretted very much that I had not stopped there, and so have I but [my sister Lucy] Jane was so opposed to it that I gave up the idea which I had formed on the way.

I did not try so hard at St. Louis for business as I should [have], as there is no doubt it must be very unhealthy this season owing to the Great Flood. You can form no idea of the devastation it has made on the bottom lands. Business was very dull in consequence and many out of employ. Of course I thou't my chance was small. I thought I would come up here [to Dubuque, Iowa] and here business is dull from the same cause. Indeed it does seem as if the whole West was about to be covered with water.

This is a beautiful country indeed, especially for farmers who can come here and make a beginning. But for tanners this is a great trouble on account of bark [and] hides could be bought here and taken to Indiana and made into leather where there is plenty of bark [illegible] and be made a first rate business. I fell in with a man at Galena [Illinois] from Ohio who managed in that way, and said he was doing first rate. But as I have not the capital you know I could not do so. If I could induce Mr. Hills & [my brother] Sheen to go into it we might do well, as

hides cost very little here & bark little there, and the transportation very light 12 ½ cents pr hundred or about that.

I fear you will scold [me] at my running about, but God knows I feel the worth of my time and money and feel unpleasantly bored. I am doing all I can. The expense up here [to Dubuque] & back to St. Louis will not exceed 6.50\$.

This is considered one of the most healthy countries in the World. I think it is nearly as cold as Massachusetts. There is one thing, Wify: If you should come here you would not get the fruit I promised you, as the country is so new there is but very little raised for that reason. I would rather settle farther south.

I am in hopes you can come with Sheen, and he had better come to Rome and there we can see what is best to be done. I have that 100 dollar bill and shall get it changed and send money to you very soon. If you come with Sheen it will save my passage there and back, which would be 40\$ or more. The journey, so far from being unpleasant, is very agreeable. You pass through fine country and have good accommodation except the Lake boats, and that is not bad. I have written Sheen the particulars together with the expenses. One thing: make yourselves good Sun bonnets and lay aside your others, as that will be all you will need after you leave Belfast. Fix your good ones so you can pack them snug together, and pack good calico dresses. The expense including extra baggage which you will bring with you will not exceed 60 or 65\$. You will count [as] one [for ticketing purposes], the two oldest Daughters [as] one, and if you all come together I think the rest will come free but at any rate Harriet will only pay half price, the rest free. I have got the papers made out to send to Sheen. I received [a] letter from him at St. Louis and answered it and shall mail another today.

My Dear Wife I was in hopes of receiving one from you but was disappointed. I must say that Sheen's letter has given me great uneasiness, but I do hope something will turn up to our advantage. I am very sorry to hear his business has taken an unfavorable turn, and regret that he is troubled with [it]. However, he must try and assist me when he [can].

The people about here are mostly engaged in mining. Many have been here years without gaining anything, while a few have been lucky, so you see it is very much of a Lottery. Perhaps you will think I do not like the country, but that is not so. It is certainly beautiful, but I cannot go into business with what little I have very well. Besides, there are more mechanics here than I ever heard of. It is quite the Yankee place. Wherever I have been, women's work is [earning] a good income—dressmaking and everything of that kind.

O my dear wife, if you only knew how I long to see you all. Kiss all the dear little children a thousand times for me. Give my love to all of Mothers Family [illegible] Catherine, Harriet.

I am your affectionate Husband Geo U. Wilson

[Written on back of letter]

The Hindson business I firmly believe is all a humbug. From every appearance and from every thing I can get out of Ladd, he came here with very little money. He is very economical in every way. He says they never done the business that Charles intimates and has never received letter[s] or any thing else from him.

St. Louis Aug. 13, 1844

My beloved wife,

I suppose you will hardly expect a letter from me so soon, but as time passed heavily with me and the thought of my dear companion is ever uppermost in my mind, I feel that in writing I am bringing her in sweet communion in at least holding conversation. How many times, my dear wife, since I left have I thought of your "green fields." Would to God I could...[letter torn off below]

[back side:]

...how I wish our children to have advantages if we die ever so poor. I spoke also in my other letter of the health of the country, [but] for 4 or 500 miles about the country is not as healthy as there by any means. This is no doubt an extraordinary season, but the wretchedness occasioned by the flood and the sickness together has given me a very unfavorable impression and rather than see the faces of my dear wife and children changed from their healthy and cheerful appearance to that deathly sickly hue I had rather [illegible] bricks on an [torn off]...tate islands in the [torn off]

I sent a draft for fifty dollars in a former letter.

Give my love to your mother and my mother and all our friends

George returned to his family in Belfast, probably in the fall of 1844. The 1850 Belfast census gives George's wife's name as Sally (a common nickname for Sarah) and lists children Sarah, Caroline, Harriett, Hellen, Charles, Mary and Isabel. George's occupation is listed farmer. The 1860 Belfast census (specifying him as a "cordwainer" or leatherworker) lists his wife Sally and children Hellen, Charles, Mary, Alice, Ellen and Jane. A daughter died shortly after birth, and a son named George Ulmer Wilson Jr. died in infancy...surely a tremendous disappointment to the father of so many girls.

Despite being present in Belfast in 1850 and 1860, it appears that George Ulmer Wilson took his family west to Illinois shortly after 1850, following in the footsteps of his brothers John

and William, and possibly in the company of his sisters Sarah and Lucy (sister Lucetta followed in 1861) and their families. His siblings initially settled in LaSalle County, Illinois around 1850-1852. A check of the marriage records for LaSalle County reveals the marriages of two of George and Sarah's three eldest daughters: Caroline and Harriet. Although parents are generally not listed in marriage records that early, the marriages in LaSalle County of "Caroline A. Wilson" to S. W. Doan on 6 Aug 1857, and of "Harriet Wilson" to William S. Kelly on 7 Dec 1856 fit perfectly, and have been confirmed by additional research.

Sarah Jane Wilson, George and Sarah's eldest child, has not been found definitively in the marriage records. It is suggestive that the Illinois marriage records (Ogle County) do mention a Sarah Jane Wilson, daughter of George and Sarah Wilson, marrying Edgard S. Philmon on 11 Aug 1883 – by which date our Sarah Jane would have been 48 years old (in four days). If this isn't our Sarah Jane it's quite a coincidence, despite the county and the age problem. Unfortunately Edgard Philmon shows up on no census records at all, so we cannot confirm their ages. And furthermore, there are 11 other Sarah Jane Wilsons listed, and 19 Sarah J. Wilsons, not to mention 83 Sarah Wilsons. Only one of all these was married in LaSalle County—to Charles Wilson—but it is still speculation to attribute this marriage to our Sarah Jane Wilson. In fact, none may be hers, because Albert Rust, in his *Record of the Rust Family* (1891), states that our Sarah Jane Wilson died unmarried.

Caroline Augustine Elizabeth Wilson's 1857 marriage was actually to Enos Doan (the "S. W." in the index of Illinois Marriages must have been a transcription error). Enos was from Pennsylvania, and they must have returned there for a time because their first child, George, was born in Valley, Chester County, Pennsylvania in 1859 (the family appears there on the 1860 census, Enos listed as a "carpenter"). They then apparently continued on to Caroline's hometown of Belfast, Maine, where their second child, Carrie (Caroline or Carolina), was born in 1861. By 1867 the family was living in Llano, Illinois where their third child, Annie, was born, and thereafter their children were born in Sandwich, Illinois (Hattie in 1873, Elizabeth in 1876 and Jessie in 1878). They appear in Sandwich on the 1880 census (Hattie is listed as "Mattie" and Enos identified again as a "carpenter"). According to records of the Doan Family Association of America, Enos was engaged in the lumber and grain business and also had an interest in the manufacture of farm equipment.

In 1910 Enos and Caroline, no longer with any children in their household, moved from Sandwich to Aurora, Illinois (they appear in both places on the 1910 census). Caroline states on the census record that she was the mother of seven children, only four of whom were still alive at that time. George had died in 1894 and Enos shortly after his birth in 1875. Caroline lived until 1946. Therefore one of the other four daughters (Annie, Hattie, Elizabeth, Jessie) had died by 1910 and the other three had presumably married since they were no longer living with their parents.

Caroline A. Doan is listed in the Illinois Death Index as having died in Sandwich on 17 Jan 1919; her death certificate confirms that she was born in Belfast, the daughter of "Geo. U. Wilson and Sallie Russ." Enos Doan died in Sandwich on October 7, 1920. Caroline and Enos are buried next to her parents in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Sandwich, Illinois.

Caroline's daughter Caroline (Carrie) married Israel Doan (the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Doan of Chester County, Pennsylvania; b, 16 June 1852) in Illinois in 1882. Israel was an architect and builder in Aurora, IL.; they had three sons: George Harvey (1883), Ellis Hughes (1885) and Ralph Embree (1890).

George Harvey Doan became a physician and married Helen Taylor but they had no children.

Ellis Hughes Doan married Viola Louise Taylor (daughter of Charles R. and Nettie Abell Taylor of Aurora, IL), and together they had four children: Ellis Hughes Doan, Jr. (1913), Judson Harvey Doan (1910), Mary Louise Doan (1921) and Elizabeth Jean Doan (1925). Ellis Jr. married Sarah Stevenson (daughter of John G. and Viola Stevenson of Aurira) and together they had four children: Patricia Lynne (1941), Ellis Hughes III (1943), Nancy Jane (1947) and Jacqueline Stevenson Doan (1949). Ellis died in 1989 in Kansas City, and his wife Sarah died there in 1998. Judson Harvey Doan was a Lt. J.G. in the U.S. Navy and flew a dive-bomber from the carrier *Wasp*; he received many medals and was reported missing in action on 26 Oct 1944 (officially declared dead one year later). Mary Louise Doan married Charles H. MacDonald (son of Archibald and Elsa MacDonald of Aurora), and together they had three children: Mary Kathleen (1945), Charles Doane (1947) and Janet Lee (1948). Elizabeth Jean Doan married LeRoy Lester Laz, who was also a dive-bomber pilot on the carrier *Wasp* in World War II, and was the roommate of Judson Doan (who was killed in action). Elizabeth and LeRoy had three daughters: Susan Leslie (1947), Barbara Jean (1948) and Peggy Ann (1950).

Ralph Embree Doan graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1914, served as an officer in World War II, and married Lillian Coulehan (daughter of William and Elizabeth Coulehan of Joliet, IL) in 1918; he worked in the mailing machine business. Together Ralph and Lillian had two children: James Embree Doan (1919) and Caroline Elizabeth Doan (1921). James was a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1947, served three years in the Army with a rank of 1st Lieut., and later worked his way up to the position of President in Cheshire, Inc, a family-owned business. He moved with his family to Naples, FL in 1966, where he was engaged in development work. James married Ruth Ann Raasch in 1965 and together they had three children: James Embree Doan, Jr. (1966), Danielle Indre Doan (1967) and Kelly Ann Doan, the latter two born in Naples, FL.

A daughter, unnamed, is stated by Rust (1891) to have been born between the births of Caroline and Harriet, probably in early 1839, but died within a few hours.



Harriet Wilson (1839-1920)
daughter of George Ulmer Wilson

Harriet Elizabeth Wilson's first husband, William Kelly, was a coal miner (according to the 1860 census). They married in 1856 and he died in 1865, having fathered only one child with Harriet: Caroline (Carrie) A[ugustine?] Kelly. Carrie married Adalbert B. Coon and had five children: Bernice (1892), Margery (1894), Auroria (1900), Elizabeth (1900/1 and Adalbert Jr. (1902/3, a boy who is remembered as having "always been in trouble"). Adalbert Sr., a prominent attorney, died in the Lincoln Hotel fire in 1902, the same year his only son was born, and the lack of a father probably caused some of Adalbert Jr's problems; Carrie did not remarry.



Carolyn Kelly (1864-1942)
daughter of Harriett Wilson

The widowed Harriet married a second time, to Peter Klein in 1876; they had one son, Ulmer Klein (yet another descendant named after the Ulmers, he was born in 1878 and died childless on 21 April 1956; known to his relatives as “Uncle Ullie,” he is buried in Spring Lake Cemetery, Aurora, Illinois, beside his parents) and one daughter, Clio Klein (born 1881; shown on the 1900 census).

Ulmer Klein married Radah Shattuck. In the *Aurora, Illinois City Directory* for 1910-1911, Peter Klein and wife Harriet E[lizabeth] are listed as publishers of the *Volksfreund* German-language newspaper; Peter was also President of the German-American Bank and served as a Probate Clerk as well. Living at the same address is Ulmer Klein (“stenographer”)

and Ulmer's wife Radah (she was born 26 June 1881 in Cleveland, Ohio, and died 8 August 1950). Harriet's obituary (*Aurora Beacon-News*, March 24, 1920) reads as follows:

Harriet Wilson Klein, wife of Peter Klein, President of the American National Bank, died shortly after 8 o'clock last evening at her home, 261 South Lincoln Avenue. She had been ailing with chronic pleurisy for some weeks past, but was confined to her bed but a week. Yesterday morning her condition seemed a little hopeful, but last evening she had a severe hemorrhage, causing her death within a few minutes



**Ulmer P. Klein (1877-1956),
Son of Harriet Wilson**



**Clio K. Klein (1881-1982),
daughter of Harriet Wilson**

Mrs. Klein was born in Russ Point, Waldo County, Maine, a town which was settled by her ancestors in 1633, and has been a resident of Aurora for more than 60 years. She was one of the Charter Members of the Aurora Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, being a descendant of Major General George Ulmer of the Revolutionary War. She was also a long-time member of the Women's Alliance of the People's Church.

She had many strong characteristics and was a noble woman. She was a kind and most devoted mother, and endeared herself to many close friends by her loyalty and unselfishness. She leaves her husband, one son, Ulmer Klein, two daughters, Mrs. I. N. Wilson and Mrs. Carrie Coon, five grandchildren and four sisters.

Ulmer's sister Clio married Isaac Newton Wilson in Aurora, IL on 14 Sept 1904, and they had one son: Klein Kessler Wilson (1910), who changed his name later in life to Peter Klein Wilson; he became a prominent attorney in Aurora and later a Professor at Boise State University School of Business where he taught business law; he lived to the age of 92. Clio's published obituary (*Aurora Beacon-News*, January 28, 1982) reads as follows:

Mrs. Clio K. Wilson, 100, of Boise, Idaho, formerly of Aurora [Illinois], died at Boise, Idaho. She was born December 8, 1881 in Aurora, the daughter of Peter Klein, a pioneer Aurora banker and newspaper publisher, and Harriet W[ilson]. Klein. She attended Young School, East Aurora High School and Oxford College in Oxford, Ohio. On September 14, 1904, she was married to I[saac]. Newton Wilson. She was a charter and life member of the Midwest Early American Pressed Glass Club. She was a member of the Aurora Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a charter member of the Tuesday Garden Club and her home on West Downer Place was often open for State-wide garden walks. In 1972 she moved to Boise, Idaho where her son was living. Survivors include her son, Peter K. Wilson of Boise, Idaho, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Klein, one brother, Ulmer Klein, who was an Aurora merchant, and her husband, I. Newton Wilson. Private graveside services will be held at Spring Lake Cemetery on Friday at 11:00 a.m. The reverend L. Alexander Harper will officiate.

Peter Klein Wilson married Thelma Faye Chapman and together they had four children: [1] Sarah Russ Wilson (named after her great-great grandmother; she possesses a painting of Sarah Ulmer Russ which has been handed down to her), [2] Peter K. Wilson Jr., today an attorney in Aurora, IL, [3] James Mitchell Wilson, today a Circuit Court Judge in Illinois, and [4] Ann Spencer Wilson. Clio Klein Wilson died 26 January 1982 and is buried in Spring Lake Park Cemetery, located at 745 South Lincoln in Aurora, IL.

Harriet Elizabeth Wilson Kelly Klein died 24 March 1920 and is buried in Spring Lake Cemetery, Aurora, Illinois. Her death certificate conforms that she was the daughter of “Geo. Elmer Wilson and Sarah Russ,” both of Belfast, Maine.

Hellen A. Wilson married James Chandler Mahoney in Joliet, Illinois in 1865. They settled in Sandwich, Illinois near her father (where they appear on the 1880 census). Hellen and James had two sons. The first, Frederick Ulmer Mahoney (1867), married Emma Beebe in Aurora in 1889 and they had three children. The first of these was George[?] W. Mahoney (b. 1890/1)—his first name is illegible in the census, but it was probably George (“Geo.”). George Mahoney is listed as living in the same house as Fred and Emma in the 1910-11 Aurora City Directory. Fred and Emma’s second child was Chandler James Mahoney (born 1902 in Aurora). Chandler married Merle Irene Hagerman and had three children: Robert C. (1921/22), Chandler C. (1929) and a daughter. Fred and Emma’s third child was a daughter, Emma Mahoney (b. 1908/9); she married Donald Newton (b. 1902/3 in IL); she appears with her parents and husband on the 1930 census.

Hellen and James’ second son, born in 1875, is listed as 5-year-old Lewellen Mahoney on the 1880 census, born in Illinois to parents both born in Maine. There is a mystery here, because the name Lewellen is nowhere found in any subsequent census records. However, apparently in his place, there appears Lewis A. Mahoney, also born in Illinois in 1875, of parents both born in Maine. Lewis A. Mahoney is not found anywhere in the 1880 census. It appears that he may have changed his name from Lewellen (or Llewellyn) to Lewis Mahoney. One source says that Lewellen married *Francis Rose* Holmes in Aurora in 1876 (source lost). Census records and the *Illinois Marriage Index* indicate that Lewis A. Mahoney married *Florence* Holmes in 1901. In any case, Lewis had two sons: Lewis Holmes Mahoney, born in Franklin Grove, Illinois in 1902 (Lewis Holmes Mahoney has two children—Lewis A. and Peggy—plus five grandchildren and two great grandchildren) and Philip H. Mahoney (b. 1903/4 and d. after 1981).

Charles Austin Wilson (born 1843), George Ulmer Wilson’s only son to survive past infancy, was unmarried and living with his parents as of the 1860 Belfast census. On the 1870 census he apparently is seen (“Charles A. Wilson”) on the same census page as his father, in Fox, Kendall County, Illinois, (shown as 32 years old, i.e. born 1847/8, four years off but perhaps close enough—he indicates that he and his parents were all born in Maine) and he has a wife, Mary (21), and his household also includes a 62-year-old German-born cabinetmaker named H. Croffs—perhaps his father-in-law, or perhaps just a boarder. Charles, age 22, is indicated as working in a grocery store. We can assume that Charles and Mary had married recently; this would fit with the marriage of Charles Wilson and Mary Nicholson on 23 Sept 1869 in Macon, Illinois (LDS International Genealogical Index)(no possible marriages are recorded in the Illinois Marriage Index for that time period). The 1880 Fox, Illinois census shows him again, this time working as the keeper of a livery stable, with wife Mary K. (29) and children Lillie (9), Dora M. (6) and George (1). The 1900 census shows Charles A. Wilson (b. April 1848...at least he remembered the month correctly) with wife Mary K. (b. Jan 1849 in PA, to German parents) and son George H. Wilson (b. Feb. 1879), and also with George’s wife Belle (b. July 1879). According to the Illinois Marriage Index, this was Belle Culver, married 17 July 1897 in Kendall County. Charles and Mary appear living alone together on the 1910 Fox census, aged 62 (67) and 60. Son George H. Wilson and wife Belle D. are living alone together nearby. In 1920

George and Belle are still childless, and living with them is his mother Mary (age 70), his father Charles Austin Wilson having presumably died between 1910 and 1920. [Charles' death certificate confirms that he is indeed the son of George U. Wilson and Sarah Russ; he died on 17 Oct 1916 in Kendall County.] His wife Mary K. Wilson died 4 May 1939 in Kendall County. George H., Belle and Mary (age 81) were still living together on the 1930 census, in Millington village, Fox township, Kendall County, Illinois. The Illinois Death Index shows George H. Wilson died 7 Dec 1945 in Millington Village, Illinois. George's sister, Dora Maud Wilson, married Herman L. Gebauer in Kendall County on 5 Oct 1892. There is no marriage listed for Lillie in Kendall County, although there are two possibilities quite some distance away in Menard County that might be researched.

A book entitled *The Cory's of America* (2nd edition) does indicate that a Dr. Charles Austin Wilson married Ida Emily Cory; it doesn't say where or when, but gives the birthdate of Ida as 25 Aug 1864 (21 years younger than Charles) in Burtin, Geauga Co., Ohio. It is possible that this is *also* him, marrying for a second time, but one wonders when he became a doctor. Charles and Ida have not been found in the census records. No marriage is recorded in Ohio or Illinois up to 1900.

Despite these marriages of George's daughters, it appears that George was not initially impressed with Illinois, because by 1860 he and his remaining children (not including Sarah, Caroline and Harriet, who do not appear with the family in the 1860 census) had returned to Belfast.

George Ulmer Wilson later moved *back* to Illinois once again, and on the 1870 census he is living in Fox, Kendall County, Illinois with his wife Sarah U., and daughters Alice, Ella, Jennie (Jane) and Mary E. [actually R.] who has married a man named Butterfield (initials look like T H, but the 1880 census indicates it was Norman H. Butterfield; they had sons Edward, 1871, and Frank, 1875). It is therefore possible that he moved to Illinois ca. 1867. According to his wife's obituary, they moved to Sandwich, De Kalb County, Illinois in 1870. The 1880 census shows them living in Sandwich (about 25 miles northeast of Ottawa in La Salle County) with his youngest daughters Ellen (as she is called in the 1860 census) or Ella F. (as she is called on the 1880 census) Wilson, age 23, and Jane Wilson, age 20. It is clear that the family moved into that area sometime prior to 1872, because in that year George's daughter Alice married Oscar Fitzallen Josselyn in DeKalb County (Oscar was a machinist in Aurora about 20 miles to the northeast of Sandwich).

Mary Rebecca Wilson married Norman H. Butterfield in 1870 in Kendall County, Illinois. They had two sons: Edward (1871) and Frank (1875). Edward married Clymena Comstock David in Chicago in 1898, and Frank married Elise Welter. Norman and Frank (and Elise?) were apparently called away for some reason around 1900, because in that year the census shows Mary living with her unmarried sister Ella Wilson in Aurora, Illinois; Mary is working as a milliner and Ella as a dressmaker. Son Edward is living in Chicago with wife Clymena and son Edward Jr. Mary and Norman next appear on the 1910 census for Rockford Twp., Winnebago Co., Illinois, and are living together once again. They are shown living next door to their son Edward Butterfield, his wife Clymena, and their children Edward Jr. (b. 1899), Ellen Mary (b. 1906) and David Norman (b. 1903). By the time of the 1920 census they had

moved to Norwich, Missaukee County, Michigan. Ellen is no longer with them (perhaps dead or married young—in any case she was dead by the time of Clymena's death in 1947 and left no children). In 1930 they appear still on the Norwich, MI census, living with son David (age 25).

According to Edward Jr's niece, Vivian Joyner, Mary Rebecca Wilson was a strong personality: she owned several millinery stores, and ran the first millinery department in the Keith Brothers department store in Chicago. With several partners she also formed the Michigan Land Syndicate which purchased real estate in Michigan.

The 1930 census shows that Edward Jr. has married a woman named Marie (Collins) and settled in Grand Rapids, Kent Co., MI. The *Social Security Death Index* shows that Edward Butterfield Jr. was born 13 June 1899 and died in September 1986 in the town of Lowell, Kent Co., MI. His wife Marie Collins was born 25 May 1902 and died in February 1977, in Tucson, Arizona (they were probably wintering or vacationing there). They must have been childless because in their published obituaries they are survived only by nieces and nephews (apparently all on Marie's side, as she had four sisters). Edward's 1986 obituary in the September 30 *Grand Rapids Press* reads:

Mr. Butterfield served with the Navy in WWI, and was a member of the National Coast and Geodetic Survey, Furniture City Post #258 American Legion, co-founder of Purity Cylinder Gases, was an avid woodsman and sportsman, and a world traveler.

The obituary of Edward's mother Clymena Butterfield (*Grand Rapids Herald*, 8 October 1947) states that she was survived by sons Edward in Grand Rapids and David in Moorestown, Michigan. However it mentions no grandchildren, so we must conclude that, as of 1947 at least, both Edward and David were childless (a conclusion confirmed by Edward's niece).

Mary and Norman's son Frank moved to Peoria, Illinois where he and wife Elsa, and their son Arthur C. Butterfield (1905) appear on the 1910 census. Frank is listed as a milliner. When his mother Mary Rebecca died in 1920 Frank sold his inherited portion of the Michigan Land Syndicate holdings to his brother Edward, and moved with his wife to Cleveland, where they appear without their son Arthur; Edward is manager of a retail millinery store. Arthur is found in Chicago living with (or perhaps just visiting) his widowed grandmother Natalie Welter. (Natalie had married Nicolas Welter in Chicago in 1881.) According to the Social Security Death Index, Arthur moved to Pennsylvania before 1951 and died in Saegertown, Pennsylvania in 1993.

Edward and Clymena's son, David Norman Butterfield, married a woman named Harriet (Charboneau?) in Lake City, Michigan; she was part Indian or French Canadian (or both). They ran a hunting camp on Dead Stream Swamp near Moorestown Michigan; the land had been willed to him by his father in 1947, who had received it from his mother Mary Rebecca in 1920, as part of the Michigan Land Syndicate which she had formed.

Isabella Wilson, born in Belfast in 1849, died at the age of two and is buried in the Russ Family Cemetery, Belfast.

Alice E. Wilson (b. 1854 in Belfast) married Oscar Fitzallen Josselyn in DeKalb Co., IL on 12 Sept 1872, and they lived in Aurora, IL for the rest of their lives. Oscar was a machinist who, at least in 1910, worked for the railway. Their daughter Ella was born in 1873 or 1874 and died young, appearing only on the 1880 census. Their daughter Nellie was born in Jan 1878 and appears only on the 1900 census. The family was extraordinarily careless in the ages they cited for themselves to the census taker, and it is possible that Nellie and Ella are actually the same person, inasmuch as Nellie does not appear on the 1880 census despite having supposedly been born in 1878. Their mother states, however, that she had given birth to four children, of which three survived as of 1900, so perhaps it was indeed Ella that died young, and Nellie was out visiting at the time of the 1880 census. In any case, nothing more is known of Nellie. Daughter Alice was born in 1886, and daughter Harriet in 1888. Alice and Harriet worked as sales agents for toiletry articles. Alice was still single and living at home (unmarried) as of the 1920 census, and Harriet was single and living at home (also unmarried) through the 1930 census. Daughter Alice may finally have gotten married between 1920 and 1930, or may have died. Nellie may also have gotten married between 1900 and 1910. And who knows—maybe even Harriet got married after 1930. Their stories remain incomplete. Oscar died in 1912 and his wife Alice died in 1935; both are buried in Spring Lake Cemetery, Aurora, Illinois.

Ellen (Ella Francis) Wilson appears never to have married. She was born in 1855/6 (according to the 1860 Belfast census) and died October 13, 1925. She is buried next to her sister Mary Rebecca Wilson Butterfield and her husband Norman Butterfield in Spring Lake Cemetery, Aurora, Illinois.

George Ulmer Wilson Jr. was born in 1856/7 and appears to have died very shortly thereafter. He is not present on the 1860 census, and is mentioned only by Rust (1891),

Jane (Jennie) L. Wilson's fate remains unknown. She was born 1857/8 (according to the 1860 Belfast census), and appears with her father on the 1880 Sandwich, Illinois census. Sandwich is right at the corner where the counties of DeKalb, LaSalle and Kendall Counties meet, and only 6 or 7 miles from the corner of Kane County. Kane and Kendall Counties are on the outskirts of the heavily populated Chicago area, which is covered primarily by Cook County. Marriages in Illinois were not required to take place in the county of residence of the bride or the groom. Consequently it is conceivable that Jane's marriages took place in any of these five counties, especially Cook County, since the town of Chicago would have been an attractive and exciting place for families or couples to meet and celebrate weddings. A check of the *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index 1763-1900* (which unfortunately does not give ages, parents or home towns) for 1880-1894 reveals that a Jane Wilson married Lawrence Morton in Cook County on 9 September 1880; also in Cook County, a Jane E. Wilson married Harvey Collins in 1891, and a Jane K. Wilson married Edwin Keate in 1892. The town of Sandwich is in DeKalb County, and that is the only county among the five that has not been indexed; however, the DeKalb County Clerk has been kind enough to check their records and found no marriages in that county for Jane Wilson between 1880 and 1910

Sarah Ulmer Russ Wilson, George Ulmer Wilson's wife, died in Sandwich in 1886. Her brief published obituary reads:

Mrs. S. U. Wilson, aged 73, died in Sandwich, Thursday, 2 December 1886. Mrs. Wilson was the wife of Mr. George Wilson and the mother of Mrs. Doan and Mrs. Butterfield. She was a native of the State of Maine but has resided in Sandwich since 1870. She was a quiet, unassuming woman, a true wife and a loving mother. The funeral was at the family home on Saturday afternoon.