



Genevra A. Harper, wife of Isaac Hills, Jr. (1849-1926)  
son of Sarah Augusta Wilson and Isaac Hills  
[H. W. Lawhead, Photographer, Onarga, IL]



**Josephine Hills, dau, of Sarah A. Wilson Hills**

At some time between August of 1850 (when they were counted in the Belfast census) and September 1852 (when their daughter Mary was born in LaSalle County, Illinois) Isaac and Sarah left Maine permanently to venture west a second time. Isaac is listed there in the 1860 census as a "housebuilder." They stayed in Illinois for several more years; their children John (b.1857), Charles (b.1860), Henry (b.1863) and Burton (b.1866) were all born in Illinois, and their eldest son, Nathan, enlisted in the Union Army in 1864 (listing his home town as Ancona, just over the southern border of LaSalle County in Livingston County), served in Capt. Cogswell's Battery of Light Artillery, was discharged in August of 1865, and married Flora J. Reed in LaSalle County on 25 April 1867.

It is probable that Isaac Hills and his wife Sarah Wilson had traveled west in the footsteps of Sarah's older brothers, John Sheen Wilson and William Faulkner Wilson. The brothers had moved to Point Pleasant on the Ohio River by 1849, then moved on into LaSalle County, Illinois in 1851-1852, and stayed there until around 1869. Isaac Hills daughter Mary was born in LaSalle County in 1852, and Isaac's family appears in the 1860 census in South Ottawa Township, adjacent to Grand Rapids Township on the northwest. Isaac's son Sylvanus also

appears in the 1860 census, living nearby in Brookfield Township and farming with his wife Viola and infant son George.



Mary Augusta Hills (1852-1915), daughter of Sarah Augusta Wilson and Isaac Hills, and wife of David Welsh.  
[A. J. T. Joslin, Photographer, Gilman, IL, 1863-1869]



Frederic Hills (1868-1913), son of Nathan Hills and grandson of Sarah Augusta Wilson, with wife Elizabeth "Libby" Snyder [H. W. Lawhead, Photographer, Onarga & Gilman, IL, Nov 1892]



Nathan F. Hills (1845-1896) son of Sarah Augusta Wilson and Isaac Hills, with wife Flora J. Reed at Bowman's New Gallery, Gilman, Illinois (1868-1872)

When William Faulkner Wilson moved his family to the La Hogue area, Iroquois County, Illinois in 1866-1869, Sarah and Isaac moved with them and settled nearby in the town of Gilman. On the 1870 Gilman census they are all there (except son Sylvanus), Isaac along with his sons Isaac Jr. and Nathan all employed as carpenters. Nathan is living next door to his

father, with his wife Flora and their children Flora (age 2) and Frederick (age 5 months). In 1878 Isaac Jr. married Genevra A. Harper in Gilman.

However, in 1873 Isaac Hills and *most* of his family moved to Frankfort, Michigan, a small town in Benzie County on the shore of Lake Michigan. There where trees and lumber were so much more available he continued to work as a carpenter, along with his sons Sylvanus (by his first marriage) and Henry, while his sons John and Charles became schoolteachers. Sons Nathan and Isaac Jr. had stayed behind in Gilman, Illinois and raised their families there; three of Nathan's children married there, in 1892, 1893 and 1894. Nathan Hills is buried in the Gilman cemetery.

Isaac and Sarah's youngest daughter, Josephine, born in Frankfort in 1875, was by 1900 employed as a dressmaker. Isaac's son Henry married a woman of Canadian birth named Anna A. Little and they had at least three children in Frankfort: Elvira (1886), Grace (1888) and Arthur Isaac (1898).



**Gravemarker of Sarah Augusta Wilson Hills, daughter of John Wilson  
Dorothy Hanna photo**

Isaac Hills died in Frankfort, Michigan on 21 October 1886; Sarah lived another eight years, dying in Frankfort on 26 July 1894.

### **Maria Antoinette Wilson (1824-1852)**

John Wilson's tenth child, Maria Antoinette Wilson, was born in Belfast in 1824, and married Nathan Whitney Blethen in 1847. She died in 1852, at the age of 27, without known

offspring, and is buried in City Point Cemetery, Belfast. Nathan then married Clara Mosher on 13 October 1853 in Penobscot County, Maine. They moved to Nova Scotia and had six children between 1855 and 1867, the first of which they name Antoinette.

### **Lucy Jane Wilson (1826-?)**

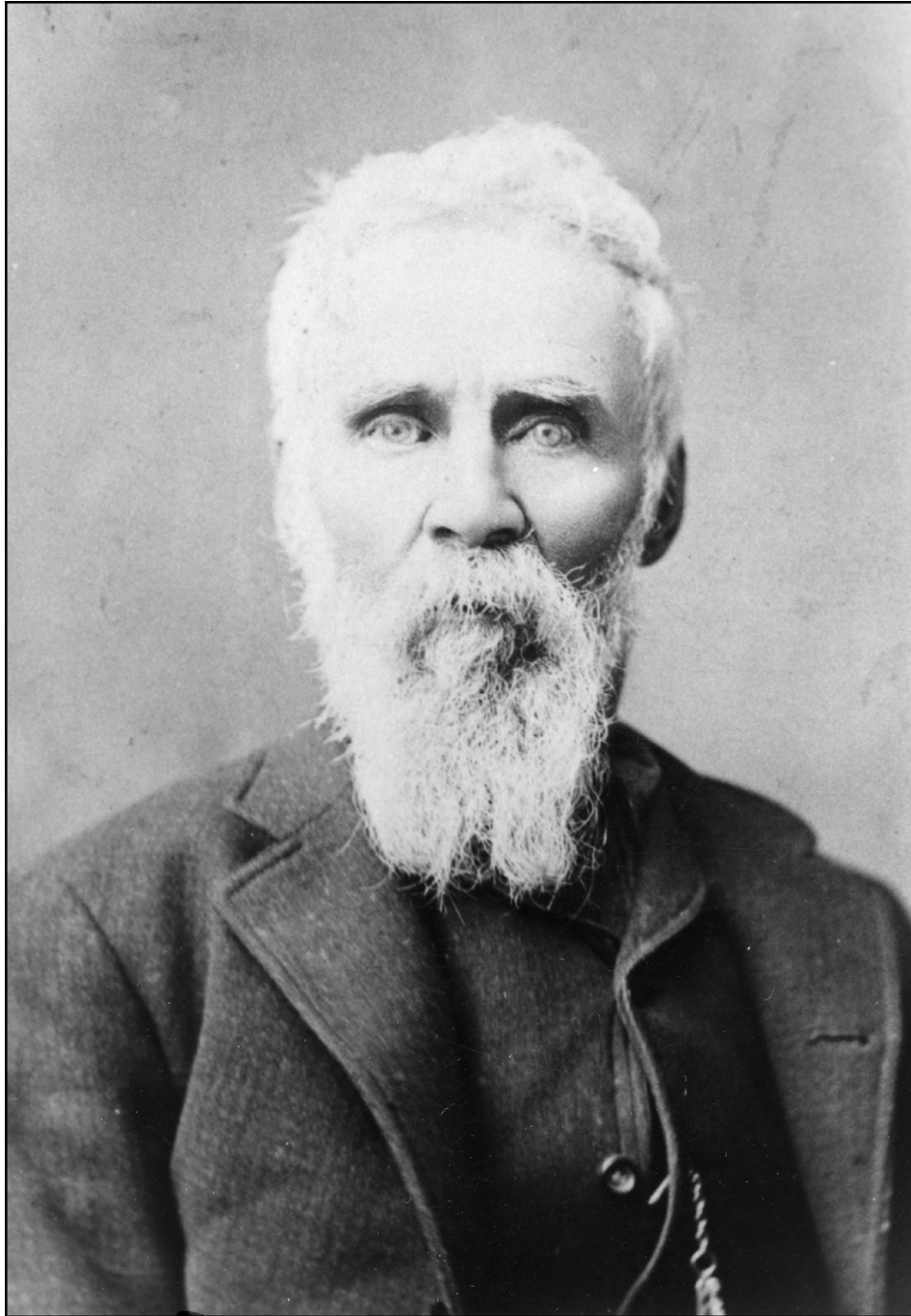
John Wilson's eleventh and last child, Lucy Jane Wilson (known to her siblings as Jane), was born in Lincolnville in 1826 and married Peleg Ellis Bryant in 1848. Peleg, born 18 Sept 1825, was the son of Peleg Bryant (b. 1795) of Kingston, Mass., son of Peleg Bryant (1743-1821), son of John Bryant (1721-1789) [the Bryants had lived in Plymouth County, just three miles from Plymouth Rock, since 1630]. Peleg III's family had moved to Rockport, Maine by 1849, was living in Belfast in August of 1850, and then moved to Providence, Rhode Island before 1852. Peleg was listed as a "moulder" by profession.

Peleg enlisted in the Rhode Island Infantry in 1861 and served in the Civil War, later drawing a pension in his last years as an invalid. Lucy survived him and applied for benefits as his widow.

At some time between 1862 and 1867 Peleg and Lucy traveled west, perhaps with the intention of resettling there permanently like other members of the Wilson clan (William, John, Sarah, and Lucetta). In fact, they may well have traveled west together with Lucetta's family. Lucy gave birth to their eighth child, Florence Belle, in Moline, Rock Island County, Illinois in 1866 or 1867. Moline is located on the northwestern border of Illinois, on the Mississippi River riverboat route north of St. Louis, and was on one route that could have been taken between the East and LaSalle County or Iroquois County.

Peleg may not have been satisfied with life on the frontier, or with the prospects for someone of his profession (a moulder). By 1870 he and his family had returned to the ancestral home of the Bryants, Kingston in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, where Peleg continued to work as a moulder, right next door to his elderly father and mother, and his brothers William and James. Lucy (Peleg is mysteriously absent from the household in 1880) moved to nearby Abington, where she appears in the 1880 census, living with her son Everett (18) and daughter Florence Belle (13); nearby, in South Abington, lived her son Franklin (30), his wife Martha, and their children Henry (8), Ellis (6) and Maud (3). Peleg died 2 March 1898 and was buried in the Kingston Cemetery. Three weeks later Lucy applied for widow's benefits in compensation for his Civil War service..

Everett Burnside Bryant appears on the 1910 census for East Providence, Rhode Island, along with his wife Nettie (46) and sons Roy T. (26) and Allen E. (25). Everett is working as a mill foreman, and his sons are a draftsman and a machinist, respectively.



William Faulkner Wilson (1811-1893)

**William Faulkner Wilson (1811-1893)**

William Faulkner Wilson (called “Faulkner” by his siblings) was born on January 6, 1811, in Lincolnville, Maine, the fourth son of John and Mary Ulmer Wilson. William was 20 years old in 1831, and the eldest of the remaining unmarried children. George Ulmer Wilson (married in 1827) and John Sheen Wilson (married in 1829) both settled nearby in Lincolnville.

On 4 October 1831, less than a month before their father's death John Sheen Wilson sold to his brother William Faulkner Wilson a 97-acre parcel of prime land along the east bank of the Ducktrap Stream south of Joseph Gould's property. The selling price was \$400, and the transaction was witnessed by their father, John Wilson, acting in his capacity as Justice of the Peace. William was, as yet, unmarried. It is probable that, following John Wilson's death, his widow and unmarried children lived for a time with William F. Wilson.

With the death of John Wilson in 1831, William Faulkner Wilson was obliged to remain in charge of the family for another ten years, and did not marry until late 1841, by which time all of his younger siblings were at least teenagers, and Richard Henry Wilson was 22. The eldest daughter, Rebecca, had married in 1834. (Lucetta married in 1842, Susanna and Sarah in 1844, Richard in 1845, Maria in 1847 and Lucy Jane in November 1848.)

In 1838 William Faulkner Wilson paid a visit to his father's relations in England, including his father's brother, Sheen Wilson, who was living in Hulse, a suburb of Manchester. William was taken there on the ship of a prominent Maine sea captain, Phineas Pendleton, who was a friend of William's brother George. Sheen Wilson wrote a letter to Mary, his widowed sister-in-law, for William to take back with him, and provided a gift for her as well. The letter reads as follows:

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North America  
Mrs. Mary Wilson  
Belfast, Maine

[written at] Russel Street, Hulme, Ap[ril]. 16, 1838

Dear Sister,

I have but a few minutes allow'd me to say to you how happy I am to see one of your family, William Faulkner Wilson, at my house, and he informing me how comfortable you and all your family being, in thriving circumstances, and brightening prospects. I should have been very glad could he have staid a little longer with me, but he is wishful to go back with Capt. Pendleton who is bound for New York and thinks he will be ready for sea tomorrow the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. Wm. Can tell you all about Manchester and the news here more lazily than can be said in a letter from me which is the excuse I offer for a very short amt. from me at present. Wm. Can tell you how I am situated at present respecting my avabile finances which are rather tite for a short time, or I should have sent you something more by way of remembrance. You will please accept from me a Chenelle Shawl as a small token of my respect. I hope you will approve the pattern. My time is expired and hope you will excuse this short scroll. My best love to all your family and accept the same yourself,

I am Dear Sister your affectionate bro,



Sheen Wilson

P.S. My brothers and families are all well and desire to be remembered to you and all the family.

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When he was 28 William was drafted into the Maine militia "for protection of the northeast frontier," and was among those men from Belfast who took part in the Aroostock Expedition (February 20 to April 23, 1839). The "Aroostock War" was a boundary dispute between Maine and British-held New Brunswick, Canada. The boundary problem had been an unresolved issue since the peace treaty of 1783 which had ended the American Revolution but had failed to specify a definite boundary between Maine and Canada. When Maine attained statehood in 1820, it began granting land to American settlers in the Aroostock River Valley in the disputed area. When an American land agent sent into the disputed area to expel Canadian lumberjacks was arrested, the American Congress was outraged. They immediately authorized the conscription of 50,000 men and voted \$10 million to support the war effort. New Brunswick mobilized its own militia, supported by funds authorized by the Nova Scotia congress. Maine sent 10,000 troops into the disputed area, of which the quota drafted from Belfast was 30 men; William F. Wilson and his brother-in-law, James O. Cunningham, were among the 30. They were ordered to report to Bangor, and left Belfast by stagecoach on February 19; they proceeded from Bangor to Oldtown by rail, and from there they marched through the snow to Madawaska. Warfare was about to break out when President Martin Van Buren dispatched General Winfield Scott into the "war zone." Scott successfully negotiated a compromise which awarded 7,015 of the 12,000 disputed square miles to Maine, and the "war" ended without bloodshed. William Faulkner Wilson was a "musician" private in the light infantry, Captain Daniel Dority's Company [*Historical Sketch and Roster of the Aroostock War*, Portland, 1903] and appears also to have served as a private in Capt. Swain's Company, third division, first regiment, second brigade [*William's History of Belfast* (1877)]. His brother John Sheen Wilson was also conscripted as a musician, serving in Capt. Isaac Greene's regiment.

As of 1840, William F. Wilson was living with his mother and his unmarried siblings in Belfast. On November 27, 1841, at the age of 30, William Faulkner Wilson married Sarah Abigail Mahoney; they were married by William's cousin, George Russ, in Northport, Maine (*Republic Journal*, 3 Dec 1841). (George Russ was the son of Maj. John Russ and Sally/Sarah Ulmer, sister of Mary Ulmer.) Sarah Abigail Mahoney, born in Belfast, Maine, on September 22, 1822, was of a long and distinguished lineage going back through some of the earliest families in New England and beyond to royal British lines. She was the daughter of Patrick Mahoney and Mary Jewett, appearing with them on the 1830 Census (as "female 5-10 years old"). Mahoneys were prominent (or, at least, numerous) in the Lincolnville area, and it may have been that William arranged to meet a potential mate through his local contacts with Mahoney family members. Sarah's uncles, James and John Mahoney, had lived with their families in Lincolnville since 1797.