

[Wilson, Willis W.]

SON OF PIONEERS PASSED THE BORDER

Willis W. Wilson Was the Grandson of First White Settler in the  
Township of Independence—Was Cousin of Late David Wilson

The News is this week called upon to write the closing chapter of the life of a resident of Independence Township—a life begun and closed practically within sight of the homestead purchased by his forefathers from the land agents more than a hundred years ago, they coming here from Massachusetts.

Willis W. Wilson, aged 79 years, 8 months and 6 days, was for over twenty years proprietor of the Wilson House, in this village, a hostelry that was known for its hospitality and board second to none. His father Robert Wilson, together with several brothers for years owned and operated that section of the Township of Independence which is bounded on the west by the road past the B. Silvernail farm, north by the highway from the Grantier-Teater corners, south by the B. Nobles farm line and east by the Harrigan Gully road. Here was a vast section of farm land which the family bought and cleared of the virgin timber because they figured that the springtime suns would clear the heavy snows from their fields more rapidly than would be the case in the valley where the village of Whitesville is now located.

Following his hotel proprietorship Mr. Wilson, cousin of the late David Wilson, Allegany County's late centenarian, took up the work for the Mervine Oil interests which work he continued until failing health forced him to retire last fall.

[On] April 22, 1860 at Rexville occurred Mr. Wilson's marriage to Miss Jane Barker who died February 8, 1912. On May 2, 1917 he was married to Mrs. Etta Nelson of Oswayo, who with one son Deputy Sheriff Birney M. Wilson survive, besides one grandson, M. H. Wilson. Death came to relieve his suffering two weeks after a stroke of paralysis.

During his lifetime Mr. Wilson was a worker in the Universalist society of this village whose present church edifice was erected on a lot belonging to the Wilson family on the Gantier-Teater road, which said lot is now a part of the Fred Smith farm. The church was moved by the Wilson brothers to its original site in Lower Main street in the village of Whitesville.

The funeral was held this morning at 11 o'clock from the home and in accordance with the wish of the departed was practically private which was also necessary owing to the serious state of Mrs. Wilson's health. The interment was in the family plot in Rural Cemetery. Rev. Dr. Wm. E. Manning Todd officiated.

The original homestead of the Wilson family was where the present farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Rho Leach, the latter a granddaughter of the deceased, is located.

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