

CANAWLERS  
AT REST

THOMAS H.  
WILSON

b. May 31, 1818

d. December 27, 1877

Find-A-Grave 34902977

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

Mount Hope Cemetery in Logansport, Indiana.

In 1843 Thomas Wilson and Philip Pollard built a grain warehouse on the Wabash & Erie Canal. From the warehouse they carried on a forwarding and commission business in the farm products of the Wabash valley. Ten years later, after Pollard had retired, Thomas H. Wilson joined with John C. Merriam, E. S. Rice and Meredith H. Thomas of another company to form the firm of Wilson, Merriam & Company. The stock of the two companies was combined into one stock.

In January 1849 Thomas married Mary Isabel Ann Dexter of Parkersburg, West Virginia. They had two children — Mary Ann Wilson born in 1850 and William Thomas Wilson born on January 4, 1854. Mary Isabel died September 18, 1854. She was buried in plot 13-1042-05 in Mount Hope Cemetery.

Thomas H. Wilson was born on May 31, 1818 to John and Sarah (Hopkins) Wilson near the village of Denton, Caroline county, Maryland. His parents were of English descent and were members of the Society of Friends. His father was a farmer. The Wilson's had ten children of which Thomas was number six. They died when he was ten or eleven years old.

Although Thomas was a close observer of public affairs he was not interested in holding public office. He was originally a Whig. When the Republican Party was organized on March 20, 1854 to combat the Kansas-Nebraska Act for popular sovereignty, Thomas joined shortly thereafter.

After his parents died, Thomas went to live with his guardian and uncle, Thomas Hopkins. He attended the common schools and acquired an education. He also gained his elementary business experience in his uncle's mill and store. In 1834 he became a clerk in the store of Miffin & Atwell of Camden, Delaware. His salary was \$50 a year in addition to his board. He worked there until 1837 when they closed their business.

The year 1856 was a busy year for Thomas Wilson. He was married for a third time to Elizabeth Edmondson Hopkins of Burlington, New Jersey on April 15. They had four children — Ellwood George Wilson born in 1857, Thomas Hopkins Wilson born in 1861, John Charles Wilson born in 1865 and Eloise Elizabeth Wilson born in 1869. Thomas was considerate and loving to his family.

Thomas, then nineteen years of age, went to live with one of the partners, Daniel Atwell, in Logansport where he resided until his death. His first employer in Logansport was Anderson & Atwell. After that he was employed by Daniel Atwell until Atwell died in 1840. Thomas then formed a partnership with Philip Pollard in the mercantile trade. The firm known as Pollard & Wilson became one of the most important factors in the commercial activity of Logansport.

Philip Pollard died in 1856. Thomas became the executor of Philip's estate. The duties connected with that position, together with his failing health, prompted him to withdraw from the firm of Wilson, Merriam & Company. However, he continued in the produce trade until July 1875. The company of which he was one of the founders continued on as Merriam & Rice after Thomas H. Wilson and Meredith H. Thomas left the firm in 1857. It went through several name changes and different partnerships and did a safe and profitable business in the community for years. The company was popular and dealt extensively in dry goods and general hardware. It occupied two large salesrooms.

In October 1842 Thomas was married to America Weirick of Logansport. Unfortunately she died three years later on June 25, 1845. They had two children — Charles Edward Wilson born in 1844 and an infant daughter born and died in 1845. It is likely that America died during or later from childbirth. She was buried in plot 13-1042-06 of

On Friday evening, April 19, 1861, prior to the Tuesday, April 23, 1861 where the Board of County Commissioners of Cass Count, Indiana met at the court house in

## THE HOOSIER PACKET - July 2014

Thomas H. Wilson's Family							
Name	Birth	Place	Death	Place	Marriage	Place	
John Wilson							
m. Sarah Hopkins	1787						
Mary M. Wilson	1809		1829				
Sarah Ann "Sallie" Wilson	1811		1887				
Eliza H. Wilson	1814		1846				
Susan Wilson	1816		1825				
Thomas H. Wilson	5-31-1818	Denton, MD	12-27-1877	Mount Hope Cem.	Logansport, IN		
m1. America Weirick	2-28-1823		6-25-1845	" "	" "	10-27-1842	Logansport, IN
Charles Edward Wilson	1844		1844				
Infant daughter	1845		1845				
m2. Mary Isabel Ann Dexter	1828		9-18-1854	" "	" "	1-??-1849	
Mary Anna Wilson	10-22-1850		2-13-1855	" "	" "		
William Thomas Wilson	1-24-1854		1-27-1943	" "	" "		
m3. Elizabeth Edmondson Hopkins	2-10-1829		2-27-1898	" "	" "	4-15-1856	Philadelphia
Ellwood George Wilson	11-15-1857		3-23-1924	" "	" "		
Thomas Hopkins Wilson	4-17-1861		3-24-1935	" "	" "		
John Charles Wilson	2-08-1865		1906	" "	" "		
Eloise Elizabeth Wilson	1869						
Rebecca Ann Wilson	1825		1859				
Mary Wilson			1836				
Three other children							

Logansport at 11 a.m. for the purpose of determining whether or not the Board would make an appropriation out of the County Treasury for the support of the families of such persons who volunteered as soldiers in the service of the United States in the Civil War, the common council of the city of Logansport met in a special session and had appropriated \$1,000 for the support of the families of the volunteers if needed. The council appointed Thomas H. Wilson, Chauncey Carter and D. D. Pratt a committee with authority to disburse the money. The April 23 meeting resolved that all orders were to be drawn by the auditor on the treasury on account of the appropriation, and be based on the certificates of the several township trustees, acting as overseers of the poor, which have appended to them the recommendation of either Thomas H. Wilson, Chauncey Carter or Daniel D. Pratt. And it is also ordered that no more of the appropriation shall be drawn from the treasury than deemed by Carter, Wilson or Pratt, really necessary for the support of these families of the volunteers."

In May 1865 Thomas was chosen to be the president of the Logansport National Bank. Through his able administration of its affairs, he made it one of the most reliable financial institutions in the state of Indiana. He served as its president until his death.

The 1850 U. S. Federal Census for the State of Indiana shows Thomas H. Wilson as a merchant with an estate of \$5000. In the 1860 census he is a dealer in produce. In 1870 he is the president of the Logansport 1st National Bank.

Although Logansport had no Society of Friends organization, Thomas always kept up his membership with the Quakers. "The kindly spirit he manifested was in harmony with the teachings of the society. Being a true friend, he was sympathetic to those in need and often gave them substantial assistance." He regularly attended some of the Churches of Logansport and was connected with its temperance and charitable associations.

Thomas H. Wilson passed away on December 27, 1877. He was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Logansport, Cass county, Indiana in plot 13-1032-03.

In the *Biographical and Genealogical History of Cass, Miami, Howard and Tipton Counties, Indiana* Thomas is said to have been "a man of keen sagacity and business foresight, and his watchful care over his business interests, his perseverance and his close attention to details won him a handsome competence. His reputation in commercial circles was unassailable, for it would be difficult to find one whose business methods were in more perfect conformity to the ethics of commercial life. He was prudent and conservative, yet was quick to discern favorable business opportunities and ready in giving his support to all worthy enterprises. He bore an active part in the promotion of many such, and this added materially to the prosperity of the city with which his interests were allied. Many of the younger business men of Logansport have reason to feel grateful to him for kindly assistance rendered in the hour when aid was necessary to give them a start in life." It also said, "He was a man of temperate habits, charitable in thought, word and deed, thor-

oughly honest, and his public and private life was above reproach. He had a wide acquaintance in Logansport and Cass county, and all who knew him held him in the highest regard. He left to his family the priceless heritage of an untarnished name, and the influence of his noble life is felt by his many friends.”

Thomas’ wife, Elizabeth Hopkins Wilson passed away on February 27, 1898. She was buried in plot 13-1032 -02 in Mount Hope Cemetery alongside Thomas. She was 89 years old.

Thomas’ son William T. Wilson was graduated from Princeton College in New Jersey in 1874. He studied law under the direction of the Hon. D. D. Pratt of Logansport and was admitted to the bar after which he practiced law with the firm of Dykeman, Taber & Wilson. Then in 1877 when both ex-senator Pratt died and William’s father, Thomas H. Wilson died William was appointed the executor of both of these large estates. That same year he became officially connected with the First National Bank in Logansport and was a vice-president.

William T. Wilson married Martha L. McCarty, a daughter of Joseph C. McCarty of Logansport, in 1880. They had four children—Thomas H. Wilson, who associated with him in the practice of law and was the Notary Public for Logansport on June 27, 1908; Elizabeth Wilson, who was the wife of Frank H. Worthington of the Vandalia Railroad residing at Terre Haute, Indiana; and Joseph Wilson and Dorothy Dexter Wilson living in Logansport. They were members of the Presbyterian church and were Republicans. William T. Wilson served as a Common Councilman of Logansport for two years.

Sources:

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Thomas H. Wilson  
 Died  
 12th Mo. 27th 1877  
 Aged  
 59Years  
 Plot: 13-1042-03  
 Mount Hope Cemetery  
 Logansport, Cass County, Indiana  
 Photo by Deb Minniear Rush



Mount Hope Cemetery is Indiana’s third largest cemetery with over 82,000 burials and an average of 200 interments a year. . It was opened in 1857. It is located north of the city, with the main entrance on Pleasant Hill. It encompasses over 225 acres.