

CANAWLERS AT REST

LAZARUS BROWN WILSON

b. March 2, 1795

d. April 10, 1875



Lazarus Wilson was a man who was instrumental in engineering the National Road, the northern portion of the Wabash & Erie Canal and the Jeffersonville & Crawfordsville Railroad. He worked all over the Hoosier state but eventually settled in Indianapolis where he and some of his family members were buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

Lazarus' family was of a Quaker background. His Wilson ancestors came from England and settled near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, around 1685. Thomas Wilson, Lazarus' father, was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on January 13, 1753. In 1776, at age 23, he enlisted as a lieutenant in Captain Joseph Tomlinson's company. His commander was well known to him as the Wilson and Tomlinson families, who also were Quakers, had come to the William Penn colony at the same time. Captain Tomlinson sister, Sarah Tomlinson, was married to Thomas on May 20, 1778 at which time the Captain granted him a three day leave. Although Washington's troops had wintered that year in nearby Valley Forge and on June 27, 1778 the battle of Monmouth Court House took place in New Jersey, we do not know exactly where Thomas was during all of this fighting. The Battle of Yorktown became his claim to fame.

Thomas Wilson's unit was assigned to Major General James Clinton, the father of DeWitt Clinton of Erie Canal fame. The surrender ceremony at the end of the war was held at 2:00 o'clock October 19, 1781, and Thomas was given a special assignment to receive the standards from Cornwallis' army, at Yorktown., which is described in the following quote:

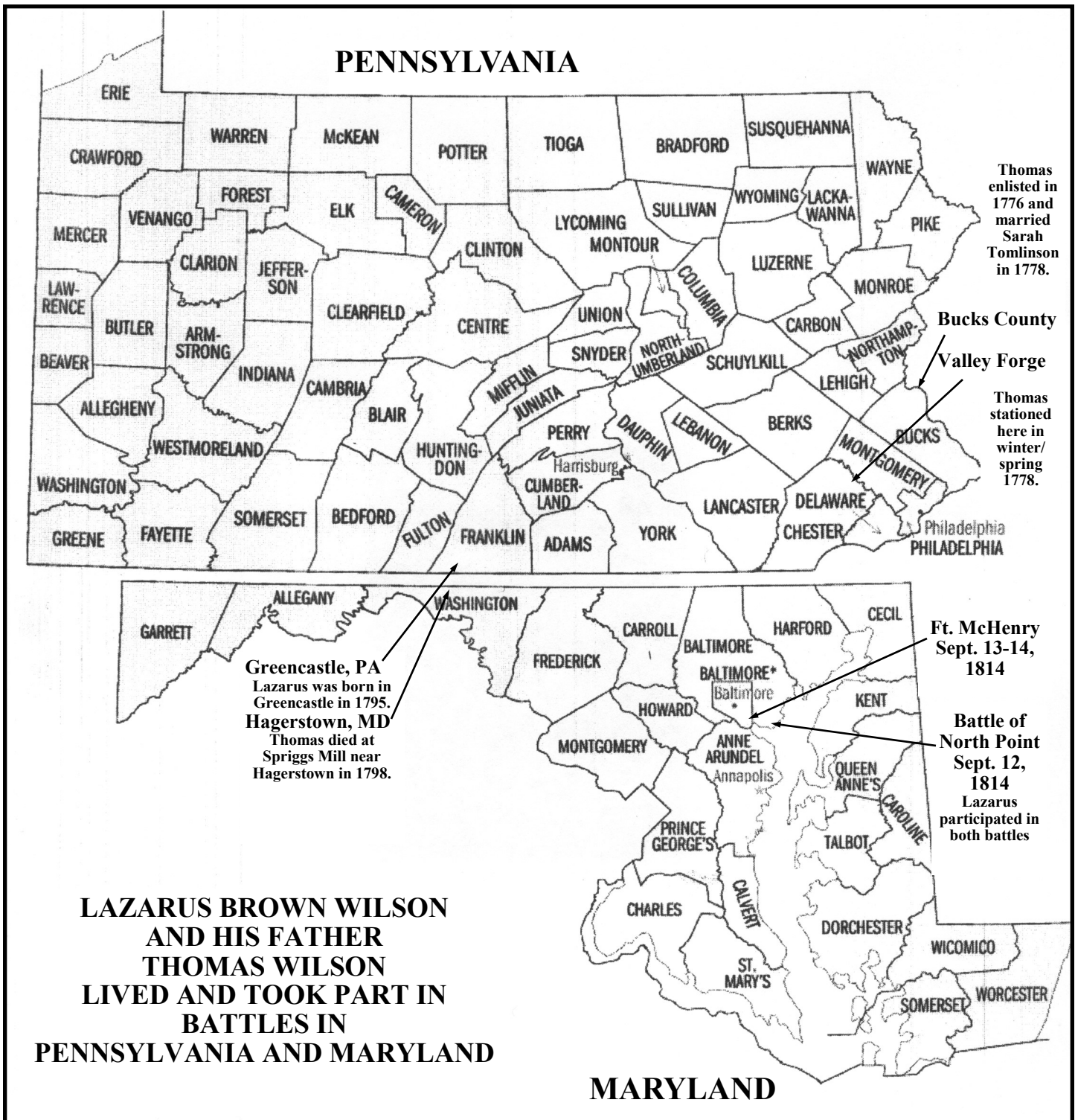
"Out from Yorktown come the British. In silence and in sadness they march. Upon many a bronzed cheek there are tears, for it is humiliating to surrender. Between the lines they march, and lay their guns upon the ground. The standards, twenty-eight in number, are to be delivered up. **Ensign Wilson**, of Clinton's brigade, receives them. He is the youngest officer in the service, only eighteen (actually 28); but well does he per-

form his part—receiving them from the British captains and handing them to the twenty-eight sergeants appointed to receive them." *The Boys of '76* by Charles Carleton Coffin, 1899. [An ensign was a commissioned officer designated as the standard bearer.]

After the war, Thomas moved his family to Greencastle, Franklin Co., Pennsylvania. He became a miller or mill owner 5-miles-away in Sprigg's Mills, Maryland.

Lazarus was the seventh child of Thomas and Sarah's. He was born on March 2, 1795 in Franklin County. Tragedy soon struck the family. In 1798 Thomas died at age 45 from a fall off of a horse and was buried near Sprigg's Mills. Lazarus' sisters, Elizabeth and Rachel, moved to Hagerstown to become seamstresses. Shortly thereafter Sarah moved the rest of her family to Hagerstown. In 1807 at age 52, Sarah also passed on and was buried in Hagerstown. Then Lazarus went to live and work with his older brother, David.

The major event in Lazarus' life came during the War of 1812. Thomas Quantrill, a blacksmith in Hagerstown, raised a company of men for Benjamin Fowler's 39th Regiment of Maryland Militia. It was called the "Homespun Volunteer Company" of Hagerstown. The 39th Regiment and Quantrill's company played a crucial role in the defense of Baltimore. In the autumn of 1814, after the burning of government buildings in Washington, General Robert Ross, the British commander, decided to attack Baltimore located on Chesapeake Bay. The U.S. commander, Major-General Samuel Smith, had been building fortifications and earthworks to protect the town. Fort McHenry also protected the city from a direct assault by water. When the British fleet was spotted off of North Point, Brigadier General John Stricker was sent with about 3,200 men down the neck to delay the land attack so that the city could complete its defenses.



With General Stricker was the 39th Regiment, Captain Quantrill's company and Private Lazarus Wilson of the 24th regiment. Stricker established a line about a mile wide at the junction of two roads leading into Baltimore. The British forces of 4,500 men landed between 3:00-7:00 a.m. on September 12, 1814. They proceeded quite leisurely along having learned that they were facing militia, who had fled at Bladensburg in August after putting up only a token defense of Washington. General Ross had breakfast at a nearby farm. When his host asked if he

would return for dinner he supposedly said, "I'll eat in Baltimore tonight or in hell."

The Americans sent about 200 men forward to harass the British advance. General Ross moved forward alone to check his advance forces and was hit by a volley of fire. He was mortally wounded in the chest and died a few hours later.

Colonel Arthur Brooke took over command and ad-

(continued on page 16)

Nancy Yeakel Bender of Grinnell, Iowa has sent CSI the following letter written by Lazarus Brown Wilson to his older brother David Wilson about the battle at North Point. It was given to her by Thomas Wilson Yeakel, now deceased. Notice Lazarus talks about his brother Samuel and Yakel [Probably Jacob Yeakel, who married his sister, Elizabeth Wilson]. The letter has not had spelling or punctuation corrected. The envelope is addressed to: Mr. David [Tomlinson] Wilson, Hagerstown, Washington County,

Baltimore

September 16, 1814

Mr. David Wilson,

Dear Brother, I take the opportunity of informing you that I am in a good state of health but very much fatigued. On Sunday last we were ordered to join the Regiment immediately which we did, but were dismissed at 11 o'clock and ordered to hold ourselves ready to march at a moment's warning. At one o'clock the alarm gun was fired, when we joined the Regiment and marched towards North Point. At about eight o'clock we halted for the night. We lay thre, the enemy then about two miles off. We lay there that night without anything but blankets. The next morning we drew rashings and did not get it cooked before we were ordered to march. We left everything lay, and marched bout half a mile when we formed the line of battle. We stayed there till one o'clock when the advanced gard met the enemy. We herd the firing and marched on til we met them. We formed again and plainly saw the enemy. They then began to throw Rockets at us and play with their artillery. At the time we stood in a walking position. 3 balls struck just behind me against a tree where the Capt. Was standing. The second fell on the fence and from their it hit Samuel's leg. It bruised his leg a little. At this time it was trying. We wer exposed to all their fireing. They were two far off for our muskets. We could see them flanking in on both sides. We stood this way for about fifteen minutes. They then advanced in front of us, charging and hooping like Indians. they advanced within about four hundred yards when some of our men fired without orders. They then stoped firing and dropped on their knees and loaded. We fired a few rounds and then re-

treated to this place where we lay on our arms al night. The next day we marched to meet them but they would not advance to meet us. That day they threw, I am informed, twelve hundred Bobs at the fort [Ft. McHenry?]. Than night we lay on our arms. It rained very hard at twelve o'clock. We lay their till 1 o'clock the next day. Then we were marched into town and dismissed and that night at one o'clock. We were alarmed. We marched out were it was said the enemy was landing but it was false. We lay their till morning and then marched to town where we have not been disturbed since. Last night was the first nights sleep I had since Saturday night last. Last evening they hoisted sail and went round the Point. They have not yet returned. Our Capt. And two besides. Brothr Samuel was slitley wounded. Jacob Motter is missing. Some say he is dead and I believe it is true. Samuel's leg is swollen a little but he can walk without a stick. I received the letter Sarah [Sarah Ann Wilson, sister] sent to me by Mr. Shank and what it contained. Colonel Tilehman troop arrived here on the 12th and this evening again. Yakel is well. My love to you all and remain with the highest respect your affectionate brother.

L[azarus]. B[rown]. Wilson

Leary Claagett was killed in the Fort on the 13th.

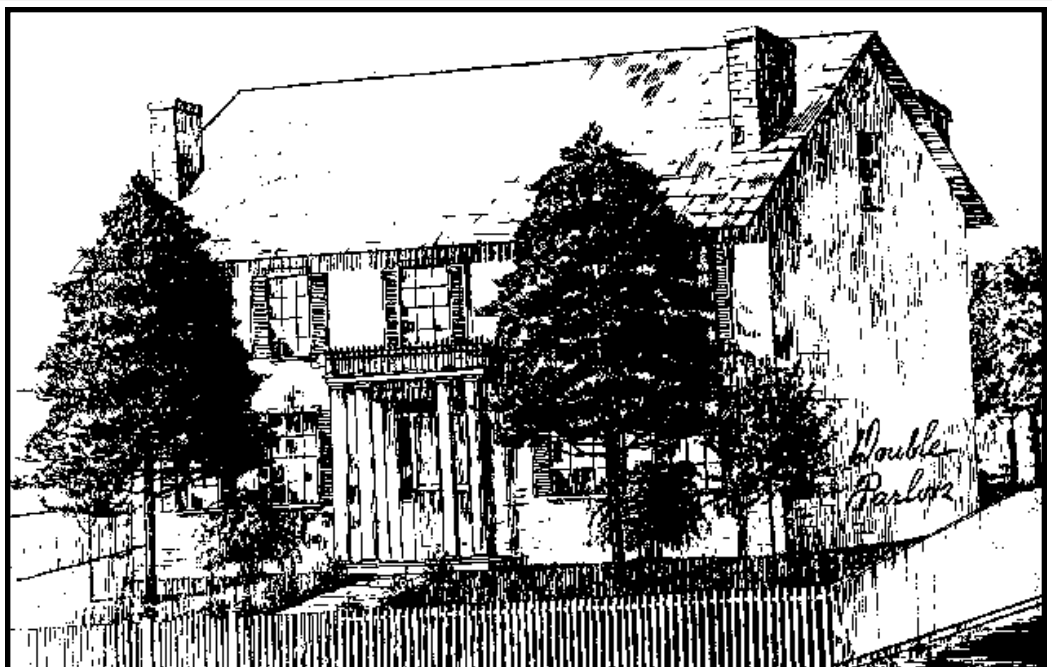
**LAZARUS BROWN WILSON
HOMESTEAD (1842-1872)**

**Built 1842
S. E. Corner
Maryland & Tennessee Sts.
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Red Brick & Black Walnut

**Razed 1874
by Henry C. Wilson,
Lazarus' second son,
Brother of
Oliver, Franklin, Isabelle,
Grace, Alice & Alma**

**Henry & his family lived
in this house during
the Civil War**



vanced against the main American line about 3:00 p.m. With most of the British firing taking place on the left, the 39th Maryland Militia was called up from their reserve position to the main line. After a fierce fight they fell back to Worthington's Mill at the south end of the Baltimore earthworks. By 5:30 p.m. that afternoon, General Ross had been killed and Colonel Brooke was not ready to attack further that day. Brooke assumed that Fort McHenry would soon be reduced by the British navy.

What had been achieved? The British attack had been delayed, but the death of General Ross was probably even more decisive. What about the 39th? "Lieutenant-Colonel Fowler, and Major Steiger of the 39th did their duty in every respect; they speak highly of Captain Quantrill, from Hagerstown, and Captain Metzgar, from Hanover, Pennsylvania. Captain Quantrill is wounded." *The British Invasion of Maryland 1812-1815* by William M. Marine, p. 165. Two other soldiers were also injured in the fight — Lazarus Wilson and his younger brother Samuel. [Note that Thomas Quantrill, a hero here, was the father of the infamous William Quantrill of the lawless raiders that killed 200 persons in Lawrence, Kansas in August 1863 during the Civil War.]

The next phase of the British two-prong attack began at sunrise on Tuesday morning September 13, 1814 and lasted for 25 hours. A naval bombardment of some 1,500-1800 rounds was attempted to force Fort McHenry to surrender. (See letter on p. 15) We all know the outcome as expressed in our national anthem. Francis Scott Key was held on board a British ship and saw the whole attack throughout the night. In the morning the huge U.S. flag still flew over the fort. Key put his poem to the tune of a British song "To Anacreon in Heaven" This song, although played, did not become the official national anthem of the United States until 1931.

Baltimore had been saved and the Chesapeake campaign ended. For service to his country, Lazarus finally received land warrant 56,941 on March 3, 1855 — better late than never. The War of 1812 ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on Christmas eve, December 24, 1814. As you will recall, the word about the war having ended did not reach New Orleans until after Andrew Jackson's victory, on January 8, 1815.

Like so many others, Lazarus looked to the new west and its opportunities for a young man. According to his daughter Alma Wilson, an Indianapolis librarian who wrote her recollections of his oral history in 1914, "he and a friend canoed down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh to Natchez, and there began the active pursuit of fortune." During this period 1815-22 he must have received some education and training in engineering. By 1822 he was engaged as a surveyor and civil engineer in Missouri. He decided to move to Indiana and stopped in Paoli, Orange County, Indiana, for a while. In 1825 he moved to Indianapolis. Why there?

In 1820 the legislature decided the state needed a capital more centrally located and selected a site mid-state on the

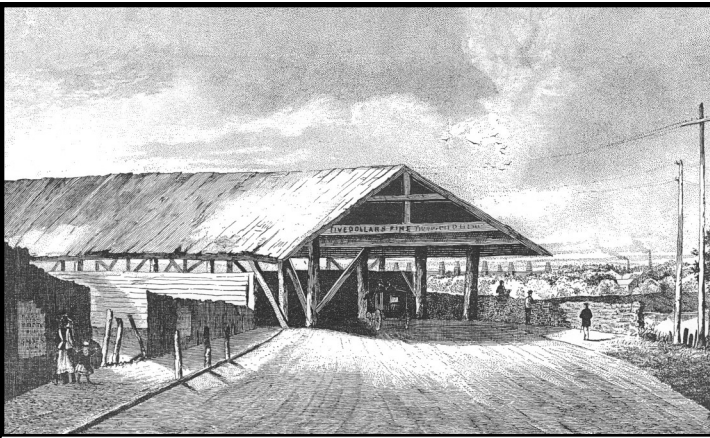
White River. They called the centrally located town Indiana-polis [Greek for city]. The state records were moved by wagon in the Fall of 1824 and by 1825 official business was conducted there. Shortly after arriving in Paoli, Lazarus, at age 30, probably saw more opportunity for him in the new state capital.

What was the opportunity that brought Lazarus to Indianapolis? It probably was the plans for a National Road to be built through the wilderness. Congress authorized the building of such a road on May 15, 1820. It was to be a straight-line road from Wheeling, Virginia (West Virginia) to the Mississippi River near St. Louis, Missouri. Since the original plan would have placed the 80-foot-wide roadway 15 miles south of Indianapolis, Indiana Senator Jonathan Jennings introduced an amendment that would carry the road through the state capitals of Ohio, Indiana & Illinois (Columbus, Indianapolis & Vandalia). It was approved by Congress in 1825.

In a letter dated April 27, 1827, Jonathan Knight, the Commissioner of the National Road, offered Lazarus the job to "proceed along the several contemplated routes for the extension of the Cumberland Road west of Zanesville, and to procure the relinquishments of damages from the proprietors of lands both on account of the roads passing through their lands and for materials for its construction." The rate of pay was \$2.50 per day, a good pay for the day.

Joseph Shriver, the surveyor of the National Road, was to meet with Lazarus at Wheeling. Field notes for the roadway state that survey work began in Indiana at the Ohio line on June 13, 1827. The surveyors reached Indianapolis on July 5, 1827 and the work west of Indianapolis began on September 10, 1827. The records show that Jonathan Knight was in town in July 1827 to verify the route and the crossing point on the White River. The bridge across the White River was to be built on Washington Street. It was designed by Lazarus Wilson, built by William Wernweg and Walter Blake at a cost of \$18,000, and was completed in 1834. From 1827 to 1832, Lazarus was involved with survey work on the National Road. The *John Tipton Papers* Vol. 2, p.513 states: "Lazarus B. Wilson, a civil engineer on the National Road, had criticized the manner of construction of the western division of the road in Indiana." This would be the area west of Indianapolis.

An event occurring in June 1832 produced a lot of excitement in the area. Chief Black Hawk and his band of 1,500 had crossed the Mississippi River into Illinois that April and threatened settlers all the way to the Indiana border. A group of local militia in Indianapolis called the "Bloody Three Hundred" rode on horseback up to Chicago to meet up with a 1000 federal troops under General Winfield Scott, who arrived from Buffalo, New York. "They met no adventures and did no duty except marching, and came home again covered with dust if not glory." Their departure was signaled by more blood shed than their campaign. In firing a salute from the cannon William Warren had both of his arms blown off. Needless to say, Lazarus Wilson was



Lazarus Wilson designed this Old National Road bridge over the White River on Washington Street in Indianapolis, Indiana.
Photo Electro Co. Boston A. L. Sinks Print

one of the 300 men on the march and perhaps it helped gain some attention for the next event in his life. [You will recall Abe Lincoln also established his military career chasing Chief Black Hawk.] The threat ended by August of 1832 when the Indians were driven back over the Mississippi. The Black Hawk War resulted in the death of 70 settlers and soldiers and hundreds of Black Hawk's band. Many of the soldiers died from the Cholera epidemic.

Mary Todd Barbee was the granddaughter of William and Mary Smith Barbee. At age seventeen William Barbee had enlisted as a private in Col. Lewis B. Burwell's regiment. On Christmas night of 1776 he was with the army that crossed the Delaware River and surprised the enemy at Trenton. He was born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia in 1759 and died in 1813 in Troy, Ohio at age 54 from injuries during the War of 1812.

Mary Todd Barbee's parents were Dr. Thomas Barbee and Alice Bickerton Winston, a cousin of Patrick Henry. Thomas and Alice had been married on June 19, 1809 at the Winston plantation in Louisa County, Virginia. In 1810 they moved to Winchester, Kentucky, by covered wagon.

Dr. Barbee frequently traveled to his parents' home in Piqua, Ohio. While there he saw many instances of people and animals with tremors. He eventually associated these tremors with the snake weed that the cows ate while grazing in the wild causing them to tremble and passing the disease on to humans who drank their milk. Dr. Daniel Drake, an associate of Thomas, utilized Thomas' early observations and published a work on milk sickness. Drake was also the attending physician when Thomas died in Cincinnati, Ohio on October 13, 1821.

Mary Todd Barbee, born on November 27, 1813, was only 8 years old at the time of her father's death. Her mother, Alice, did not remarry but raised the family of 4 children — Mary Todd, William James, Isabella Graham, and Alice Thomas — by herself.

In 1829 Mary Todd Barbee, age 16, moved to Indianapolis from Paris, KY. to live with her mother's sister, Mary C. Winston Brown, who had married John G. Brown, a dry goods store owner, after her husband, Dr. David Todd, died in 1816, shortly after their June 21, 1815 marriage. While living with her aunt in Indianapolis, Mary and Lazarus Wilson began courting.



Alice Bickerton Winston Barbee

On February 22, 1832 ground was broken for the Wabash & Erie Canal in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Soon after this time Jesse Williams arrived in Fort Wayne to become the Chief Engineer of the project. In the Spring of 1833 Lazarus Wilson also came to Fort Wayne to work with Williams. Before leaving Indianapolis he had sought the hand of Mary Barbee, but she couldn't decide between Lazarus and another especially infamous suitor named William McPherson. She said she cared for both of them.

William McPherson was a bold and flashy character. He was working on the National Road bridge with Mr. Wernwag and some other works nearby. The ferryman on the White River at Indianapolis was Michael Van Blaricum, who had a serious dispute with McPherson. Rumors said that McPherson had a relationship with the ferryman's wife. On a ferry trip across the river on May 8, 1833 Van Blaricum rocked the ferry, which upset it in the middle of the river, and McPherson, who couldn't swim, drowned. Several people witnessed the event and Van Blaricum received a three-year murder sentence. He was later pardoned by Governor Noah Noble. His was the first recorded murder in Indianapolis.

Hearing of the death of McPherson, Lazarus immediately set off for Indianapolis, restated his proposal of marriage and demanded a response as he needed to return to Fort Wayne. Mary hesitated, but realized that she was getting older (19) and that most of her friends were already married. Lazarus was mature (38), could help with her widowed mother's property and was a solid citizen. Thinking it over she finally said "yes." They were married at noon on June 18, 1833 and left immediately for Fort Wayne. They stayed in an inn just across the hall from Jesse Williams (26) & Susan Creighton Williams (25). They became good friends. The Williams were also newlyweds having been married in November 1831.

Apparently Lazarus and Mary Wilson soon got settled into Fort Wayne and invited Mary's widowed mother, Alice Barbee, to join them. She responded on Aug. 13, 1833 that she had two houses to sell and three slaves to find means to break the iron yoke of bondage. Also she wanted Lazarus to clearly under-

stand that if she would live under his roof she would pay her own way.

In 1829 Ft. Wayne had created a primitive style of government, which continued for eleven years. During this time additional trustees were added to the city board. Lazarus was one of them. The others included L.B. Bellamy, Joseph Berkey, Robert Brackenridge, Francis Comparet, John B. Dubois, Samuel Edsall, Joseph Ensworth, Nathan Farrand, Abner Gerard, Matthew Griggs, Samuel Hanna, John E.. Hill, Joseph Holman, Robert Hood (removed), William N. Hood, C. H. Hubbard, James Hudson, William Luckey (removed), Hugh McCulloch, Isaac Marquis, William L. Moon, Joseph Morgan, I.D.G. Nelson, James Post, David Rankin, Daniel Reed, John Reese, William Rockhill, Moses Scott, Joseph Sinclear, Benjamin Smith, John Spencer, William Sutfenfield, Zephaniah B. Tenney, George W. Wood, and Henry Work.



Mary Todd Barbee Wilson

Lazarus appears to have been in Fort Wayne for the next couple of years. In 1834 he was elected a township trustee along with James Barnett, John J. Bourie, John B. DuBois and Dr. Lewis G. Thompson. Also in 1834 Thomas Barbee Wilson, Lazarus and Mary's first child, was born on April 4. The following year on July 4 a grand celebration was held for the opening of the Wabash & Erie Canal from Fort Wayne to Huntington. Lazarus read the Declaration of Independence and Hugh McCulloch delivered the keynote address.

When the Internal Improvement Bill of 1836 was signed by Governor Noah Noble, the governor quickly appointed engineers for the various works. Jesse L. Williams was made Chief Engineer, the eastern end was assigned to Stearns Fisher, the western end to Anderson Davis, and Lazarus B. Wilson was appointed resident engineer for the central part of the Wabash & Erie Canal. Shortly after this Wilson moved his family to Logansport, Indiana.

From the period 1828-1837 Lazarus purchased many acres, probably on speculation, from the federal government. These purchases were in Marion, Hendricks, Cass & Porter counties. Most of them were on planned or proposed transportation routes in which he was involved. He probably thought the land would appreciate once the projects were completed.

While in Logansport another son, Oliver Morris Wilson, was born August 16, 1836. Sometime in 1837 or early 1838, their older son Thomas died of disease and was buried there.

The Cass County Times of May 1837 reported that Lazarus resigned as a director of Eel River & Michigan Road Free

Bridge Company. The Michigan Road came into Logansport on Sixth Street.

Lazarus was a candidate for a seat on the Logansport town board according to the *Logansport Tribune* in April 1838. That same April he was reassigned to the Jeffersonville and Crawfordsville Railroad construction. This was also one of the projects of the 1836 Mammoth Improvement Bill.

Mary and Oliver remained in Logansport and Lazarus set off to his next job site. On his way to the project that April he stopped in Bloomington to "interview" with Dr. David H. Maxwell, who was the President of the Board of Internal Improvements and also the force behind the establishment of Indiana University at Bloomington. Dr. Maxwell was an old schoolmate of Mary's father, Dr. Thomas Barbee, at Danville, Kentucky. In the letter to Mary about his visit with Dr. Maxwell, Lazarus also tells her to pay George Winters, the famous Logansport artist, \$55 for a painting of their deceased son Thomas and also for a sketch of him as he lay as a corpse. The letter was posted from New Albany April 25, 1838.

In another letter from New Albany to Mary on May 5, 1838 Lazarus writes:

"I rode with Mr. [Jesse] Williams about thirty-five miles on Tuesday, most of the time in the rain. I rode again Wednesday, about twenty-five miles, also on Thursday about twelve miles and then walked until I had to go to camp to dry myself. Was out all day yesterday and today until the rain compelled us about two o'clock to go in to dry. And after five o'clock rode eight miles into town; and now after nine o'clock, am writing to her from whom, with her children, I expect to derive all the hap-

LAND PURCHASED BY LAZARUS B. WILSON

DATE	ACRES	COUNTY/TOWNSHIP	RANGE /SECTION
1-20-1828	80	Marion 15-N	2-E 14
8-5-1834	54.32	Hendricks 15-N	2-E 30
10-20-1834	54.28	Hendricks 15-N	2-E 19
3-15-1837	54.28	Hendricks 15-N	2-E 19
3-20-1837	53.88	Hendricks 15-N	2-E 19
8-10-1837	105.88	Porter 35-N	5-W 1
8-10-1837	80	Porter 35-N	5-W 14
8-10-1837	76.37	Cass 27-N	3-E 30
8-10-1837	148.95	Porter 37-N	6-W 22
8-10-1837	61.06	Porter 37-N	6-W 31

piness which the world has in store for me. I believe I mentioned in my last, of having heard Mr. Anderson address a temperance meeting. He is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in this place, and with his family, boards at the house I stop at. He is a very sensible man, and reasons very logically. He and Mr. McKennon are fellow students, or have been such. He expects to be in Indianapolis in about a month.

I wish I could fix upon the day, when I could see you all in health at Logansport, but can not now. The country I have to locate the road through is very much broken with ravines and requires a great many examinations. I hope, however, that I shall

be able to do so in eight or ten days, for if the coming week should prove favorable I shall be able to do so. I shall probably be twenty miles from this place on next Sunday. You will therefore direct your next letter to Salem.

During the summer of 1838 Lazarus was working on the rail-line along muddy fork of Silver Creek from New Albany to New Providence. The little settlement was called Muddy Fork. He then went to survey near Salem.

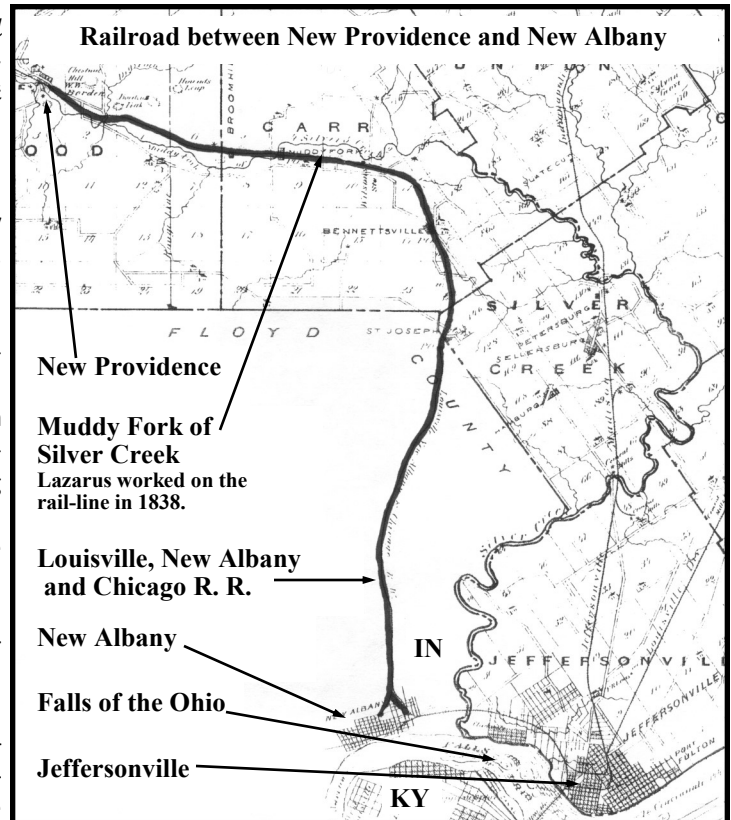
In 1852 there was an appeal to the Supreme Court trying to overturn a ruling made in the Floyd County Circuit Court. "The State vs. McGinley," concerned inferior stone work on a railroad bridge over Silver Creek. Lazarus, along with Jesse Williams and Darius Lapham, was one of the 12 engineers testifying that the work was inferior. When Jesse Williams had inspected the work on October 5, 1837, he found the masonry defective and wholly unsuited to sustain a stone arch of so great a span. He condemned the work and ordered McGinley to suspend it. However McGinley disobeyed and continued on with his inferior work.

Also sometime between 1838-1841 Lazarus led the survey team for the Madison & Indianapolis Railroad, the first railroad to be built in Indiana. Not only was it noted for being the first, it also had a deep cut incline that connected the hilltop area to Old Madison. The 7,012 foot long incline was completed in 1841 and is still the steepest grade of any line-haul railroad in the United States.

Mary's mother, Alice Bickerton Winston Barbee, moved to Indianapolis with Mary's sisters, Isabella and Alice. Isabella married William Watson Wick in 1839 whose first wife, Laura Finch, had died in April 1832. He was a lawyer and became a U.S. Congressman in 1855-57. One of his law partners was Lucian Barbour, who married Alice on October 11, 1842. Mary's brother, William James Barbee, took up law, but later became a minister/educator in the south. Mary's mother died in Indianapolis on February 13, 1869 at age 82 and is buried in the Barbour plot in Crown Hill Cemetery.

By 1842 Lazarus had moved his family to Indianapolis to a magnificent new house. Many visitors were welcomed to this home. One of them was Henry Ward Beecher, brother of Harriett Beecher Stowe. He was the minister of the Second Presbyterian Church, which the Wilson family attended.

"Beecher dined frequently at the Wilson table where he was a welcome guest. The surveyor and his family lived in a magnificent new house, which was located on the southeast corner of Tennessee (Capital) and Maryland streets. Built in 1842 the house rivaled those erected a few years earlier by Samuel Merrill and Daniel Yandes. The Wilson house had twelve rooms and was two stories high. Its walls were twelve inches thick, and its beams measured twelve inches by three inches. Every piece of wood in the structure was black walnut. There were double par-



lors on the right of a center hall; and on the left was a sitting room, a dining room, and to the rear was a two-story porch. The furniture was all handmade or mahogany or black walnut." Henry Ward Beecher by Jane Shaffer Elsmere p.155-156.

At this time Lazarus and Mary had three living children, Oliver M., Henry C. and their 5 year old daughter, Sarah Alice. On April 3, 1844 Sarah died of an illness. The Reverend Henry Beecher spent hours with her before her death. Beecher would later lose his young son George in 1846. Beecher and his wife Eunice became so depressed that they left Indianapolis for New York in October 1847.

Lazarus was one of the vice-presidents in charge of the Grand Canal Celebration held in Fort Wayne on July 4, 1843 for the opening of the Wabash and Erie Canal to Toledo, Ohio. He marched in the parade with the veterans of the War of 1812.

In 1844 Lazarus was elected President of the Board of Trustees for the city of Indianapolis. He served in that capacity for two years.

The Census of 1850 shows the Wilsons in Salem, Indiana where Lazarus was working on the railroad survey. By 1855 the last of Lazarus and Mary's children had been born. In 1860 & 1870 the census shows him in Indianapolis.

Oliver M. Wilson, Lazarus' son, became a lawyer and in 1862 raised Company B 54th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers for the Union Army. Eventually he was promoted to Major. In 1865 Oliver was elected secretary of the Indiana Senate. In July 1866 Oliver helped found the Grand Army of the Republic and became

Adjutant-General of the Indiana department.

In special appropriations of the state of Indiana in 1865, Lazarus was allowed the sum of twenty dollars for preparing a diagram of the House of Representatives. Perhaps Oliver's position in the Senate got Lazarus the job. Also in 1865 the town council appointed Lazarus one of three engineers to devise a general sewage system for Indianapolis and make the necessary surveys. The other two engineers were James W. Brown and Frederick Stein.

Cholera was running rampant in Europe in 1866. Citizens of Indianapolis felt threatened that it might come to America. Their old hospital, which had been organized by the U.S. Government during the Civil War, was neglected. They sought to improve the hospital and its management. A Board of Directors was organized on June 12, 1866. Dr. J. M. Kitchen was elected president and Lazarus B. Wilson, Esq. its secretary.

On the 4th of July 1867, Knightstown, Indiana, named for the National Road Commissioner, burst into a full display of

flags and sound. Field artillery sounded the beginning of ceremonies for the cornerstone laying of the Knightstown Soldiers Home. At that dedication a procession of Governor Baker, dignitaries and soldiers marched a mile and a half along the parade route to the home. Those mentioned in the parade were the soldiers of the War of 1812 and specifically Lazarus Wilson (age 72). They assembled at the home for a hearty lunch. At 1:00 p.m. the bugle was sounded and the ceremony began with 8,000 -12,000 people assembled in the grove nearby. The stand was decorated with the U.S. and Indiana flags as well as many Regimental standards of the Civil War. As part of the ceremony and as a family tradition, Oliver M. Wilson read the Declaration of Independence. The band played the Star Spangled Banner. You can imagine the pride of Lazarus Wilson at that time. The cornerstone was laid by Oliver Wilson. A silence fell over the crowd as Governor Conrad Baker of Vanderburgh Co. addressed the thousands of veterans and families. This was a glorious celebration.

The Indiana Soldiers & Sailors Children's Home still stands today on a 400-acre site south of Knightstown. It is oper-

<u>Lazarus Brown Wilson's Parents</u>				
	<u>BORN</u>		<u>DIED</u>	<u>DATE MARRIED</u>
Thomas Wilson	1-13-1753 Bucks Co., PA	12-14-1798	Spriggs Mill, MD	5-20-1778
Sarah Tomlinson	10-25-1754 Wrightstown, PA	4-27-1807	Hagerstown, MD	
<u>Mary Todd Barbee Wilson's Parents and Siblings</u>				
	<u>BORN</u>		<u>DIED</u>	<u>DATE MARRIED</u>
Dr. Thomas Barbee	3-03-1784 Lincoln, KY	10-13-1821	Cincinnati, OH	6-19-1809
Alice B. Winston Barbee	11-28-1786 Louisa Co., VA	2-13-1869	Indianapolis, IN*	
William James Barbee	1816 Winchester, KY			
Isabella Graham Barbee	1819 Paris, KY	6-00-1875	Indianapolis, IN	1839 William Watson Wick
Alice Thomas Barbee	1821 Paris, KY		Indianapolis, IN*	10-11-1842 Lucian Barbour*
<u>Lazarus Brown Wilson and Mary Todd Barbee Wilson</u>				
Lazarus Brown Wilson	3-02-1795 Greencastle, PA	4-10-1875	Indianapolis, IN*	6-18-1833
Mary Todd Barbee	11-27-1813 Winchester, KY	1-02-1892	Indianapolis, IN*	
<u>Lazarus Brown Wilson and Mary Todd Barbee Wilson's Children</u>				
	<u>BORN</u>		<u>DIED</u>	<u>WHO MARRIED</u>
Thomas Barbee Wilson	4-04-1834 Ft. Wayne, IN	3-28-1838	Logansport, IN	died young
Oliver Morris Wilson	8-16-1836 Logansport, IN	7-19-1907	Maywood, MO*	Mary A. Allen 1839-1904*
Sarah Alice Wilson	11-14-1838 Salem, IN	4-03-1844	Indianapolis, IN	died young
Henry Clay Wilson	8-29-1841 Hendricks Co., IN	1-21-1921	Oak Park, IL*	1 Maria L. Grant 1845-1872*
				2 Henrietta Van Berschot* 1867-1944
Mary Isabella Wilson	12-26-1843 Indianapolis, IN	1-18-1886	Columbus, OH	Francis Kingsbury
Grace Darling Wilson	10-20-1846 Indianapolis, IN	5-05-1908	Indianapolis, IN*	Charles Morrison 1921*
Alice Barbee Wilson	2-20-1849 Salem, IN	4-19-1880	Indianapolis, IN*	Martin L. Coyner 1850-1880*
Franklin P. Wilson (twin)	12-16-1851 New Albany, IN	2-07-1901	Indianapolis, IN*	Martha Ehrigott 1867-1947*
Benjamin Wilson (twin)	12-16-1851 New Albany, IN	12-16-1851	Indianapolis, IN	died at birth
Alma Winston Wilson	3-16-1855 New Albany, IN	12-30-1931	Indianapolis, IN*	never married

*Buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, IN



Back row L to R: Grace D. Wilson Morrison, Alice B. Wilson Coyner, Henry Wilson, Alma W. Wilson, Franklin Wilson
 Front row : Mary Isabella Wilson Kingsbury, Lazarus Brown Wilson, Mary Todd Barbee Wilson, Oliver M. Wilson

Taken in the early 1870s
 Photo courtesy of Martha Willis, Franklin's granddaughter

ated by the state and houses a private school. In January 2009 a plan was laid out to close the home by May of 2009.

In 1875, Mahlon D. Manson, a Democratic from Crawfordsville, Indiana who was serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, introduced a bill to the forty-second Congress during its second session. Bill No. 1522 granted a pension to Lazarus B. Wilson. However, Lazarus Brown Wilson had died at age 80 on April 10, 1875. Perhaps Mary received the pension. He was buried in Section 14 Lot 91 of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. His obituary appeared in the *Indianapolis News* on Monday April 12, 1875 as follows:

"Death of Mr. Wilson."

"Lazarus B. Wilson, aged 80, and the father of Hon. O. M. and Henry C. Wilson, died Saturday night. He was an old citizen of Indianapolis, and one who had done much for its advancement. Born in 1795 in Pennsylvania, and an orphan when 6 years old, he had little educational advantages, and at the age of 18 he crossed the Alleghenies on foot and entered the 1812 war, participating in the Fort McHenry and North Point battles. In 1822 he was surveyor and Civil Engineer in Missouri; and in 1825 he settled in Indianapolis. In 1828 he was employed as an engineer by the State, during which time the Wabash and Erie Canal was built, and from 48 to 54 was the leading spirit in building the New Albany and Salem road. Mr. Wilson leaves seven children. The funeral will take place to-morrow 10 A.M., from the residence, 115 Peru street."

Lazarus' beloved wife Mary lived for many years with her daughters in Indianapolis.

She died January 2, 1892 and was laid to rest beside Lazarus.

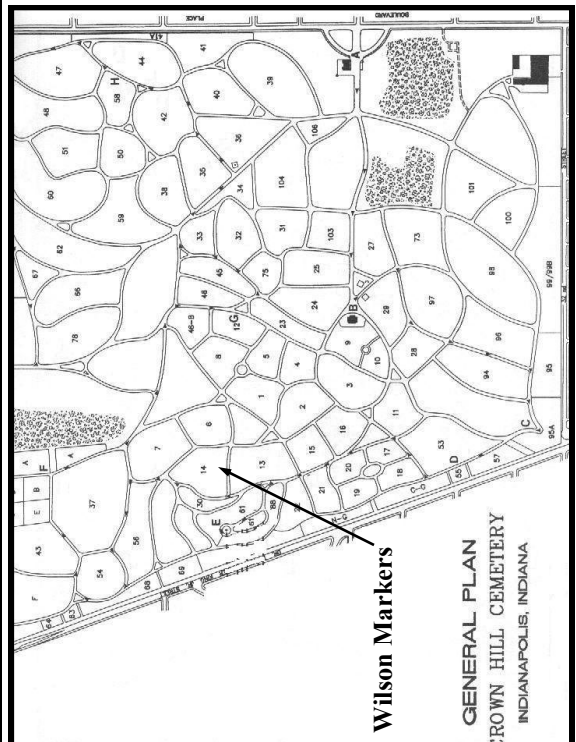
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Wilson Markers.
Photos by Charles Huppert



Partial map of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana showing location of Wilson markers.



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Correspondence:

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Gloria Huenergardt, granddaughter of Lazarus Wilson's son, Henry

Nancy Yeakel Bender, descendant of Lazarus' sister, Elizabeth

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