



Mary Ann Wilker (1916-2020)

Mary Ann Wilker was the biological daughter of Duncan Wasson and Minnie June Wilker. Mary Ann was adopted by her maternal grandparents, William and Minnie Fawthrop Wilker, who raised her as their fifth child.

Mary Ann Wilker, the daughter of Duncan Wasson of Onslow, Iowa, and Minnie June Wilker of Wyoming, Iowa, was born on April 3, 1916 in Kansas City, Missouri. Duncan and Minnie June never married. Minnie June's parents, William and Minnie Fawthrop Wilker, adopted their granddaughter and raised Mary Ann as their fifth child with no involvement from Duncan.



Duncan Wasson in 1910 (left) and 1918 (right)

- For more about Duncan Wasson, see [Joe and Carrie Wasson](#) and [Young Duncan Wasson](#).

Research Notes

Mary Ann was often referred to as “Maryann” or “Maryanne” in various sources. I use “Mary Ann” because that is how she signed letters to her half-brother Boyd Wasson. According to Mary Ann, her biological mother Minnie June preferred June, which I use here, especially as it helps to distinguish her from her mother Minnie, although June was routinely called Minnie in news articles when she was younger.

Circumstances Surrounding Mary Ann's Birth and Adoption

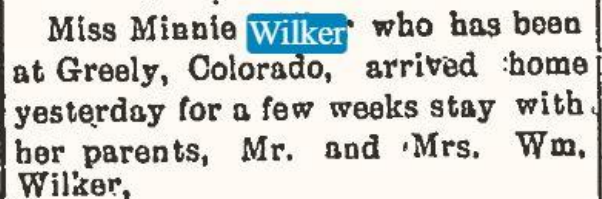
Mary Ann was born on April 3, 1916 in Kansas City, Missouri. However, her parents gave her a May 1st birthday. She was 16 years old when she was informed of the April 3 date.

Although it is generally accepted that Mary Ann was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and she has reported this herself, her Oregon marriage record to John Winn Hughes identifies her birth state as Kansas. I have not yet turned up a birth record for Mary Ann in either state.

In September 1915, the Wyoming Journal reported that Minnie June Wilker had left for Cedar Falls, Iowa for a year's work in the Teachers Training College there. Assuming that Mary Ann was a full-term baby when she was born, June would have been about three months pregnant with Mary Ann at this point. The next time June appeared in a local newspaper was in April 1916, just over two weeks after the birth of Mary Ann. The Wyoming Journal reported that she had been living in Greeley, Colorado, and had just arrived in Wyoming to stay with her parents for a few weeks. This visit included the date of May 1st. Perhaps this was when Minnie June turned her daughter over to her parents to raise, although they did not formally adopt Mary Ann until early 1917, according to mother Minnie's 1945 obituary.



Miss Minnie Wilker has gone to Cedar Falls for a year's work in the Teachers Training College,



Miss Minnie Wilker who has been at Greeley, Colorado, arrived home yesterday for a few weeks stay with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wilker,

June Wilker leaves for college in Cedar Falls, Iowa, Wyoming Journal, September 16, 1915 (left); June visits from college in Greeley, Colorado shortly after Mary Ann was born, Wyoming Journal, April 20, 1916 (right)

Comment: Did June name Mary Ann, or did her parents, William and Minnie? Minnie had a sister named Mary Ann.

While June was in town, it was reported that she visited the local high school. However, there was no mention of the new baby. After her visit, she returned to Colorado to continue school. She attended the State Normal School of Colorado while in Greeley, today's University of Northern Colorado. I have not found any information on how June ended up in Colorado that school year when she set off for Cedar Falls the previous September.

During that era, the Jones County newspapers routinely reported on births, travels, family visits and the like, but there were no reports of June giving birth to Mary Ann, of Wilker family members traveling to Kansas City when Mary Ann was born, or of the Wilkers adopting a child. Mary Ann was first mentioned in the local papers in December 1924 when she was ill with what was originally believed to be scarlet fever.

There are no articles in the Jones County newspapers that connect Duncan Wasson to the Wilker family in general or to his biological daughter. Mary Ann reportedly was never mentioned in the Wasson household. Mary Ann was a Wilker, and Duncan was completely out of the picture when it came to raising her.

Duncan died in 1968. Mary Ann first reached out to Duncan's son Walter in the 1980s. Walter shared this information with his brothers Glenn and Boyd, taking Boyd aside at his in-laws' 50th wedding anniversary in 1984 to tell him. The brothers agreed to not tell their mother Esther. It is not known whether Esther knew that Duncan had fathered a child years before their 1921 marriage as she never mentioned it. By this time, Glenn and Mary Ann lived relatively close to one another in California, so they ended up enjoying visits between families in their later years.

Gossip often thrives in small towns, and the Wassons near Onslow and the Wilkers in Wyoming lived within five miles of each other in the same township. During a return trip to Onslow in 2002, Boyd asked several people who knew the Wasson family if they had ever heard about this, but none were aware of it.

Research Notes

Because Mary Ann was adopted and raised by June's parents, Mary Ann's biological grandparents became her parents and her Wilker aunts and an uncle became her siblings. When discussing Mary Ann's life and family, I'll use these adoptive roles rather than the biological ones because they represent the life that Mary Ann lived.

There was a peculiarity in some of the news articles written about William Wilker. Some articles acknowledged Mary Ann as his fifth or adopted daughter and included her two sons in counts of his grandchildren, but some did not. It may have been up to the person providing information for the article. I'll note that the news article about June's death identifies Mary Ann as her daughter.

I will speculate about what may be an unanswerable question at this point. Did Duncan know that Mary Ann was his daughter? By moving from Cedar Falls, Iowa to Greeley, Colorado while she was pregnant, June would have minimized the chance of being around other students from Jones County who might have carried that information back home. The news coverage of June's return to Wyoming after Mary Ann was born was unlike any of the routine coverage of newborns in the local papers, and none of the Wilker news coverage over the years mentioned June as Mary Ann's biological mother. And as I mentioned above, when questioned, people from the area who knew the Wassons were not aware of the connection between Duncan and Mary Ann. It could be the case that Duncan may not have known that Mary Ann was his daughter.

William and Minnie Wilker

Mary Ann's parents, William and Minnie Wilker, emigrated from Ontario to the United States in 1892.

William Wilker was born January 29, 1869 in Tavistock, Ontario to Leonard and Christena Wilker. However, William reported that his parents died when he was quite young, so William was raised by his grandparents.

Comment: I have not yet come across a Canadian birth record for William Wilker. There is an 1871 Canadian census record that seems to fit him. It puts a two-year-old William in a household headed by Leonard and Margaret (Margaretha) Wilker (grandparents who emigrated from Germany to Canada) and includes their two daughters, Christena (mother) and Mary. Christena is not identified as either married or widowed, suggesting that she was a single mom when this William was born. A never-married Christena Wilker married John Grayson on May 23, 1876, seven months before she gave birth to their daughter Ada. Ada and a second child born in this marriage, Lorn, both died as children. Christena died in 1887. Although name, date and location information match, I would like to find a birth record for William to confirm that this record includes him.

A handwritten census record from 1861. The table lists family members with their names, ages, and other details. The entries are:

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Religion	Marital Status	Other
Louisa	2	F				
Wilker Leonard	51	M		Germany	Married	
Margaret	48	F		Germany	Married	
Christena	22	F				
Mary	16	F				
Milham	2	M				

1861 Canadian Census, including 2-year-old William Wilker



Headstone for Christena Wilker Grayson, South Easthope Cemetery, Shakespeare, Ontario

William described himself as a sickly child – consumption – who was not expected to live very long. This limited his time in school while he was growing up, as he had to quit school when he was just twelve years old.

William married Minnie Aneata Fawthrop on March 25, 1891 in Hespeler, Ontario, now a neighborhood in Cambridge, Ontario. They met while they were both attending the Baptist Church in Hespeler, where she played organ. That said, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1940, according to an article in the Cedar Rapids Gazette.

SCHEDULE B.—MARRIAGES.		125	
County of <i>Waterloo</i>		Division of <i>Galt</i>	
	012011 ⁺ No. 19	012012 ⁺ No. 20	012013 ⁺ No. 21
His Name.	<i>William Wilker</i>	<i>Russell Allison</i>	<i>Andrie Munro</i>
Age.	<i>22</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>41</i>
Residence when married.	<i>Hesperia</i>	<i>Hesperia</i>	<i>Brady Galt</i>
Place of Birth.	<i>Harvesters</i>	<i>Blenheim</i>	<i>Brady Galt</i>
Bachelor or Widower (M. or W.)	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>B</i>
Rank or Profession.	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>Blacksmith</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
Name of Parents.	<i>Lemona & Abundina Wilker</i>	<i>Adair Allison & Elizabeth Bastedo</i>	<i>John Munro & Janet Morrison</i>
Her Name.	<i>Minnie Fawthrop</i>	<i>Sola Hammill</i>	<i>Karrick Gale</i>
Age.	<i>21</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>36</i>
Residence when married.	<i>Hesperia</i>	<i>Hesperia</i>	<i>Galt</i>
Place of Birth.	<i>Hesperia</i>	<i>North Dumfries Ont.</i>	<i>Brady Galt</i>
Single or Widower (M. or W.)	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>S</i>
Name of Parents.	<i>John & Sarah Fawthrop</i>	<i>Robert Hammill & Mary Simpson</i>	<i>Richard Gale & Caroline Nicholson</i>
Name and Residence of Witnesses.	<i>W. Galt & J. Galt</i>	<i>Edna Birmingham & Aunt Andie Galt</i>	<i>Arthur & Agnes Galt & Minnie B. Galt & Mabel Galt</i>
Date and place of Marriage.	<i>25th March 1891 Galt</i>	<i>25th Feb 1891 Galt</i>	<i>25th March 1891 Galt</i>
Religious Denomination of Bridegroom.	<i>Baptist</i>	<i>Pres.</i>	<i>Pres.</i>
Religious Denomination of Bride.	<i>Id.</i>	<i>Id.</i>	<i>Lutherans</i>
By whom married.	<i>H. Beates</i>	<i>Rev. A. Birmingham</i>	<i>Rev. A. Birmingham</i>
By License or Banns (M. or W.)	<i>L</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>L</i>
REMARK			

I hereby certify the foregoing to be the true and correct copies of all Marriages returned to me for the half year ending 30th June 1891.
 Given under my hand, this 1st day of July 1891.
 Division Registrar of Galt.

Marriage record (left column) for William Wilker and Minnie Fawthrop, Galt, Ontario (now part of Cambridge), March 25, 1891

plaintiffs charge that both school boards failed to give the voters of either district an opportunity to vote on the change, which plaintiffs term a "conspiracy." They claim that if the question had been submitted, it would have met an overwhelming defeat. The petition also says that if the action is sustained, property taxes in the territory would be greatly increased.

The plaintiffs ask for temporary and permanent injunction.

Wyoming Couple Are Married Fifty Years

Special to The Gazette.
WYOMING—Mr. and Mrs. William Wilker of Wyoming, who are spending the winter in California, observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary March 25.
Mr. and Mrs. Wilker were mar-

ried in Galt, Ontario, Canada. The following two years the home was made in Preston, Ont., and thereafter in Wyoming. For many years, Mr. Wilker was employed as a plumber and tinner. Then op-

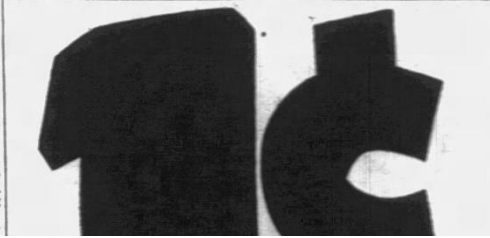
erated his own hardware store for 30 years.

Mr. Wilker served as a member of the town council, a term on the board of education and was a member of the Methodist church board. Mrs. Wilker is a member

of the Hawthorne club, O. E. S. lodge and is active in the organizations of the Methodist church.

They are the parents of four children: Mrs. Edward Johnson, Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada;

Minnie, now Mrs. G. L. Williams, San Francisco; Dr. Will Wilker, a physician and surgeon at Topeka, Wis.; Aneta, who died in 1907 at the age of 33 and Maryann, adopted when an infant.



TITLE BROS
PACKING CO. INC.
187 SECOND STREET SE. PHONE 2-4338

PORK LOIN Whole or Half	lb. 12½c
GROUND BEEF 3 pounds	25c
CORN KING SLICED BACON , lb.	18c
FRONTIER BACON , lb.	10c

William and Minnie Wilker celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, Cedar Rapids Gazette, April 5, 1940

Minnie was born in November 1870 in Brantford, Ontario to Jabez and Sarah Fawthrop. Minnie's father, Jabez Fawthrop, was born on January 27, 1827 at Northarm Hall, Lord Hetherford's Estate, in Yorkshire, England. His father, also named Jabez Fawthrop, was a barrister-at-law. In 1846, the younger Jabez married Sarah Ann White, and in 1857 Jabez and Sarah emigrated to what is now Ontario, Canada. They had ten children including Minnie. The others were Margaret Fawthrop, Mrs. Fred Moore, Mrs. Sarah Hirst, Emma Fawthrop, Abram Fawthrop, Jabez Fawthrop, James Fawthrop, Mrs. N.A. Hopkins, and Mrs. John White. Father Jabez died April 12, 1917. Mother Sarah died in about 1888.



GREEN RIVER

On Thursday, April 12th, in his 91st year, after a lingering illness of four months, Mr. Jabez Fawthrop passed peacefully away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. A. Hopkins, Markham. This old and respected citizen was born on Jan. 27th, 1827, at Northarm Hall, Lord Hetherford's estate in the north riding of Yorkshire, England. He was the son of the late Jabez Fawthrop, barrister-at-law, and nephew of the late Hon. Sir John Fawthrop the noted English Keithlow surgeon. In 1846 he was married to Sarah Ann White. In 1857 he came to Canada, settling in Streetsville for a number of years, thence removing to Brantford, from where he came to live at Whitevale, Pickering township, 48 years ago. To this union were born ten children, two of whom, Margaret and Mrs. Fred Moore preceded him in death. His eight remaining children were present to pay their last respects to their beloved father: Mrs. Sarah Hirst, Green River; Emma, Jabez and Abram, of Cornwall; James, of Hastings; Mrs. N. A. Hopkins, Markham; Mrs. John A. White, of Brougham, and Mrs. Will Wilker, of Wyoming, Ia., also seven grand children: Oscar, Charles and Winton White; Eva, Myrtle and Harry Hopkins; Meldrum Fawthrop and Mrs. Geo Ferrier. After the death of his wife 29 years ago, he resided at Woonsocket, R. I., until sixteen years ago, when he retired from active work to make his home with his daughter, Mrs. N. A. Hopkins, Green River. After the death of Dr. Hopkins in 1909 he moved with Mrs. Hopkins to Markham, where he has had the kind and loving care which made his declining years so pleasant and comfortable. Service was held at 1.30 on Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Hopkins, conducted by Rev. Mr. Graham, pastor of the Presbyterian church at Markham, assisted at the grave by Rev. Mr. Crickington, pastor of the Baptist church, Whitevale, which was largely attended by friends and acquaintances of the family. Interment was made beside the remains of his wife in the Whitevale cemetery.

Jabez Fawthrop (left); his obituary, Pickering News, April 20, 1917 (right)

1847. Marriage solemnized at *St Peter church* in the *parish* of *Bradford* in the County of *York*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
99	3 rd Jan ^y .	Jabez Fawthrop	20	Bachelor	Syer	Horton	Jabez Fawthrop	Comber.
		Sarah Ann White	17	Spinster	Mason	Bradford	Abraham White	Mason

Married in the *parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by *Canon* *W. F. Black* officiating by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Jabez Fawthrop's* *marks* *Sarah Ann White's* *marks* in the Presence of us, *Charles Bradworth* *Joseph Smith*

St. Peter's Church (now the Cathedral Church of St. Peter), Bradford Parish, Yorkshire, England marriage record for Jabez Fawthrop and Sarah Ann White, January 3, 1847



Headstone for Jabez Fawthrop (left) and Sarah Ann White Fawthrop, Whitevale Cemetery, Durham, Ontario

William's early occupation has been described as tinsmith or metalworker. He briefly worked in Detroit, Michigan before returning to Ontario. There, he was working as a tinsmith in Preston, Ontario when daughter Marguerite was born on September 23, 1891.



1891 Canadian Census (April 21st) record for William and Minnie Wilker, Preston Village, Ontario

Not long after Marguerite was born, William offered his services in an ad submitted to a New York trade magazine. He received word that he was offered a job as a metalworker at a Wyoming, Iowa hardware store via a telegram that he received when he and his wife were attending a band concert in a Windsor, Ontario park.

In early April 1892, he set off for Wyoming, temporarily leaving his wife and daughter behind. William traveled to Davenport, Iowa and then caught a train due to arrive in Wyoming at 930PM. The town of Wyoming was dark when William arrived. Even the hotel had closed for the night. But he ran into a Mr. Williams who offered him a place to stay for the night.

The next morning, William met a different Mr. Williams, his new employer at R.S. Williams Hardware, and started work at his new job for \$50/month. William Wilker sent for his family, and they soon settled into life in Wyoming, Iowa.

While working for Williams, Wilker invented a new furnace, the Wilker Combination Wood and Coal Furnace. They sold about 150 of these locally, but they ultimately didn't scale up production due to the upfront costs it would have taken to do so.



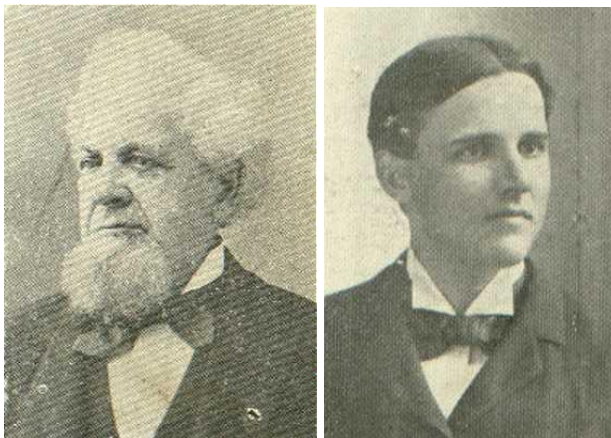
Ad for the Wilker Combination Wood and Coal Furnace, Wyoming Journal, June 14, 1900

Bert Tourtellot & Co., bought out the Williams' hardware and furnace stock. In 1905, Tourtellot Hardware closed, and sold its stock to Brainard & Schamel Hardware. William responded to this by opening his own store, William Wilker Hardware, in the Loomis Building in downtown Wyoming in January 1906, the site of today's Wyoming Public Library. He operated the store until 1939 when he retired at the age of 70.

Bert **Tourtellot** & Co. have purchased of R. S. Williams, his hardware and furnace stock and taken possession, where they will be found hereafter ready to attend to the wants of all in the hardware and tinware line as well as the manufacturing of the celebrated **Wilker** furnaces. Bert **Tourtellot** who will be the managing partner of the new firm was born in Wyoming finished the course in the high school, took a business course, and then entered on a clerkship in the First National Bank of this place where he remained a year and a half, when he accepted a position in the Cedar Rapids National Bank of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he remained some four years or until last week when he bought the R. S. Williams stock and commenced invoicing. The store and business is one of the oldest stands and has ever done a thriving business and under the new ownership and management of Mr. Tourtellot known as a young business man of integrity and well grounded business education the business of this store should expand and grow to much greater proportions than it ever has reached in the past.

Bert **Tourtellot** has disposed of his stock of **hardware** to Brainard & Schamel. The stock is now being invoiced and the business will soon be turned over to the purchasers. Brainard & Schamel have been in the **hardware** business for about two years, are active, progressive and business-like in their dealings, and understand the hardware business. Mr. Tourtellot has been in business here for a number of years and had built up a substantial patronage. We are not fully advised as to his future course, but we understand he expects to remain in town and engage in some other line of work. We will be glad to have him remain with us.

Bert Tourtellot buys out Williams Hardware, Wyoming Journal, May 21, 1896; Tourtellot Hardware is sold, Monticello Express, December 28, 1905



R.S. Williams (left); Bert Tourtelot (right)

event.
 William Wilker, for many years the experienced tinner in Tourtellot's hardware store, has now announced that he will open a new hardware and tinware store in the Loomis building, formerly occupied on South Main street by Irvin Bain. Mr. Wilker expects to open his store for trade on Saturday of this week. He is now busily engaged in getting his new stock of goods placed upon the shelves and making some changes on the interior of the building. He will put in a full line of new hardware, tinware, stoves, etc., such as is usually kept in a first class hardware store. Mr. Wilker is a skilled and experienced workman, and has a host of friends who wish him success in this undertaking on his own responsibility.

William Wilker opens hardware store, Monticello Express, January 25, 1906

<p>Wm. Wilker the new hardware merchant has an ad in this issue. Mr. Wilker is so well known in this community to need any special introduction. Call and examine his stock.</p>	<p>I HAVE OPENED A NEW HARDWARE STORE in the Loomis building and will carry a complete new line of Hardware, Tinware, Paints, Oils, Pumps, Pipes and Fittings. Will do all kinds of Plumbing, Heating and Tinwork. Wm. Wilker.</p>
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With the closing of Bert Tourtellot & Company, William Wilker opened his own hardware store, Wyoming Journal, January 25, 1906 (left); the ad (right)

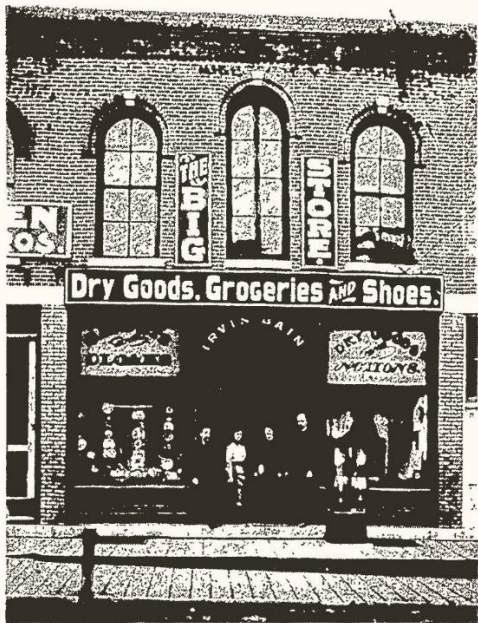
Soon after, William hired Edward Grayson of Tavistock, Ontario, who had relocated to Wyoming the previous year. Recall that William's likely mother Christena Wilker married a John Grayson near Tavistock in 1876, so it is possible that Edward was related to William through that marriage.

Edward Grayson of Tavistock, Canada, has entered the employ of Wm. **Wilker**. Mr Grayson has had experience in the **hardware** business and was in our midst last year and made friends with all who met him. He certainly proves an efficient workman.

William hires Edward Grayson, Wyoming Journal, February 8, 1906



Partial glimpse of William Wilker Hardware to the far left on Wyoming's Main Street, 1910



BIG STORE--This store was run by a man named Irvin Bain. It was also known as [Wilker Hardware](#). This picture is from around 1900, Harrison says. It stands where the youth center in Wyoming was in recent years.

Contributed Photo

Wilker Hardware opened at this location in the Loomis Building about six years after this photo was taken, Midland Times, November 30, 1978



The Wyoming Public Library is located where Wilker Hardware once operated, 2024

New Gas Engine, \$30.
Fuller-Johnson, 1 1-2 Hp.
 This Engine Is Brand New, Priced; Wholesale, \$40.00

Close-Out Price on
Minnesota Paint, qt 40c
 WHILE IT LASTS

Stock Dip, Gallon 90c

Winchester Shot Gun, \$25.00
 A Perfect Winchester Pump Gun, Priced Below Cost

Wm. **Wilker Hardware**

Paint your
WALLS
 with **THIS**

AND KEEP THEM LIKE NEW WITH SOAP AND WATER!

You're through worrying about spots and smudges on your kitchen and bath room walls when you paint them with Lowe Brothers semi-gloss wall paint, Mello-Gloss. Once over with soap and water makes walls like new. Stop in our store before you paint and see our PICTORIAL COLOR CHART of illustrations in actual paint. It will help you select the proper colors for your rooms.

William Wilker Hardware

Local newspaper ads from 1934 and 1936 for William Wilker Hardware

William and Minnie had three more children during their first several years in Wyoming. In addition to firstborn Marguerite, these included the following:

- Aneata Helen Wilker, born in December 12, 1892
- Minnie June Wilker, born June 24, 1894
- William Fawthrop “Will” Wilker, born August 16, 1903

William was naturalized as a U.S. citizen in 1901. At some point, the Wilkers purchased a house in Wyoming. In 1914, they bought their first car, an REO.

During the summer of 1911, the Wilkers purchased their second Wyoming home, the house at 105 E. Green Street, and temporarily rented out their old house. The Wilkers remodeled their new house in 1912. This is where they finished raising their family – it was the only home Mary Ann knew when she was growing up. Long after his wife died, William continued living in this house, residing there for most of the rest of his life.



The Wilker home (arrow) at what is now 105 E. Green Street, Wyoming, Iowa, 1922



The Wilker home in 2024



The Wilker home in 2024

Mary Ann Wilker (1916-2020)



Wyoming's Green Street, 1912

In April 1916, their daughter June gave birth to Mary Ann, and then June turned Mary Ann over to William and Minnie to raise. They formally adopted Mary Ann in early 1917 to raise as their fifth child. Of her four new siblings, sisters Marguerite and June were adults when Mary Ann was born, and sister Aneata had died several years before Mary Ann was born. Only her brother Will was still at home, but he was almost 13 years older than Mary Ann. Later letters and news reports suggest that Mary Ann was closer to Will and his family when they were young.

William was elected to terms on the Wyoming town council (1934; 1936) and the Wyoming school board (1934, 1935). He was also a member of both the Masons and the Shriners. William retired from the hardware business in 1939.

William Wilker, who operated the Wilker hardware store for thirty years, will give possession the latter part of August. Mr. Wilker came to Wyoming from Toronto, Canada, 47 years ago, working as a plumber in a local store until he founded the Wilker hardware store.

William retired from the hardware business in 1939, Cedar Rapids Gazette, July 16, 1939

In addition to her role as wife and mother, Minnie was quite active in church and in a handful of social clubs, including the Hawthorne Club. Minnie often assisted at the hardware store, and she enjoyed painting pictures, a youthful interest that she picked up again after they retired.

Minnie died on October 16, 1945 while at the home of her son Will in Wisconsin.

Mrs. William Wilker

Funeral services for Mrs. William Wilker, who died Tuesday, Oct. 16, at the home of her son, Dr. William Wilker at Iola, Wis., were held from the Wilker home in Wyoming, Friday afternoon, with the Rev. E. G. Steinman in charge.

As Minnie Aneta Fawthrop, she was born in Brantford, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 7, 1870, the daughter of Jabez and Sarah Fawthrop. She spent her early life with her family in Whitevale, Ontario. After the loss of her mother at 19 years of age, she went to live with her relatives in Hespler, Ontario, where she took an active part in the work of the Baptist church. She played the organ for church and Sunday school, and it was here she met and married William Wilker of Tavistock, Ont. The following year they moved to Wyoming, Iowa, where they lived until the time her death. Last March they observed their fifty-sixth wedding anniversary.

To this union were born four children: Marguerite, now Mrs. Edward Johnson, Toronto, Ontario Aneta, who died Feb. 10, 1906 in her thirteenth year; Minnie June, now Mrs. G. L. Williams of San Francisco, Calif.; and Dr. William Wilker of Iola, Wis. In 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Wilker adopted a daughter, Mary Ann, in her first year, now Mrs. John W. Hughes, Astoria, Oregon. There are six grandchildren and one sister, Mrs. Mary Ann White.

She was interested in the work of the Presbyterian church, the social life of the Bay View club, Hawthorne club and the Eastern Star. For many years she actively assisted her husband in the hardware store until they sold their business in 1939. Early in life she developed an interest in painting and turned again, after the business was sold, to the art she loved. She continued to paint pictures, though failing of eyesight, for the homes of her children.

Minnie Fawthrop Wilker's obituary, Monticello Express, October 25, 1945

Especially during his later years, William's hobbies included making lamps and carving chain links out of single blocks of wood, mostly for himself or as gifts to family and friends. Some of his lamps incorporated some of his wooden chain links.

William lived to be 101 years old. After his wife died, he regularly traveled for extended visits with his children. This included often spending summers in Canada and winters in California. He continued to live in his own house until his health began to fail, at which point he moved to a Toronto nursing home to be close to daughter Marguerite. He died in a Toronto hospital on Oct 17, 1970.



to several bands for the Clayton County All-Vets day-parade Fri-
g, Savannah, Mar-Mac, Strawberry Point, Edgewood, Luene, Vol-

he did it with a purpose. He went to work to carve a wooden chain—out of a single stick of wood.

Carved Many Chains.

Since that time Mr. Wilker has carved many feet of wooden chains—and sometimes the wooden chains have decorated lamps he has made.

In the last six years, the elderly Wyoming craftsman has made some 40 lamps.

Although the lamp-making has become far more important and far more time-consuming than even the whittling of chains, it was the whittling that got everything started.

"Now or then someone looks at my work and says 'but doesn't it take an awful lot of your time?'" Wilker says.

"I just tell them that I've got plenty of time and how could I better spend it? At least with making these things I've got something to show for my work. "It's a lot better than just sweeping up the shavings."

Makes Own Tools.

When you study the lamps Wilker has made you realize that

special tools would be needed for virtually every step of the process.

Wilker has these special tools, too. And getting them was another challenge to his inventive mind and his mechanically busy hands.

Wilker made the tools himself. He has special shapers of one kind or another, special hammers, special patterns, for his lamp-making.

He even has special knives for cutting on his wood projects.

He made them, too. "An ordinary jackknife won't do the job at all," he said. "The blades of common knives are all too big and none of them are sharp enough for this special work."

And Necklaces, Too.

Some of the wooden chains, which are continuous links cut from the same stick and without a bit of glue in them, are just exhibitional chains.

But some of them are short lengths and can be worn as necklaces. Links in the chains for Milady's throat are considerably smaller in size than those in

some of Wilker's long lengths of chains.

In fashioning the chains, Wilker has used oak, walnut, jack pine, birdseye maple and others. None of them is painted. All have been finished in the natural color of the woods and then have been waxed.

"Just Developed."

Ask Mr. Wilker how he happened to arrive at the pattern for his lamps and he'll probably tell you that it "just developed."

He did some experimenting and then went to work when he had the idea firm in his mind.

Most of the lamps—which vary in size from six-inch bedside lamps to 26-inch table lamps and five-foot floor lamps—have a similarity of design.

In most of these, small metal cones tuck into each other to form the lamp supports.

Here Wilker has used metals—noticeably brass and copper, with some tin. He didn't stop at making the lamps. He's also made some very attractive shades.

To Many "Customers."

Wilker's lamps have gone out from his tiny shop at the back of his Wyoming home to many "customers"—friends and relatives alike. Some of his lamps light the

many rooms of his own house.

Some of them were made for his daughter's sea-going yacht, Edmar, out of Port Arthur. Others found their way into cabins at the daughter's Canadian summer home.

In a few cases, Wilker has made lamps on a custom basis and these are the only ones in which any money would have changed hands.

"Mostly I've given them away," says the old gentleman.

To Wyoming '92.

Mr. Wilker came to Wyoming from Canada in 1892, as a plumber and tinner.

In a short time he went into business for himself—in a hardware store.

Admittedly his training in handling metals as a tinner have stood him in good stead as he worked on his lamps and even on other projects around the house.

"I enjoy it all—" Mr. Wilker will say to anyone who asks him about his hobby. "It's interesting and it keeps a fellow from worrying or even thinking about himself."

Community Building.

MARSHALLTOWN (UP)—The Fisher Foundation Saturday offered to give the city a community building.

Lamp-Making Is a Hobby of Wyoming Man

By The Sunday Editor.

WYOMING—In the enforced leisure of even an earned retirement, the elderly gentleman had little to do.

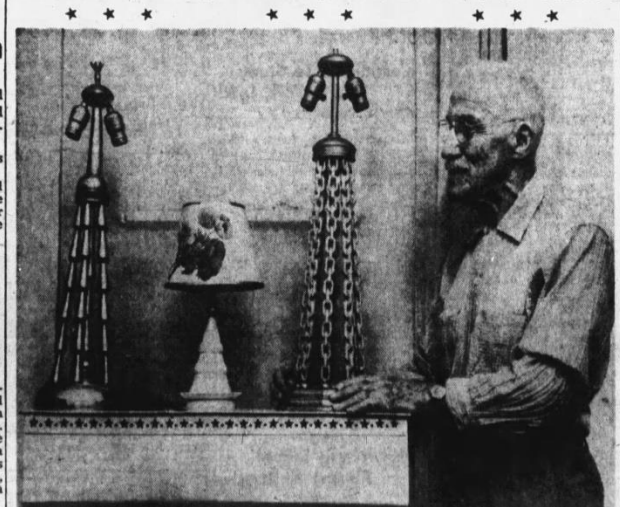
So he sat and whittled with his jackknife on a stick of wood. And when the stick of wood had been almost cut away he folded up his knife and went for a broom to sweep away the shavings.

That experience for octogenarian William Wilker of Wyoming was the beginning of profitable hobby—profitable, that is, in the matter of keeping Mr. Wilker occupied. He rarely if ever sells anything which ripens to maturity through his hobby's cultivation.

Mr. Wilker is a retired Wyoming hardware man. He retired some 15 years ago after being in business here more than 37 years. Ten years ago Mr. Wilker's wife died. That loss was an extra burden and when he found his hobby or combination of hobbies, Mr. Wilker found himself a happier man.

That stick whittling started it. "As I swept up those shavings I thought 'this is pretty silly, just whittling away a stick and having nothing to show for it; I'd better make something if

I'm going to spend whittling time,'" Wilker remembers. Next time he tried whittling



—Gazette photo.
THREE MODELS of the lamps which William Wilker, 86, retired Wyoming hardware dealer makes at his home are shown here with their designer and builder. Wilker uses tin, brass and copper, principally. But the lamp nearest him has adorning hand-carved wooden chains between its base and its sockets.

Announcing
The Winner
Of the Bell Sewing Machine
in Count the Bell Contest
(432 Bells was correct count)

GRAND PRIZE . . .
BELL Sewing Machine . . . \$199.95 val.
JANE NELSON
1500 Oakland road, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

2nd Prize . . . Deep Fat Fryer . . . \$39.95 val.
MRS. IVAN STONEKING
417 1st Ave. South, Mt. Vernon, Ia.

3rd Prize Leisure Lounge . . . \$12.95 val.
MRS. W. A. MEYERS
242 11th St. NW, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

C.R. SEWING MACHINE MART
228 First Avenue NE Across from Kresge's Phone 2-7612

William Wilker and his lamp-making hobby, Cedar Rapids Gazette, November 13, 1955

Wyoming's Senior Citizen Celebrates 90th Birthday

By Mrs. Ed Kool.

WYOMING—William Wilker, senior citizen of Wyoming, celebrated his ninetyeth birthday Thursday.

On Sunday, his daughter, Mrs. Edward Johnson of Toronto, Ontario, Canada,



was hostess at an open house. Mrs. Johnson told him, during our interview, that someone had asked her why he had had a party on Sunday when his birthday wasn't until Thursday. With tongue in cheek, he replied, "Why, I might not even be around Thursday." But he was around, pert and alert as usual, belying his 90 years. "My daughter won't let me walk up town while it's so icy as she fears I'd fall," he laughed. "I haven't driven for a few years now although I think I still could. I was 'mad as a hatter' when the boys' took away my driver's license when I was 87, but they were nice about it."

Flat Tires.

This brought him to the subject of his first car, one with curtains to let down that flapped in the breeze as it whistled about the occupants. "My son, Will, always used to say it wasn't any fun to ride in that car unless we had a flat tire. He was usually satisfied because tires weren't what they are today and we usually had a patching job to do on every trip."

At 73 he drove, alone, to LaJolla, Calif., making the trip in 8 days with his pet dachshund as a companion. On his return trip, a daughter accompanied him. On one day, Mr. Wilker drove 400 miles and when they finally stopped, his daughter, who was completely exhausted, insisted they retire immediately. Not so, she was told. "Go to bed if you wish but I'm taking the dog for a good long walk."

In 1955 Mr. Wilker was the subject of a feature story in The Gazette, which told of his hobby of making lamps, something he "adopted to pass his 'old age.'"

Answered Ad.

It was his mechanical ability that brought him to Wyoming. He answered an advertisement for a metal worker in a hardware store in Wyoming. So, from his home in Ontario, Canada, young William Wilker set out for Iowa, leaving behind his wife and young daughter, Margurite.

One day in April, 1892, he arrived in Wyoming at 9:30 p.m.

"Wyoming was the blackest town I'd ever seen," he said. "Not a kerosene light anywhere, the hotel was closed for the night and I didn't know a person in town."

Luckily, he met a Mr. Williams on the street and, upon telling of his plight, received an invitation to spend the night at the Williams home. The next day the young Canadian was to meet his employer, another Williams.

He worked for Delbert Williams from 1892 until 1906 when he purchased a hardware store of his own, operating it until 1936. His

wage in those days? \$50 a month.

While working for Williams, Mr. Wilker invented a furnace, the Wilker furnace. About 150 of these were made, but this venture soon necessitated a foundry which the men were unable to finance.

Mr. Wilker was the first to install a furnace in Wyoming. He also installed another "first," a bath tub. The frame was wood, lined with copper and a fore-runner of many he was to make and install.

William Wilker was born January 29, 1869, in Tavertstock, Ontario. In 1940 he and his wife, Minnie, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. She died in 1945.

Mr. Wilker is the father of 2 living children, Mrs. John-



FIREMEN CITED — Ter first annual recognition dinner. Fire Chief Laurence Berion, Newmen. Firemen with more

son, who is presently visiting her father, and Mrs. Gardner Williams of LaJolla, Calif.

Servicemen's Roundup

Arlington

Army Pvt. Roger L. Smith will leave Fort Riley, Kan., Tuesday for Germany with the 1st division's 18th infantry. They have been reassigned to Sandhofen. His wife lives here.

Brandon

Army Pvt. Glen C. Larson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Larson, has been assigned to the 8th infantry division's 20th transportation battalion in Germany. He is at Baumholder.

Clarence

Jamie K. Ibsen, whose wife and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ibsen, live here, has been promoted to private first class in Germany where he is a member of the 24th infantry division.

Coggon

Allen T. Kester has enlisted in the air force. He is stationed at Lackland air force base, Texas.

Hopkinton

A/3c Phillip E. Saunders is spending a 27-day furlough here. He will be sent to Anderson air force base, Guam, for 18 months.

Independence

Pvt. Wayne C. Wessels, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Wessels, has completed the 8-week basic army administration course at Fort Ord, Calif.

Marquette

David Matthew, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Matthew, is at Lackland air force base, Texas. His address is A.F. 17545447, flight 46, box 1506.

McGregor

A/7c Bill Duball and Mrs. Duball are visiting the parental Harold Duball home. Duball will leave Monday for Memphis, Tenn., to attend an electronics school.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Scarff visited the parental L. H. Lenth home last week. Scarff is being transferred to Germany Feb. 15.

Bill Pilkington, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Pilkington, home on a furlough, is being transferred to Korea.

North English

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spading of Norwich, Conn., have been visiting in the Theodore Spading home. Spading will leave Monday for Pearl Harbor.

Oelwein

Vernon L. Garrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil C. Garrison, arrived in Long Beach, Calif., Saturday

aboard the USS Pritchett after a 6-month tour of duty in the Western Pacific.

Marine Pvt. Charles T. Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Baker, will complete 4 weeks of individual training Feb. 7 at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Oxford Junction

Airman Jerry Neff, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Neff, is home on a 30-day furlough. He will next spend 13 months in Korea.

Springville

Marine Pfc. Gerald E. Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Stephenson, will finish 4 weeks of combat training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 13.

Wadena

Robert J. Murray, seaman apprentice, arrived in Long Beach, Calif., Saturday aboard the destroyer USS Pritchett after a 6-month tour of duty in the Western Pacific.

Walford

Army Pvt. Richard Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Miller, has completed the 8-week general supply course at Fort Chaffee, Ark.

Waukon

Richard Schmidt, Jr., has enlisted in the service. First Lt. and Mrs. Kermit Oelberg have returned to Fort Bragg after visiting the Albert Oelbergs.

What Cheer

Larry Walker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orris Walker, is home on a 15-day leave from San Diego, Calif. He will be sent overseas.

West Union

Army Pvt. Theodore A. Jermeland, whose wife lives here, has completed the food service course at Fort Ord, Calif.

Army Pvt. Robert A. Mihm has completed basic engineer training at Fort Belvoir, Va. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mihm.

Swing Show.

MANCHESTER—High school students will present a show, "Carousel Swing", Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

William Wilker celebrates his 90th birthday, Cedar Rapids Gazette, January 2, 1959

Answers Ad in 1892, Been in Wyoming Since

BY MRS. ED KOOL

William Wilker, senior citizen of Wyoming, celebrated his 90th birthday on Jan. 29, amid the good wishes of friends of the community where he has resided since 1892.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, his daughter, Mrs. Edward (Margurite) Johnson of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, was hostess at an informal open house held for neighbors and friends. Mr. Wilker thoroughly enjoyed each moment of the occasion.

Mrs. Johnson told him, during our interview, that someone up town had asked her why he had had a party on Sunday when his birthday wasn't until Thursday. With tongue in cheek, he replied, "Why, I might not even be around on Thursday."

But, he was around on Thursday pert and alert as usual, belying his 90 years.

"MY DAUGHTER WON'T LET me walk up town while it's so icy as she fears I'd take a fall," he laughed. "I haven't driven for a few years now although I think I still could. I was 'mad as a hatter' when 'the boys' took away' my driver's license when I was 87, but they were nice about it."

This brought him to the subject of his first car, one with curtains to let down that flapped in the breeze as it whistled about the occupants. "My son, Will, always used to say it wasn't any fun to ride in that car unless we had a flat tire. He was usually satisfied because tires weren't what they are today and we usually had a patching job to do on every trip."

We chuckled over his description of the first real passenger car he owned, a Reo, complete with fringe about, a vase for flowers and dark blue velvet upholstery with an aristocratic stripe to add a finishing flourish.

"It was so square and high it was like a big hearse. After that I was a Buick man and drove one until 1955."

AT 78 HE DROVE, ALONE TO LaJolla, California, making the trip in 8 days with his pet dachshund as a companion. On his return trip, a daughter accompanied him. On one day, Mr. Wilker drove 400 miles and when they finally stopped, his daughter, who was completely exhausted, insisted they retire immediately. Not so, she was told. "Go to bed if you wish, but I'm taking the dog for a good long walk."

In 1955 Mr. Wilker was the subject of a feature story in the Cedar Rapids Gazette which told of his unique hobby of making lamps, something he adopted to pass the leisure time in his "old age". His lamps are truly works of art, an example of his mechanical ability tempered with a flare for beauty and symmetry of design.

IT WAS HIS MECHANICAL ability that brought him to Wyoming. He answered an advertisement in *The Metal Worker*, a magazine published at that time in New

York. The ad was for a metal worker in a hardware store in Wyoming, Iowa. So, from his home in Ontario, Canada, young William Wilker set out for Iowa, leaving behind his wife and young daughter, Margurite.

Early in April, 1892, he transferred at Davenport to ride a local freight with a passenger car attached due to arrive in Wyoming at 9:30 p.m. "Wyoming was the blackest town I'd ever seen," he remarked. "Not a kerosene light anywhere, the hotel was closed for the night and I didn't know a person in town." Luckily, he met a Mr. Williams on the street and, upon telling of his plight, received an invitation to spend the night at the Williams home.

The next day the young Canadian was to meet his employer, another Williams. He worked for Delbert Williams from 1892 until 1906 when

he purchased a Hardware store of his own, operating it until 1936. His wage in those days? \$50 a month.

WHILE WORKING FOR WILLIAMS, Mr. Wilker invented a furnace, the Wilker furnace. One-hundred-fifty of these were made with the steel castings made in Rock Island and the remaining pieces made in Wyoming. But, this venture soon necessitated a foundry which the men were unable to finance and the manufacturing was abandoned.

Mr. Wilker was the first to install a furnace in Wyoming, the installation being in the "mansion" being built by the Williams across the railroad tracks from Wilker's present home.

He also installed another "first" a bath tub...the first of its kind in Wyoming. The frame was wooden, lined with copper and a fore-runner of many he was to make and install. The Williams family were the first to enjoy the luxuries afforded by the bathtub.

Another bit of his ability to "make things with metal" resulted in the making of a galvanized iron canoe

making of a galvanized iron canoe made for pleasure outings with his family. Mr. Wilker recounted how he and his wife with their children would join the local butcher's family going to the Wapsi River for an outing. Transportation was via the butcher's delivery wagon with the families packed in and the glorified "iron boat" tied on top.

Coming to Wyoming on the heels of the pioneers, the Wilker family enjoyed the cultural interests brought by the residents who came here from the East.

He remembers with amusement how most of the town's residents flocked to the Presbyterian church to hear a phonograph demonstration, heard by using ear phones. Now a TV is in his home, even more miraculous than that phonograph... even though the programs aren't too good lately, according to our critic, Mr. Wilker.

GREEN STREET, TODAY graced with two long rows of homes reflecting gracious living, boasted only five homes when Mr. Wilker

came to Wyoming. He recalls flood waters licking at the front steps of the residence that is now the Wallace Brothers Funeral Home.

Two schools now stand where once the raging Bear Creek overflowed. We laughed at his tale of when the milk wagon became mired in axle deep mud on Main Street and the four horse team and wagon were ripped from the muck with planks.

Time passed all too quickly as we talked of the good old days when Wyoming was an infant town. William Wilker has watched that infant grow. The saplings are now giant trees and time goes on.

William Wilker was born on Jan. 29, 1869 in Taverstock, Ontario, the only son of Leonard and Christina Wilker who both died when he was quite young. He was reared by his grandparents.

In 1890 he was married. In 1940 he and his wife, Minnie, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

She died in 1945. Many of the late Mrs. Wilker's paintings are throughout the rooms of his home, lovely paintings treasured by the family.

The Wilkers were the parents of four children. Margurite (Mrs. Edward Johnson) is visiting her father, Minnie (Mrs. Gardener Williams) lives in LaJolla, Calif. A third daughter, Anetta, died at 13.

Mr. Wilker's only son, William Jr., died at 45 of a heart attack at the hospital in Iola, Wis., where he was head surgeon. This was something we touched upon only lightly as our aged friend grew reticent thinking of this past grief.

With pride he talked of his grandchildren. William Wilker III is an attorney working in the capitol at Madison, Wis. Richard Wilker is interning at a hospital in Lansing, Mich. James Wilker is a pharmacy student at University of Iowa.

A granddaughter is still in high school and his other grandson, Gardener Williams Jr. resides in California and is the father of Mr. Wilker's four great-grandchildren.



WILLIAM WILKER

William Wilker's 90th birthday, Monticello Express, February 5, 1959

Given Little Chance To Survive As Boy, Wyoming Man Nears 95



WILLIAM WILKER OF WYOMING
—Gazette photo by Art Hough
... He Ran an Ad 75 Years Ago ...

WYOMING—It was nearly three-quarters of a century ago when William Wilker of Windsor, Ontario, got a telegram from Wyoming, which transplanted a native-born Canadian to Eastern Iowa.

Now about to observe his ninety-fifth birthday, Mr. Wilker recalls that he and Mrs. Wilker, his bride of about one year, were attending a band concert in a Windsor park when someone brought the important message to him, offering him a job in a Wyoming hardware store.

The telegram was in answer to an advertisement Mr. Wilker had run in a New York trade magazine, offering his services as a metalworker.

Own Store

The Wilkers arrived here in April, 1892. Within a couple of years he owned his own store, which he operated until his retirement in 1938.

Mr. Wilker was born in Travisstock, Ontario, and apparently was a sickly youth his doctors didn't expect to live very long.

To hear him tell it:

"I certainly baffled the doctors. They called it consumption way back in those days. Lack of a better name, I guess. I had to quit school when I was 12 because of ill health. The doctors didn't expect me to live very long.

"Well," he reminded us, "they've long since passed on and here I am feeling better every year."

William Wilker became an expert metal craftsman and worked in Detroit many years before that Michigan city became the hub of automobile manufacturing.

Horse-Drawn Cars

In fact, when he moved to Wyoming they were still laying more tracks for the horse-drawn street cars in Detroit. His first automobile was a 1910 Reo, made in Lansing, Mich.

He recalls that he often walked across the Rouge river bridge from Windsor to Detroit and that he seldom, if ever, was checked at the border.

He was married to Minnie Fawthrop, March 25, 1891. Mrs. Wilker died in October, 1945, but he has three

daughters, Minnie Williams of San Francisco; Marguerite Johnson of Willowdale, a

suburb of Toronto, and Mary Ann Hughes of San Jose, Calif.

A daughter-in-law, Mrs. William Wilker, jr., lives in Iowa City. Her husband died of a heart attack.

Mr. Wilker is a prime example of a man who took up whittlin' after he retired, and he has several boxes of beautifully linked wooden chains to prove it.

In his own words:

"I used to whittle chains out of wood—to keep out of mischief. I got the idea when I spent the summer months in Canada with my daughter (Mrs. Johnson). I'd sit by the lake with my dog and whittle on a stick until it disappeared.

Lamps, Too

"I decided I was wasting my time with nothing to show for it, so I got the idea of whittling chains. The links in each chain are the same size and were made out of a single piece of wood. The links have never been separated."

Mr. Wilker quit his chain-making hobby a few years ago when an arm started bothering him. He went back to another hobby—making lamps of brass, copper and



EAST IOWA TRAFFIC with the patrol district 11 w district during 1963. In Janua deaths each. Counties in the

tin. He'd still be at it, but s he can't seem to get the s proper metal anymore.

"Take another look at c these chains," he said. "Peo ple still ask me how I did it. c Some think I glued the links a together, but I never did." r

William Wilker will be 95 f next Wednesday (Jan. 29). c Not bad for a weakling who \$ was supposed to die 83 years c ago.

Decorah Adult School Spring Courses Set

DECORAH—The Decorah M Adult Education program is b offering 15 courses this K

William Wilker marks his 95th birthday, Cedar Rapids Gazette, January 26, 1964



William Wilker

William Wilker, 101, Former Resident Of Wyoming Dies in Canada on Oct. 17

WYOMING — William Wilker, 101, died Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Branson hospital in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Funeral services for Mr. Wilker, a former resident of Wyoming, were held at the Wyoming Methodist church on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Lyle Mcester was the clergyman. Burial was in the Wyoming cemetery. Masonic services were held at the Hayden Funeral home in Wyoming on Monday evening.

He was born Jan. 29, 1869, in Tavistock, Canada, son of Leonard and Christine Wilker. He attended school in Tavistock and was a member of the Baptist church. He was married to Minnie Aneata Fawthrop in Hesper, Ontario in 1890, and in late 1892, the young couple moved to Wyoming, Iowa where they made their permanent home. Mr. Wilker became a naturalized citizen in 1901. He established

the Wilker Hardware store in 1906, and carried on business there for more than 30 years.

Mrs. Wilker preceded him in death October of 1945. Mr. Wilker lived alone in his home in Wyoming until his health began to fail, and he went to Canada to live near his eldest daughter.

During his lifetime, he served Wyoming on the town council, the school board, and the cemetery association. He was a member as a 32nd degree Mason of the Consistory in Clinton, Iowa. He was also a member of the Wyoming Methodist church.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. E. E. (Marguerite) Johnson, 10 Baytree Crescent, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada and Mrs. Edward (Mary Ann) Riley, 339 Manchester Avenue, Campbell, Calif.; five grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and three

Wyoming Rites for William Wilker, 101

WYOMING — William Wilker, 101, a former Wyoming business man, died Saturday in Toronto, Canada.

Services will be held Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in the Methodist church. There will be Masonic services Monday evening at the Hayden funeral home.

Born Jan. 29, 1869, at Pabistock, Ontario, Canada, he was married to Minnie Aneata Fawthrop in 1890. They moved to Wyoming in 1892 and he opened a hardware store here in 1906, operating it more than 30 years. He was a member of the town council, school board, cemetery association, Masons and Shriners.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Edward Johnson of Willowdale, Ontario, and Mrs. Edward Riley of Carmel, Calif.; five grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

William Wilker dies, Anamosa Eureka, October 22, 1970 (left); William Wilker obituary, Cedar Rapids Gazette, October 19, 1970 (right)

William and Minnie were buried in the Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa, alongside their daughter Aneata.



Headstone for William, Minnie and Aneata Wilker, Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa

Starting in 1955, Marguerite gave the William Wilker Award of \$250 each year to the Wyoming High School student graduating with the highest grades who planned to enter a college or university. In 1965, she established a permanent scholarship trust fund of \$10,000 to continue the awards, now offering \$200 each to the boy and girl with the highest grade standing and plans to continue their education.

Establish scholarship for Midland students

WYOMING--A permanent scholarship trust fund of \$10,000 for the Midland Community school has been established by Marguerite Wilker Johnson. The past ten years she has given a William Wilker Award of \$250 each year, in honor of her father, to the student graduating with highest grades, planning to enter a college or university.

Beginning in 1966 two awards will be offered, \$200 each to the girl and boy with the highest standing. Both must plan to enter a college or university.

After graduation from the Wyoming high school in 1909, the donor taught a country school, Madison Village, then attended Coe college one semester, transferring to Iowa State Teacher's college and completed the primary course. She taught in Mason City, Youngstown, Ohio; Wyoming and then in Anamosa.

Continuing her education at the University of Wisconsin, she received the Bachelors and Master degrees and was awarded a fellowship which enabled her to earn a Ph.D. This led to a position on the faculty of Cornell university, Ithaca, N. Y. and, after three years, to the University of Michigan.

Professor Johnson has published five books and many articles on psychology and education. She is a fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science;

Who's Who in American Women; Who's Who in College Professors and Who's Who in Education.

HAWTHORNE CLUB

The Hawthorne club met Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Mary Kouba. Assisting hostesses were Mrs. August Thomsen and Mrs. Reggie Morse.

Sixteen members answered roll call with Garden Gossip. Margery Sherrill read a report on the Arlington cemetery. Mrs. August Thomsen gave a talk, "Deep in the Heart of Texas."

Mrs. Alice Ketelsen, president for the new year, appointed committees:

Year Book, Mrs. Nevin Williams, Mrs. Ralph Orth and Mrs. William Foy; courtesy, Mrs. August Thomsen, Mrs. Louise Herzberger and Mrs. John Hansen.

Social, Mrs. Margery Sherrill, Mrs. Wayne Walker and Mrs. Robert Alden; club reporter, Mrs. Fred Latare; club prayer, Mrs. Reggie Morse.

PROGRESSIVE CLUB

Progressive club met at the home of Mrs. Roy Walters May 10, with Mrs. Paul Huston and Mrs. Larry Williams assisting hostesses.

Roll call, Travel through a mirror was answered by 23 members.

Mrs. Adra Lane, club representative, reported on attending the Edu-

Daughter Marguerite Wilker Johnson establishes a permanent scholarship fund in honor of her father (Midland Schools consolidated the Wyoming schools with other nearby districts), Monticello Express, May 20, 1965

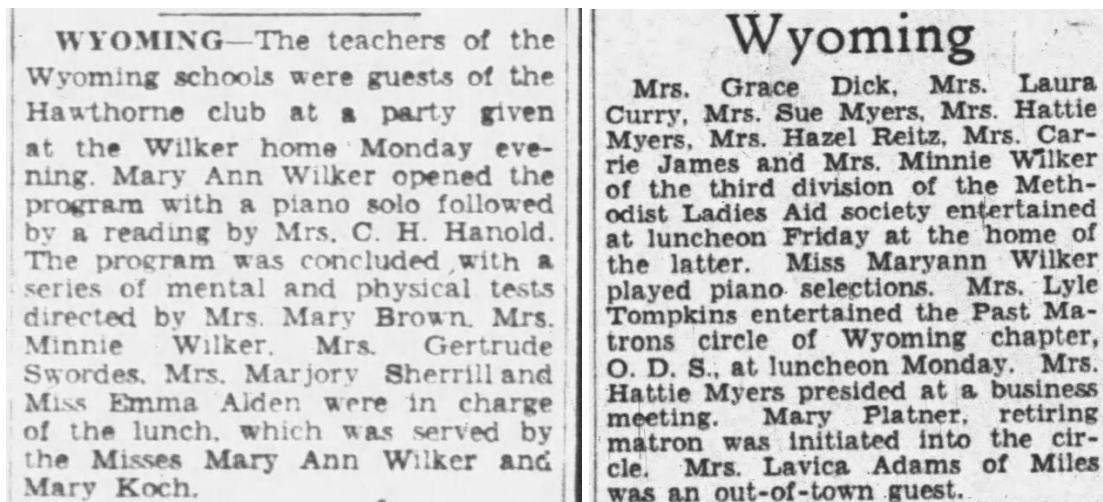
Young Mary Ann Wilker

What we know of Mary Ann's time growing up – primarily from local newspapers – seemed typical for that time. News reports mentioned school activities, church programs and the birthday parties of friends.

The family traveled regularly to see Marguerite, June and Will as well as relatives in Ontario. They also regularly hosted visiting family.

During 1924, Mary Ann took ill during a scarlet fever epidemic in Wyoming. However, it turned out that her case was mastoid cell trouble, and she underwent surgery in Iowa City to treat it.

Mary Ann was a student of Leota Wherry at school, and Mary Ann also took piano lessons from her. Mary Ann often performed piano programs at local clubs, such as the Hawthorne Club of which her mother was a member. She also performed recitals, and she was one of six contestants to win a "Superior" rating at a 600-contestant sub-district music contest.



A couple of the numerous articles mentioning Mary Ann's piano performances

Mary Ann attended Wyoming High School where she was elected Glee Club librarian her senior year. She graduated from Wyoming High School as part of its class of 1935.



Mary Ann's high school senior picture, 1935

Mary Ann as a Young Woman

After graduating from high school, Mary Ann continued her education at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa. Mary Ann sang as a member of a chorus that performed the school's 31st annual presentation of Handel's *Messiah* at the Cornell College chapel. As a member of the Cornell College English Club, Mary Ann contributed the story *The Journey of the Wooden Shoes* to the college's *The Children's Christmas Book. Prose and verse by Iowa writers.*

The following school year, Mary Ann transferred to the University of Wisconsin (Madison) where she remained until she graduated with a degree in art. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Iowa State Teachers College.

During summer break in 1937, Mary Ann traveled overseas aboard the S.S. Queen Mary with a group of 30 young people for a 10-week tour of European countries. After she returned, she presented a travelogue of her trip to a Wyoming church group before returning to school.



Miss Maryann Wilker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilker returned last week from a ten weeks tour of European countries. Miss Wilker will leave in a few weeks to resume her studies in art at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cook and Mr. and Mrs. Will Bushey of Dixon, Ill., were recent guests in the home of the former's brother, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cook.

William Wilker left last week for Elgin, Ill., where he was joined by his son, Mr. William Wilker of Iola, Wis., from whence they motored to Toronto, Canada, where Mrs. Wilker is visiting a sister. The return trip is expected to be made the latter part of this week.

Mary Ann traveled to Europe, and the Wilkers visit Canada, Anamosa Journal, August 26, 1937

After finishing her education, Mary Ann taught in Westmont, Illinois before becoming the art supervisor for Calumet, Illinois schools.

Chorus Of 166 To Sing In Cornell's "Messiah" Sunday

Special to The Gazette

MOUNT VERNON—One hundred and sixty-six Cornell students, members of the Oratorio society, will comprise the chorus for the thirty-first annual presentation of Handel's "Messiah" in the Cornell chapel Sunday afternoon. The Oratorio society has been rehearsing for the production since September, under the director of Prof. Harold W. Baltz.

Included among eighty-five new members of the group who will be singing "The Messiah" for the first time at Cornell are: Jean Ambrose of Clinton, Robert Bieber of Reinbeck, Frances Bell of Earlville, Robert Bennett of Mount Vernon, Harriet Blake of Maquoketa, Arla Collis of Marion, Mary Alice Crew of Mount Vernon, Louise Dunham of Manchester, Betty Edge of Algona, Helen Emerson and Howard Emerson of Mount Vernon, Kathryn Engle, 1802 Fifth avenue SE, Cedar Rapids; Anne Fiddick of Osage, Charles Fisher of Mount Vernon, Mary Foster of Algona, Virginia Fussell of Mount Vernon, Frances Gillett of Oskaloosa, Hilda Hardman of Wapello, Margaret Hedges of Mount Vernon, Paul Hoffman of Tipton, Gertrude Ann Holmgren of Davenport, Thomas Caywood of Lake Park, Joyce Kidder of Mount Vernon, Helen Klousia of Hampton, Merle Leise of Marshalltown, Bethany Lehrman of Stanwood, Helen Martin of Martelle, June Mathison of Story City, Alice Mae Meints of Grand Mound, Marjorie Mitchell of Adell, Richard Moore and Lucile Maurer of Tipton, Milton Nothdurft of Colesburg, Midge Owen of Osage, Catharine Parker of Clinton, Jeanne Phillips of Pleasant Valley, Bernice Rogers of Des Moines, Lois Rohwedder of Olin, Aurene Schoeneman of Parkersburg, George Schroeder of Mount Vernon, Helen Sonnemaker of Clarence, Esther Stone of Anamosa, Edwin Wiederrecht of Wapello, Maryann Wilker of Wyoming, Dorothy Yates of Lisbon, and Barbara Blackwell of New Philadelphia, Ohio, formerly of Mount Vernon.

Children's Christmas Book Written, Printed, Illustrated At Cornell

Special to The Gazette.

MOUNT VERNON—Gay in a red and black cover and bright with poems and stories, the tenth issue of a Christmas book for children has been published at Cornell college. What was previously called the Cornell Kiddie Book is this year published as the third in the Cornell chapbook series and called The Children's Christmas Book.

The book was edited by Edward Weismiller of Appleton, Wis. The cover was cut in linoleum by Alice Louise Scatliff, a member of the art department staff.

The opening Christmas poem by Jewell Bothwell Tull, called "Little Boy," is followed by a fantastic little story of "What Happened One Saturday When Almost Anything Can Happen" by Thelma Lucile Lull of West Branch, Mich.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart, a teacher in the Cedar Rapids public schools, has contributed two poems, "A Dream," and "The Christmas Zoo," which is printed here:

Christopher Christmas, of Santa Claus Lane,
Called for his hat and his candy cane.

"I must walk through Toyland to look at the Zoo,"
And he borrowed the horn of Little Boy Blue.

He blew a regular Tarzan call,
And they came running from tree and wall:

The Calico Cat and the Pottery Pup,
Mickey Mouse with his tail straight up.

The Ugly Duckling in swimming clothes,
And Pekinese Pete with his flattened nose;

And Three Little Pigs, and many others:
Animal parents and sisters and brothers.

Christopher Christmas was pleased with the zoo.
I hope, on Christmas, you will be too!

Other poems contained in the Christmas book were written by Iris Street, Lemont, Ill.; Annabel Lee Sailor, Wall Lake; Marjorie Holmes Mighell, Storm Lake; Edward Weismiller, Louise Rich, Lee, Ill.; Dorothy Taylor Jeffery, Los Angeles; Sadie Seagrave, Oakdale; Jack Adolphsen, Woodstock, Ill.; Walter Morris, Clinton; and Virginia Fussell of Mount Vernon.

The stories were written by Howard Emerson of Mount Vernon; Jewell Bothwell Tull; Lenora Seebach, Hansell; and Maryann Wilker, Wyoming.

A number of linoleum cuts made by students in the art department illuminate the verses and prose. They were done by William Miller of Low Moor; Beatrice Smith, Burlington; Nelta Tregloan, Chicago; Bruce Beck, Harvard, Ill.; Frances Forest, Wilton Junction; Mark Mirich, Edgmont, S. D.; Margaret Simpson, Toledo, and Parma Bernhard, Monona.

The book is printed in type hand-set by a group of Cornell students employed under the Student Relief administration.

Cedar Rapids Gazette, December 10, 1935 (left); Cedar Rapids Gazette, December 11, 1935 (right)

Mary Ann Weds John Winn Hughes

Mary Ann married John Winn Hughes on September 7, 1943, at Astoria, Oregon.

Mary Ann Wilker Married
 Mr. and Mrs. William Wilker announce the marriage of their daughter, Mary Ann, to Pvt. John Winn Hughes at Astoria, Oregon, on September 7.

The bride is a graduate of Wyoming high school, class of 1935. She also received her degree in art from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a B. A. degree from Iowa State Teachers college, Cedar Falls. Since then she has been teaching primary at Westmont, Ill., and the last year served as art supervisor in the Calumet, Ill., schools. Mr. Hughes received his degree from the University of Wisconsin, and prior to his induction into the service was a salesman for the Rhinelander Paper Mills. The home will be in Astoria, Oregon, while Pvt. Hughes is in a camp nearby. They arrived this week on a brief visit in Wyoming.

John Hughes weds Mary Ann Wilker, Monticello Express, October 7, 1943

RETURN OF MARRIAGE

1. Place of marriage: (a) County Clatsop; (b) City or town Astoria

2. Date of marriage Sept 7, 1943 3. Title of person officiating County Judge

GROOM		BRIDE	
4. Full name <u>John Winn Hughes</u>	18. Maiden name <u>Mary Ann Wilker</u>	19. Residence: State <u>Iowa</u> County <u>Jones</u>	19. Residence: State <u>Wyoming</u> County <u>Jones</u>
5. Residence: State <u>Wis</u> County <u>None</u>	20. Color or race <u>White</u>	21. Age last birthday <u>27</u> (Years)	22. Birth date <u>Apr 3, 1916</u>
City or town <u>Madison</u>	23. Previous marital status <u>Single</u> (Single, widowed, or divorced)	24. Number of this marriage <u>1st</u> (1st, 2d, 3d, etc.)	25. Birthplace <u>Kansas City, Kan.</u> (State or country)
6. Color or race <u>White</u>	26. Usual occupation <u>Warehouseman</u>	27. Industry or business <u>Paper Sold</u>	28. Birthplace <u>Canada</u> (State or country)
7. Age last birthday <u>28</u> (Years)	29. Usual occupation <u>Pharmacist</u>	30. Birthplace <u>Canada</u> (State or country)	31. Usual occupation <u>Housewife</u>
8. Birth date <u>June 10, 1915</u>	31. Usual occupation <u>Housewife</u>		
9. Previous marital status <u>Single</u> (Single, widowed, or divorced)			
10. Number of this marriage <u>1st</u> (1st, 2d, 3d, etc.)			
11. Birthplace <u>Wis</u> (State or country)			
12. Usual occupation <u>Warehouseman</u>			
13. Industry or business <u>Paper Sold</u>			
14. Birthplace <u>Cambria, Wis</u> (State or country)			
15. Usual occupation <u>Pharmacist</u>			
16. Birthplace <u>Portage, Wis</u> (State or country)			
17. Usual occupation <u>Housewife</u>			

Ceremony performed by Ray Boyington Registered No. _____
 Signed John Stottson (County Clerk)

STATE PRINTING DEPT.

Return of Marriage record for John Hughes and Mary Ann Wilker

Comment: I assume that John and Mary Ann met at the University of Wisconsin because their student years there overlapped, but their careers immediately after graduation took them to different locations.

John was born June 10, 1915 in Portage, Wisconsin to Arnold John Hughes and Mae (or May) Catherine Winn Hughes. He was raised in Wisconsin, where he graduated from the University of Wisconsin (Madison) in 1939.

Hughes—Winn.
At 11 o'clock Wednesday morning, Oct. 9, occurred the marriage of Miss Mae Winn and Arnold Hughes at the parochial residence of Father Daily in Milwaukee.
The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Winn of this city. She is one of the most popular and highly esteemed young ladies of Portage. Her winning ways and pleasant manners have won for her hosts of friends. The groom is the son of J. E. Hughes of Cambria and was formerly employed in the barber shop of Otto Helman. He is an upright and honorable young man of high social standing and the best wishes of all his friends is a mark of the high esteem in which he is held. The young couple was attended by Mr. and Mrs. Dertmer, the foreman and his wife of the Palace barber shop where Mr. Hughes is now employed in Milwaukee.
Mr. and Mrs. Hughes are at home to their friends at 179, Fourteenth street, Milwaukee.

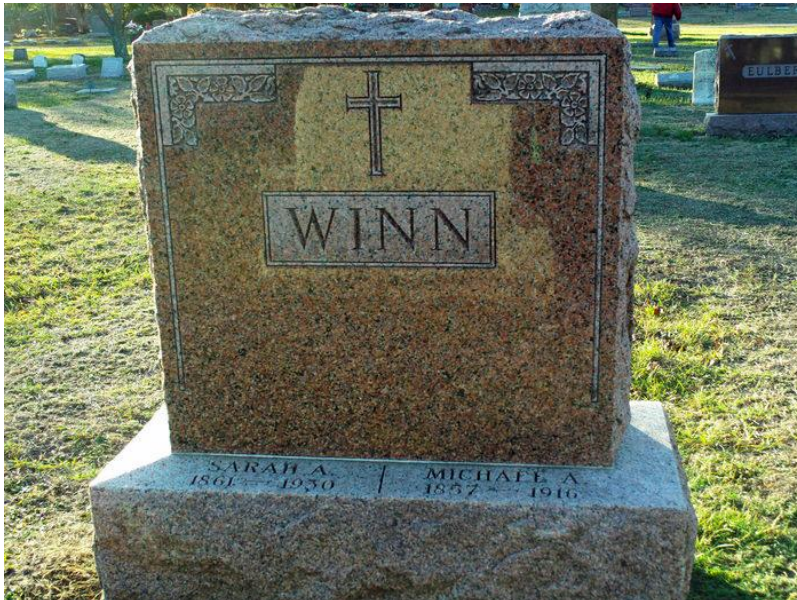
Marriage announcement for John's parents, Arnold Hughes and Mae Winn, Portage Daily Democrat, Portage, Wisconsin, October 11, 1907

BIRTHS
June 10, 1915, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hughes of Endeavor. Mrs. Hughes is at the home of her parents, Mr and Mrs. M. A. Winn, 408 E. Cook.

Birth announcement for John Winn Hughes, Portage Daily Democrat, Portage, Wisconsin, June 10, 1915



Mae Winn Hughes (right) and daughter Sally, John's sister



Headstone for Michael and Sarah Winn, St. Mary's Cemetery, Portage, Wisconsin

MICHAEL A. WINN HAS PASSED AWAY

Had Been Very Ill With Peritonitis for
Several Weeks Past.

EARLY COLUMBIA CO. TEACHER

Had Been in Failing Health for Past
Year—Funeral on Wednesday
Morning from St. Mary's.

Michael A. Winn quietly passed away at the family home, 408 East Cook street, Monday morning, Jan. 19, 1916, at 5:10 o'clock, after an illness extending over a period of about a month.

Mr. Winn had been in failing health for the past year and about three weeks ago he was taken very seriously ill with an attack of peritonitis and an operation was resorted to immediately in hopes of prolonging life. He gradually grew weaker, however, and although every possible effort was made to tenderly nurse him back to health, the disease had made such inroads upon his system that other complications developed and his life had been despaired of for a number of days past.

Mr. Winn was a native of Ohio, born near Columbus, on Sept. 27, 1856. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Winn, who are among the first settlers of the town of Ft. Winnebago. He came here with his parents when but an infant, two years old and he grew to manhood on the farm. He was married thirty-two years ago to Miss Sarah Kelley, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Kelley, early residents of the town of Buffalo. Mr. Winn was an ardent student and took great interest in educational matters from his early boyhood. He spent all his spare time in studying and attended the country school until he was sixteen years of age and the following winter took up the task of teaching in Ft. Winnebago and afterwards left for Coleman, S. D., where he served three terms as principal of the school. He returned to Wisconsin and taught in different schools about the county. Eight years ago he accepted a position as bookkeeper under Foreman H. W. Griggs, and held this position with Foreman Harry Barlow and the present foreman, J. Horn, and continued in the employ of the company until his last sickness.

Mr. Winn was charter member of Columbia court, Catholic Order of Foresters, and has always been a devoted member of St. Mary's congregation.

Besides his wife he is survived by six children. They are Charles S., Bernice and William Winn at home; Mrs. Arnold-Hughes of Endeavor; Miss Beattie Winn, principal of the high school of Minot, N. D., and Ben. M. Winn, a well known Milwaukee road locomotive engineer. Mr. Winn is also survived by three brothers and two sisters—William and Jos. Winn of Seattle, Wash., Bernard and Katherine Winn residing on the old homestead in Ft. Winnebago.

The funeral will take place on Wednesday morning at 9:00 from St. Mary's church, Rev. J. Nicholas officiating. Interment will be in the parish cemetery beside the body of his

THE WEATHER
Partly cloudy and much colder to night with a cold wave. Tuesday probably fair, colder.

Today's Temperature

Highest..... 35
Lowest..... 18
At 7 a. m..... 28
At 12 m. today..... 18
Sunday's: Highest, 33; lowest, 24;
7 a. m., 27; 12 m., 23.

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

Mrs. C. Delap is quite ill with the grip.

Miss Mary Prescott is home from Madison.

Mrs. John Benkleman has been very ill with the grip.

Jas. R. Graham has recovered from a siege of the grip.

Mrs. E. Vernon is home from a visit at Brodhead, Wis.

There will be a meeting of Swan Lake Camp this evening. Installation.

Will Early, East Cook street, has been confined to the house by illness.

The Helping Hands will meet Tuesday evening with Mrs. Jennie Shanks.

A. G. Haines, night towerman at Ketchum Point, has resumed work after several days' illness.

Mrs. Ann Adams, mother of Postmaster A. Adams at Fall River was recently stricken with paralysis.

Mrs. Robert Edwards, who has been very ill, is improving hopefully. Dr. Schloemitch is the attending physician.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scholes and infant daughter of Kilbourn spent Sunday with Mrs. Scholes' grandmother, Mrs. Wm. J. Edwards.

St. John's Guild will have a sale of baked goods at the Shaver grocery Saturday afternoon. All members of the Guild are asked to respond.

Miss Beryl Cook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Cook, fell while skating on the canal Friday afternoon and cut her arm quite badly. Dr. F. T. Gorton dressed the wound.

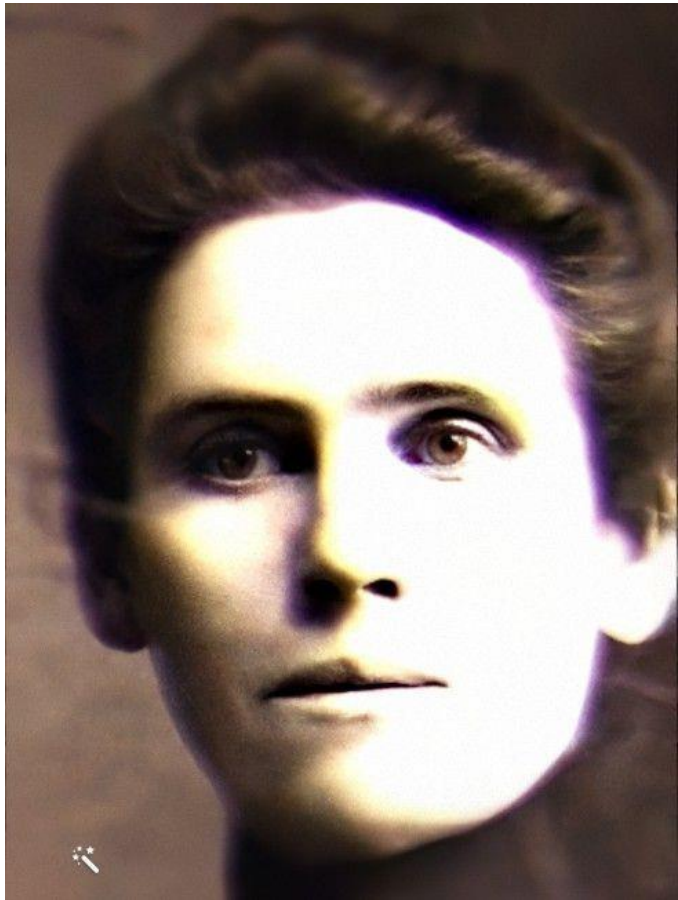
The five part production feature "The Avalanche" will be the bill at the Home theater Tuesday night. The picture features Catherine Counties, the noted motion picture player.

Miss Nettie Anacker, who has been a guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Anacker, for the past two weeks, returned to Mankato, Minn., where she holds a responsible position in a large stationery store.

Frank Winniger's Varieties open a five nights' engagement at the opera house next Tuesday night with the musical play "Hunting an Heiress." Seats are now on sale at Rhyme's. The prices are 25, 35 and 50 cents.

Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Wooster have arrived home with their son, Alban, who was operated upon at St. Mary's hospital at Madison by Dr. Dean of Madison and Dr. J. R. Kellogg of this city for removal of adenoids. The little patient is doing nicely at this writing.

daughter, Mrs. David Vaughan, who died at Cambria six years ago last December.



The obituary for Michael Winn, John's maternal grandfather, provides some history for that side of the family (left); Sarah Agnes Kelly Winn, wife of Michael Winn (right)

After finishing college, John worked for a time as a salesman for Rhinelander Paper Mills in Wisconsin. John lived in Wisconsin and then Minneapolis, Minnesota in the years before he was drafted into the U.S. Army during World War II.

SERIAL NUMBER 4130	1. NAME (Print) JOHN WINN HUGHES <small>(First) (Middle) (Last)</small>		ORDER NUMBER 1216
2. ADDRESS (Print) 605 BALTZEEL ST MADISON WIS. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
3. TELEPHONE FAIRCHILD	4. AGE IN YEARS 25	5. PLACE OF BIRTH PORTAGE WIS.	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.
DATE OF BIRTH JUNE 10 1915 <small>(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>			
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS MRS. A. J. HUGHES <small>(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Middle) (Last)</small>			8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON MOTHER
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 605 BALTZEEL ST MADISON WIS. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME NOT EMPLOYED			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1 <small>(over)</small>	<i>John Winn Hughes</i> <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>		

John Hughes' WWII draft registration

John served in the army for three years, from December 29, 1942 to February 8, 1946, where he reached the level of Staff Sargent CAC (Combined Arms Center). He was stationed at Fort Stevens near Astoria, Oregon, where he worked in military intelligence. It was here in Astoria where John and Mary Ann married.

After WWII, John and Mary Ann settled in San Francisco at 2355 Polk Street (@ Union St.), Apt. 304, where John worked as an agent representative for the airlines TWA.



2355 Polk Street, San Francisco in 2024; © Google Street View

Comment: I don't know if this was a factor in their ending up in San Francisco, but Minnie June Wilker Williams and her husband Gardner LeRoy Williams were living in San Francisco at that time.

In December 1947, John was hospitalized with a perforation peptic (stomach) ulcer. He died from related peritonitis eleven days later on December 30, 1947. John was buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California.

FUNERAL RECORD			
CALL RECEIVED 10 A M 12/30/47	BY Harter	HOW Phone	BOOK No. 48 PAGE No. 1
FROM Nurse	PHONE SK 1-2899	WILL BE IN	
FIRST CALL INFORMATION BY Darling	ARRANGED BY Runge	MORTUARY OR RES.	
HAVE WE SERVED THIS FAMILY BEFORE OR HOW DID YOU COME TO US?			
1. FULL NAME JOHN WINN HUGHES			
2. PLACE OF DEATH (A) COUNTY San Francisco (B) CITY OR TOWN San Francisco (C) NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION St. Joseph's Hospital IF NOT IN HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION, GIVE STREET NUMBER OR LOCATION (D) LENGTH OF STAY: (SPECIFY WHETHER YEARS, MONTHS OR DAYS) IN HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION 11 days IN THIS COMMUNITY 13/4 yrs. IN CALIFORNIA 13/4 yrs.		3. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED: (A) STATE California (B) COUNTY San Francisco (C) CITY OR TOWN San Francisco IF OUTSIDE CITY OR TOWN LIMITS, WRITE RURAL (D) STREET No. 2355 Polk St., Apt. 304	
3. (A) IF VETERAN, NAME OF WAR World War II (B) SOCIAL SECURITY No. 396-07-5489		20. DATE OF DEATH: MONTH December DAY 30 YEAR 1947 HOUR 9 MINUTE 15 AM	
4. SEX Male	5. COLOR OR RACE White	21. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I ATTENDED THE DECEASED FROM December 19, 19 47 TO December 30, 19 47 THAT I LAST SAW HIM IN ALIVE ON December 30, 19 47 AND THAT DEATH OCCURRED ON THE DATE AND HOUR STATED ABOVE.	
6. (B) NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE Mary Ann Hughes 6. (C) AGE OF HUSBAND OR WIFE IF ALIVE 31 YEARS		22. CORONER'S CERTIFICATE I HEREBY CERTIFY, THAT I HELD AN AUTOPSY, INQUEST OR INVESTIGATION ON THE REMAINS OF THE DECEASED AND FIND FROM SUCH ACTION THAT DECEASED CAME TO HIS DEATH ON THE DATE AND HOUR STATED ABOVE.	
7. BIRTHDATE OF DECEASED June 10, 1915 MONTH DAY YEAR		IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF DEATH Perforation peptic (stomach) Ulcer.	
8. AGE 32 Yrs. 6 Mos. 20 Days IF LESS THAN ONE DAY OLD Hrs. Min.		DURATION 9 hrs.	
9. BIRTHPLACE Portage, Wisconsin		OTHER CONDITIONS Peritonitis. (INCLUDE PREGNANCY WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF DEATH)	
10. USUAL OCCUPATION Agent Representative		MAJOR FINDINGS: Same as above DATE OF OPERATION 12/19/47 DATE OF AUTOPSY 12/29/47	
11. INDUSTRY OR BUSINESS T. W. A.		PHYSICIAN UNDERLINE THE CAUSE TO WHICH DEATH SHOULD BE CHARGED STATISTICALLY	
12. NAME Arnold Hughes			
13. BIRTHPLACE Wisconsin			
14. MAIDEN NAME Mae Winn			
15. BIRTHPLACE Wisconsin			
16 (A) INFORMANT Mary Ann Hughes			
(B) ADDRESS 2355 Polk St., Apt. 304			
17. (A) Burial (B) DATE 1/2/48 (C) PLACE Golden Gate National Cemetery		23. IF DEATH WAS DUE TO EXTERNAL CAUSES, FILL IN THE FOLLOWING: (A) ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE? (B) DATE OF INJURY (C) WHERE DID INJURY OCCUR? CITY OR TOWN COUNTY STATE (D) DID INJURY OCCUR IN OR ABOUT HOME, ON FARM, IN INDUSTRIAL PLACE, OR IN PUBLIC PLACE? WHILE AT WORK? (E) MEANS OF INJURY SPECIFY TYPE OF PLACE	
18. (A) EMBALMER'S SIGNATURE George M. Cruise LICENSE No. 1433 (B) FUNERAL DIRECTOR N. Gray & Co. ADDRESS 1545 Divisadero St. BY Pat Moore		24. CORONER'S OR PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE (SPECIFY WHICH) John J. McGuire, M.D. ADDRESS 490 Post Street DATE 12/30/47	
19. (A) DATE FILED (B) REGISTRAR'S SIGNATURE			
HUSBAND OR WIFE OF Lov. Mary Ann Hughes			
FATHER OR MOTHER OF Lov. John Winn Hughes, Jr.			
SON OR DAUGHTER OF Mrs. Mae and the late Arnold Hughes			
BROTHER OR SISTER OF Miss Sally Hughes			
MEMBER OF			
DATE OF FUNERAL Friday, January 2, 1948		WEIGHT 165	
FUNERAL FROM Chapel A (St. Brigid's Church)		LENGTH 6'	
OFFICIATING Priest		WIDTH 16"	
SHIP TO OR FROM		DEPTH 11"	
ACCOMPANYING PASSENGER		HAIR Brown	
NOTIFY		EYES Brown	
Mass will be celebrated		MARKS	

Funeral record for John Hughes

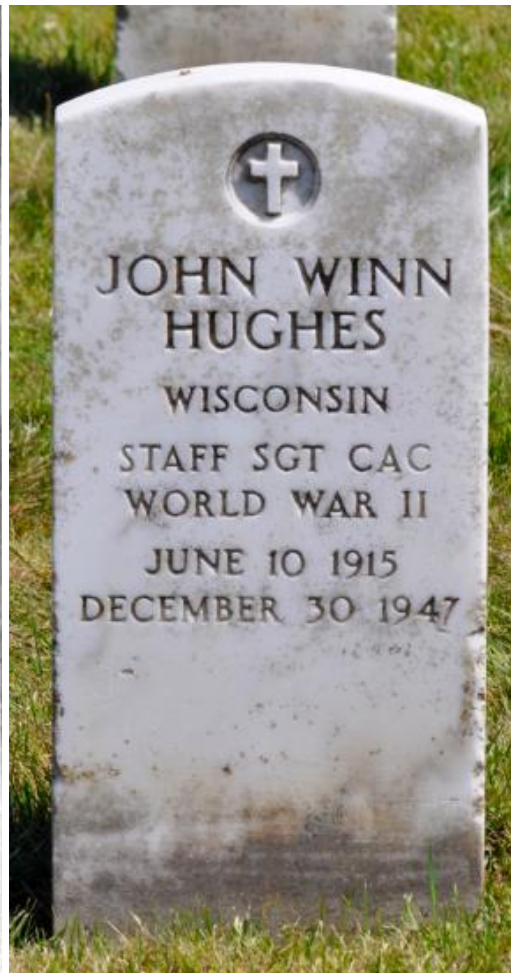
INTERMENT IN THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL CEMETERY										ORIGINAL				
TO: THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.										RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check One)				
NAME (Last, first, middle initial) HUGHES, John Winn										<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LATIN CROSS <input type="checkbox"/> STAR OF DAVID 11 FEB 1948				
STATE: <i>Wisc.</i>										SERVICE DATA (Company, regiment, or other organization or branch of service and division, if any.) Coast Artillery <i>WWII</i>				
RANK: S/Sgt.														
SERIAL NO.: 36293070														
DATE OF BIRTH			DATE OF DEATH			DATE OF INTERMENT			GRAVE LOCATION		DATES OF SERVICE			
MONTH	DAY	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	SEC. OR PL. II	GRAVE OR LOT NO.	ENLISTMENT	DIED ON A. D.	DISCHARGE	RETIREMENT
6	10	15	Dec.	30	1947	Jan.	2	1948	Blk 3	1397	29 Dec. 1942		8 Feb. 1946	
REMARKS (Authority for interment, pension or claim number, disinterment, etc.) Authority - Tel. OQMG 12-31-47 Headstone form mailed to next of kin										DATE HEADSTONE ORDERED AND B/L NUMBER COLUMBUS, MISS. 3 MAR 1948 <i>How</i>				
SHIPPING POINT FOR HEADSTONES										SIGNATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY OR QM OF POST OR POW CEMETERY				
RAILROAD STATION FOR FREIGHT										<i>[Signature]</i> A. J. NETTKE (SIGNATURE)				
POST OFFICE ADDRESS														
San Bruno, Calif., San Bruno, Calif., 94065-0019														
QMC FORM REV 1 AUG 45 14 Previous editions may be used										(See instructions on reverse side)				

Interment record for John Winn Hughes

John W. Hughes
Rites Tomorrow

Requiem mass for John Winn Hughes, 32, TWA airlines official here, will be celebrated at 9 a. m. tomorrow at St. Brigid's Church, Van Ness Avenue and Broadway. He died Tuesday.

A native of Portage, Wis., Mr. Hughes had been with the airline here since 1945. He was assistant to the agency and interline manager. He leaves a widow, Mary Ann, of the family home at 2355 Polk Street; a son, John Winn Jr., 2; his mother, Mrs. Mae Hughes and a sister, Miss Sally Hughes, both of Portage.



Obituary for John Hughes, San Francisco Examiner, January 1, 1948 (left); headstone for John Winn Hughes, Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, California (right)

John and Mary Ann had two sons. John Winn Hughes, Jr., born October 7, 1945 in Astoria, Oregon where his father was stationed at the time, and William Wilker Hughes, born February 27, 1948 in San Francisco, just two months after his father died.

Announcements have been received in Wyoming telling of the birth of an eight pound, twelve ounce son, John Winn Hughes, to John W. and Maryann Wilker Hughes at Astoria, Oregon, Oct. 7. The fire company was called to the Ben Fedderson farm at 10:30 a.m. Saturday to aid in extinguishing a fire in an outdoor haystack. Miss Emma Jansen of Chicago spent the weekend here with Mrs. Bertha Jensen. Mr. and Mrs. Hans Ketelsen are spending this week with relatives at Oswego, N. Y. They accompanied relatives from Marble Rock.

Mrs. Wilker Ill

Mrs. William Wilker was taken to Iola, Wis., Saturday, by plane from Cedar Rapids to the hospital of her son, Dr. Will Wilker. The Wilkers have been staying at an apartment in Cedar Rapids the last few weeks and this last week Mrs. Wilker's condition being worse, her son came for her.

John Winn Hughes, Jr. birth announcement and news of his grandmother's illness appeared in the same news column, Monticello Express, October 18, 1945

In July 1948, Mary Ann moved to San Jose, California, where she raised her sons.

Research Notes

San Jose is a larger city, and "Hughes" is relatively common last name. The local newspapers carried little of the kinds of "personal" news commonly found in small-town newspapers in those days. When the papers did mention names like John or William Hughes, there often wasn't enough information to determine whether these articles were referring to Mary Ann's sons.

Mary Ann Weds Edward T. Riley

After 21 years as a widow, Mary Ann married Edward T. Riley on July 5, 1969. They made their home in San Jose, California.

Ed was born on March 21, 1910 in Seattle, Washington, the son of Patrick H. Riley and Grace Carr Riley. The family had moved to California by 1920. In college, Ed played halfback for the San Jose State Teachers' College Spartans.



Ed Riley in college

In 1940, Ed was working as an electrical installer for Western Electric in San Francisco while living in Santa Clara County, California. By 1950, he was working in San Jose as a salesman for a building supplies company. He eventually worked his way up to general manager and controller at his employer.

Ed was a widower when he and Mary Ann married. His first wife Marion (Peggy) Craig Riley died in 1967. Ed and Marion had married in 1936. They had three children – Sharon, Patricia and Craig – who became Mary Ann's stepchildren. Ed and Mary Ann had no children together.

Ed survived major heart attacks in both 1965 and 1970. He died on May 24, 1986 from renal failure related to prostate cancer. He was interred with his first wife at Santa Clara Mission Cemetery in Santa Clara, California.

Mary Ann's Later Years, Death and Burial

Widowed a second time, Mary Ann kept busy in her later years with family visits and her assorted activities. These included five clubs that she belonged to: Garden, Singles, Organ, Antiques and a foursome club.



Mary Ann (undated, left) and in 2006 (right)

Mary Ann died on December 3, 2020 at the age of 104. Public records suggest that she had been living with her son John at the time of her death. She was buried with her first husband John Hughes at Golden Gate National Cemetery.

OBITUARY

Mary Ann Riley

APRIL 3, 1916 - DECEMBER 3, 2020



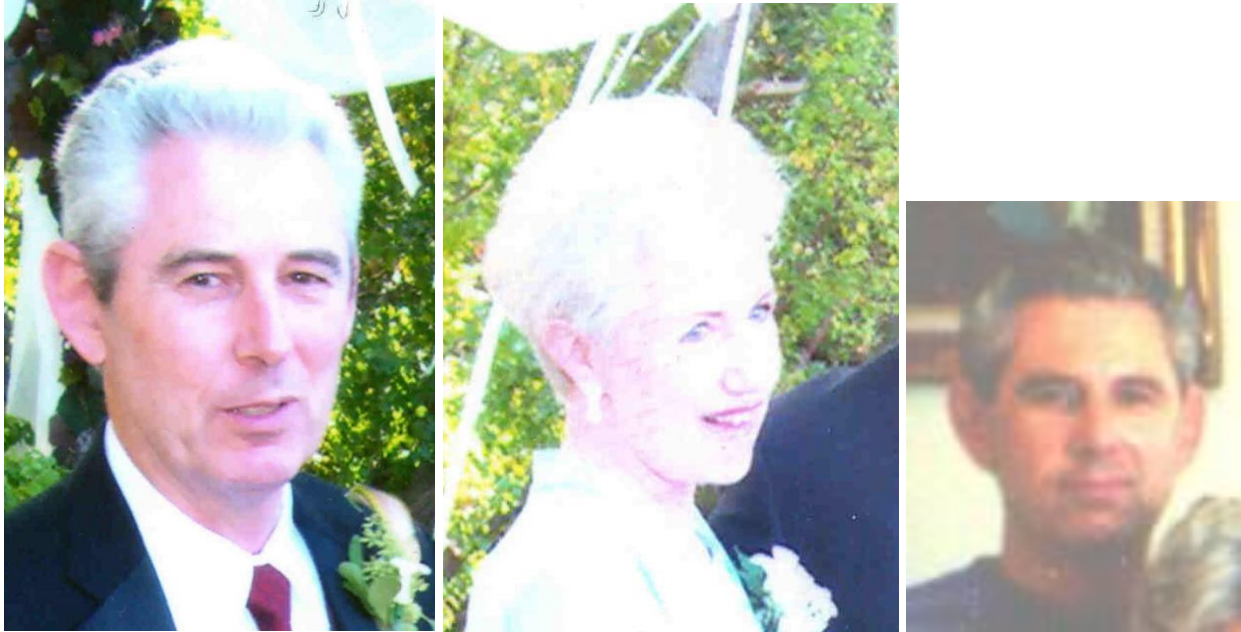
IN THE CARE OF

Oak Hill Funeral Home & Memorial Park

Mary Ann Riley was born on April 3, 1916 and passed away on December 3, 2020 and is under the care of Oak Hill Funeral Home & Memorial Park.

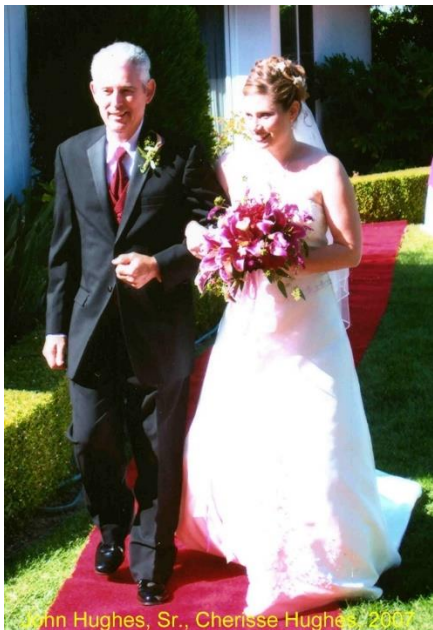
John Winn Hughes, Jr.

Mary Ann and John's son John married Rita E. Conroy on August 25, 1968 in Santa Clara County, California.



John, Jr. (left), Rita (center), John, Jr. (right)

John and Rita had two children. Son John W. Hughes III was born on June 4, 1975 in Santa Clara County, California. Daughter Cherisse Michelle Hughes was born June 18, 1977 in Santa Clara County, California. Cherisse married Scott Dreblow 2007. They filed for divorce in 2008.



John, Jr. and Cherisse Hughes, 2007



John III (left), Cherisse (right)

Available public records suggest that John, Rita and their children have remained in the San Jose-Gilroy area of California up until now. Cherisse may have married a Kevin Bailey.

Research Notes

As living people, Ancestry's information about John Winn Hughes, Jr., and his family is quite limited, and little information about the family can be found in the newspapers available on Newspapers.com.

William "Bill" Wilker Hughes

Mary Ann and John's son William married Paula C. Howard on April 3, 1971 in Santa Clara County, California.



Bill

Bill and Paula had two children. Daughter Jennifer Jean Hughes was born on February 7, 1975 in Santa Clara County, California. Son Joshua Wilker Hughes was born on August 4, 1977 in Santa Clara County, California.



Jennifer (left), Joshua (right)

Josh appears to be the principal at Los Gatos, California-based Wilker Designs.



Photo of Josh Hughes on the Wilker Designs Etsy site

Research Notes

As living people, Ancestry's information about William Hughes and his family is quite limited, and little information about the family can be found in the newspapers available on Newspapers.com.

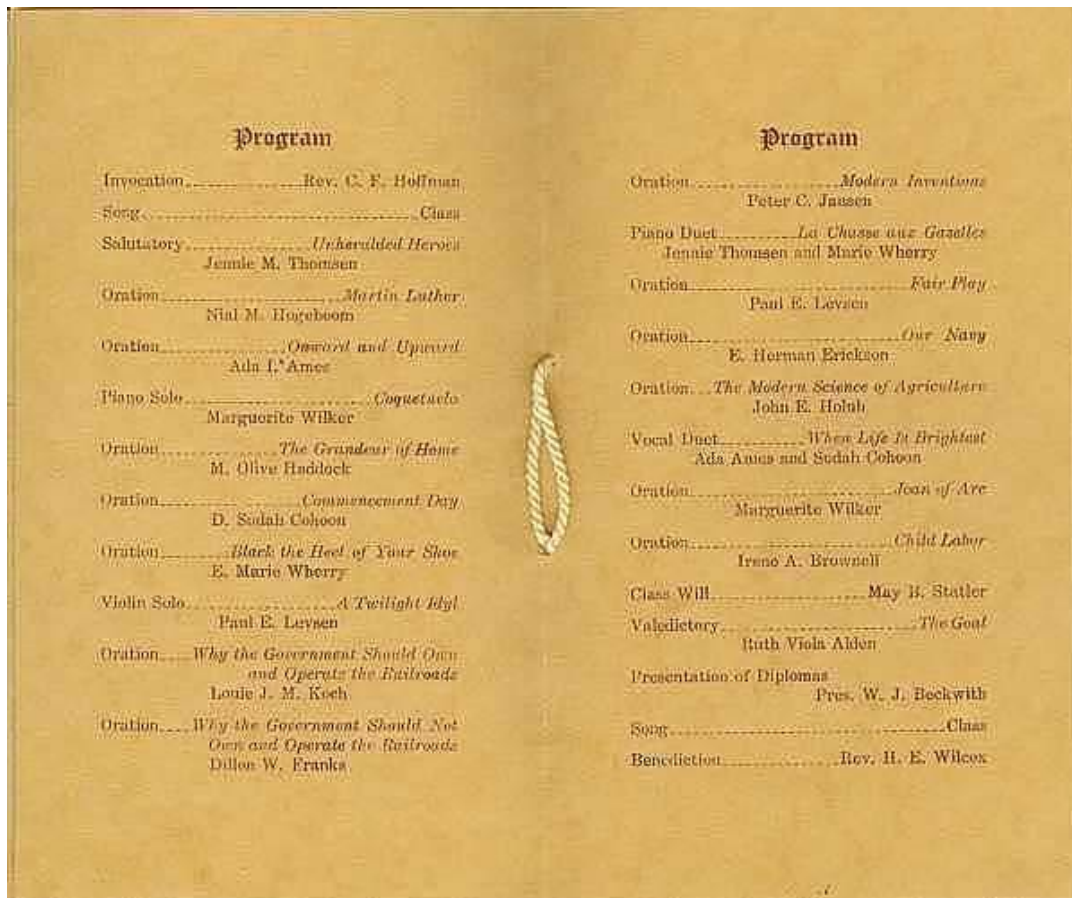
Public records suggest that Bill and Paula were living apart in recent years, as there is a Paula Claire Hughes Dietrich with the same birthdate but at different addresses.

Marguerite Eleanor Wilker

Mary Ann's sister Marguerite was born in Preston, Ontario, Canada on September 22, 1891.



Wyoming High School graduating class of 1909 included Marguerite Wilker, front row, far left



Her commencement program

Marguerite married childhood sweetheart Kenneth Babcock on November 28, 1916 in Dixon, Illinois. Babcock had recently purchased a coal and feed business in Wyoming, Iowa. They were divorced in May 1922. They had no children.

Marguerite then married Dale G. (a.k.a. Glenn D.) Lacey on November 20, 1923 at her parents' home in Wyoming. Lacey was a Washington, DC dentist originally from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where they met. They were divorced in May 1926 on the grounds of mental cruelty. They had no children.

Marguerite had a substantial professional career in education. After she graduated from Wyoming High School in 1909, she taught at the local Madison village school, and then completed a teaching course at the Iowa State Teachers College, finishing there in 1914. After that, she taught in Mason City, Iowa, Youngstown, Ohio, Wyoming, Iowa and then in Anamosa, Iowa and Cedar Rapids schools. She received her Bachelor's (1924), Master's (1925) and PhD (1927) degrees at the University of Wisconsin.

MARGUERITE WILKER, WYOMING, RECEIVES UNIVERSITY DEGREE

Special in The Democrat

Wyoming, Ia., June 18.—Miss Marguerite Wilker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilker, will receive a degree as doctor of philosophy from the University of Wisconsin, Monday.

She received her bachelor's degree in 1924, and a master's degree in 1925 and was assistant to Prof. M. V. O'Shea in 1925-26 and held a fellowship in educational psychology 1926-27.

Miss Wilker is said to be the only Wyoming high school graduate to receive a Ph. D.

During the summer, she will teach in the Madison university.

The William Wilker family will motor to Madison to attend the graduation.



—Tru-Art Cut.

MARGUERITE WILKER.

WYOMING, Sept. 17. — Miss Marguerite Wilker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilker of Wyoming, will leave Tuesday for Ithaca, N. Y., to take a position as lecturer in psychology at Cornell university. Miss Wilker last June received her Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin. In 1925 and 1926 she assisted Prof. M. V. O'Shea at Wisconsin and in 1926 and 1927 she held a fellowship in educational psychology. She also took a two year teachers' course at Iowa State Teachers' college which she completed in 1914. Miss Wilker has the honor of being the first graduate from the Wyoming high school to receive a doctorate in philosophy.

Marguerite Wilker was awarded her Ph.D., Davenport Democrat and Leader, June 19, 1927 (left); Marguerite takes a position at Cornell University, September 18, 1927 (right)

From 1927 to 1930, Marguerite taught in the Department of Child Development and Parental Education at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. This was followed by four years as an associate professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where she collaborated on five books related to the subject of verbal influence on the behavior of children. Because of her work, President Herbert Hoover appointed her to a committee for his first child welfare conference held at the White House. In its April 10, 1939 issue, Time magazine reviewed her report, *Verbal Influences on Children's Behavior*.

On March 23, 1934, Marguerite married Edward Elsworth Johnson in New York City, and retired from teaching. Edward was a well-known figure in the Ontario lumber industry.

Edward was born in Waupaca, Wisconsin in March 1890. He received his law degree at the University of Wisconsin, and served as the district attorney for Marathon County, Wisconsin, before becoming legal counsel for lumber firms in Wisconsin before moving on to Ontario as a business manager for his Wisconsin employers. Edward eventually went into business for himself. That business included timber holdings, a sawmill and a fleet of freighters and tugs on the Great Lakes for transporting forest products.

**WEDS IN NEW YORK CITY; IS
ON HONEYMOON IN EUROPE**

This paper last week contained a rather garbled account of the marriage of Miss Marguerite Wilker of this place. A broken linotype machine at the wrong time, delayed receipt of repairs, and subsequent late hours of all on the force, resulted in a hurried issue of the Journal. We do really want our news printed correctly and when given to us correctly, as was in this case, we feel that a reprint of the article in its correctness is only due to the parties concerned and ourselves, with apologies to them.

The marriage of Marguerite Wilker of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Edward E. Johnson of Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada, occurred in the presence of a few friends at five o'clock, Friday, March 23, 1934, in the chapel of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church in New York City. The Rev. Merle Anderson of the North Presbyterian church, of New York, formerly pastor of the First Presbyterian church, of Ann Arbor, read the ceremony. Hazel Spencer Vorhees of New York City, attended the bride, and Edward Brown of East Orange New Jersey, assisted the groom.

Miss Wilker is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Wilker of Wyoming. She graduated from the Wyoming schools and later taught here for a couple of years, also in the schools at Anamosa. She attended the University of Wisconsin, receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy there in 1927, and taught for the next 3 years at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

In 1930 she became associate professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Michigan and director of the nursery school in the University Elementary school.

Miss Wilker is the author, with Ethel B. Waring, of a series of three books on "The Behavior of Young Children," and various articles in child development. She was recently granted a leave of absence from the second semester, part of which time was spent here with her parents, before returning east to meet her fiance.

Mr. Johnson was graduated in law from the University of Wisconsin in 1913, and was prosecuting attorney in Wausau, Wisconsin, until the World War. He served in the U. S. army two years and received his commission as major. Since 1919 he has been engaged in the timber, power and paper business, and at present is president of the Pigeon Timber Co., Ltd., and officer and director of associated companies in Ontario, Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson sailed Saturday, March 24th, on the S. S. Ile de France for a month in southern France and Italy.

Edward Johnson weds Marguerite Wilker, Wyoming Journal, April 5, 1934

Edward died October 12, 1953 at their Toronto home, and was reportedly buried in Lakeside Memorial Park, Waupaca, Wisconsin. (The photo used with the entry for him in Find A Grave does not show a headstone.)

Edward Elsworth Johnson, 64, a native of Waupaca who was a well-known figure in the Ontario lumbering industry, died unexpectedly at his home in Toronto, Ontario, at 7:30 Monday evening. He was born in March, 1890, at Waupaca, where he attended the public schools.

He received a law degree from the University of Wisconsin and later was district attorney of Marathon county for four years. Johnson was legal counsel for lumber firms near Wausau and in 1919 moved to Ontario where he became a leading business figure at Fort Williams and Port Arthur.

For years, he carried on a continuous battle over timber-cutting rights with the Ontario government and pulp and paper companies.

He is survived by his wife, Toronto; a brother, Alfred, Port Arthur, Ontario, two sisters, Mrs. Florence Ovrom and Mrs. Irving Hansen, both of Waupaca, and a nephew, Richard Johnson, who is now district attorney of Waupaca county.

Funeral services will be held at 10 o'clock Friday morning at the Holly Funeral home, Waupaca, with the Rev. A. S. Petersen, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church, in charge. Burial will be in Lakeside cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home Thursday evening and Friday morning.

Edward Johnson obituary, Post-Crescent (Appleton, Wisconsin), October 14, 1953

Marguerite died October 3, 1978 in Toronto. She was buried in the Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa.

Marguerite Johnson

WYOMING -- Marguerite Wilker Johnson, 87, died Oct 3, 1978 at Toronto, Ontario, Canada She was born at Toronto, Ontario on Sept 23, 1891, the daughter of William and Minnie Fawthrop Wilker

She taught rural school near Wyoming and then went on to receive her masters and PhD at the University of Wisconsin From 1927 to 1930 she held the post of professional teacher at Ithaca, N Y , and from 1930 to 1934 was a professor at Ann Arbor directing the pre-school area During this period she collaborated in compiling material for five books describing the verbal influence on the behavior of children

In 1934 she married Edward Johnson, a timber company owner, and retired from teaching The couple made their home in Toronto, Port Arthur, and Fort William until her husband's death in 1952.

In 1934 an article appeared in the Time Magazine outlining her influence on child behavior She was also a committee member of the first child welfare conference called by President Hoover at the White House

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. Mary Ann Riley of Campbell, Calif., four nieces and nephews, and four great nieces and nephews

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one brother and two sisters.

After a funeral in Canada on Oct 5, services were held at the Wyoming Methodist church on Oct 7 at 11 a m. with Rev Loren Simpson officiating Burial was in the Wyoming cemetery Pallbearers were John Hughes, William Hughes; Stanley Allen, John Eichhorn, Melvin Sievers, and William Reade

Marguerite Johnson obituary, Anamosa Journal, October 14, 1978



Headstone for Edward and Marguerite Wilker Johnson, Wyoming Cemetery, Wyoming, Iowa

Research Notes

Edward's name is included on Marguerite's headstone. I don't know if he was reinterred in the Wyoming Cemetery.

Aneata Helen Wilker

Mary Ann's sister Aneata was born in Wyoming, Iowa on December 12, 1892. When she was just seven years old, Aneata developed a serious heart ailment. She died from that heart ailment on February 10, 1906. She was buried in the Wyoming, Iowa cemetery.

Demise of Aneata Wilker.

Aneata Helen Wilker was born in Wyoming, Iowa, December 12th, 1892, and died at the home of her parents February 10, 1906. She had lived the christian life of a child from early years, but made her public profession and united with the Presbyterian church November 27th, 1904. From her 7th year she was afflicted with derangement of heart action, and had never been able to join in the usual sports of childhood, but endured the privation with a courage beyond her years. She was of sweet lovable disposition and always grateful for kindness of others who were thoughtful of her weakness. Her last days were full of suffering, which was patiently borne—no word of complaint ever escaping her lips. The funeral services were conducted by her pastor at the Presbyterian church, Monday, at 10:00 A.M. A large number of her schoolmates were present, nearly filling the body of the church. Mr and Mrs Wilker have the sympathy of the community in the time of their sorrow. "Suffer the little children to come unto me for of such is the kingdom of heaven. Their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

Aneata Wilker's obituary, Wyoming Journal, February 15, 1906

Research Notes

One obituary puts Aneata's age at her death as 14 years and two months, which would put her birth in December 1891. That wouldn't have been possible, given that older sister Marguerite was born in September 1891, and that Aneata was born in Iowa. Aneata shares a headstone with her parents. That headstone says she lived from 1892 to 1905. This is at odds with news coverage of her death, which was reported in February 1906.

Minnie June Wilker

June was born June 24, 1894 in Wyoming, Iowa.

AN AFFIDAVIT OF BIRTH LARGELY DEPENDS FOR ITS VALUE UPON THE UNQUESTIONED KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS GIVEN. IT IS THEREFORE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE PERSON WHOSE BIRTH IS BEING RECORDED THAT THE PERSON SIGNING THE AFFIDAVIT SHOW CLEARLY AND FULLY THE BASIS FOR HIS KNOWLEDGE IN THE SPACE PROVIDED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

**IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH—DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
BIRTH CERTIFICATE**

156980

(Explanation)
In past years many birth records were not filed at the time of birth as provided by statute, due to the neglect of those charged with the duty of filing said record. This affidavit is provided to take care of such cases and may be executed by the attending physician, midwife, parent, nearest relative or other person having full knowledge of the facts of this birth. NOT ACCEPTABLE IF SIGNED BY THE PARTY FOR WHOM IT IS MADE.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Minnie Fawthrop Wilker, being duly sworn, depose and say that I am 73 years of age; that I have known the person named herein for 49 years; that I reside at Wyoming in the COUNTY OF Jones STATE OF Iowa; that the answers given to the following questions are true and correct as I verily believe.

FULL NAME OF CHILD MINNIE JUNE WILKER
PLACE OF BIRTH: STATE OF IOWA, COUNTY OF Jones CITY OF Wyoming
TOWNSHIP OF Wyoming STREET _____

Sex of Child <u>Female</u>	Twin, triplet, or other <u>---</u> <small>(To be answered only in event of plural births)</small>	Number in order of birth <u>3rd</u>	Legitimate <u>yes</u>	Date of birth <u>June 24, 1894</u> Month Day Year
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Name of physician, midwife, or other person attending at this birth Dr. Martin Calkins

FATHER		MOTHER	
Full Name <u>William Wilker</u>	Birthplace State or Country <u>Ontario, Canada</u>	Full Maiden Name <u>Minnie Fawthrop</u>	Birthplace State or Country <u>Ontario, Canada</u>
Color <u>White</u>	Age at time of this birth <u>26</u> Years	Color <u>W</u>	Age at time of this birth <u>25</u> Years
Occupation at time of this birth <u>hardware mechanic</u>		Occupation at time of this birth <u>Housewife</u>	

That the basis of my knowledge for answers given above is as follows: Mother.

(Sign Here) Mrs. Minnie Fawthrop Wilker Mother
Name Relationship
STATE OF Iowa COUNTY, SS. Jones

On this 4 day of March, 1943, before me comes Mrs. Minnie Fawthrop Wilker and makes oath that the information given in this instrument subscribed by him is true and correct as he verily believes.

Joseph C. Scherr
Deputy Clerk District Court
County, Jones

My commission expires _____ State of Iowa
Do not write below these lines

Signature _____ Iowa County Registrar
OR
Signature J. S. Chancellor Date signed MAR 5 1943
(Acting Director Division of Vital Statistics)
Signature Walter D. Piercing M.D.
(State Registrar)
Date filed MAR 5 1943

Belated birth certificate for Minnie June Wilker

There was little mention of her in the local news until September 1915, when it was reported that she was setting off "for a year's work in the Teachers Training College" in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She next appears in the news the following spring when she visits her parents in Wyoming in April 1916 from Greeley, Colorado, where she was attending school at the State Normal School of Colorado. It was about two weeks before this visit when she gave birth to daughter Mary Ann in Kansas City, Missouri. After leaving Mary Ann with William and Minnie to raise, June returned to college.

June married Army Lt. Gardner LeRoy Williams on December 1, 1917 in Denver, Colorado, and soon moved to Oklahoma where Gardner was stationed at Fort Sill.

WILKER—WILLIAMS.

The beautiful wedding of Miss Minnie June Wilker of Wyoming, Iowa, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Wilker to Lieut. Gardner L. Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dayton G. Williams, Minneapolis, Minnesota was solemnized, Saturday, December 1st. at St. John Chapel in Denver. The bride was married in a beautiful white satin gown with old point lace trimmings. She wore a full length veil. The only ornament worn was a necklace of pearls. A gift of the groom. The groom wore his uniform. Their attendants were Miss Mildred Mayes, of Colorado, Springs; Mr. Jack Dunn of Denver. Bishop Anderson officiating.

The bride attended school at Monticello, Iowa and Greeley, Colorado, being a Sigma Phi. at the latter.

The groom is a graduate of Racine College and the spent one year abroad. He is a Phi Delta Tau and is now a 1st. Lieut. in the Field Artillery U.S. Army. The bride and groom will spend the winter in the South.

Gardner Williams weds Minnie June Wilker, Wyoming Journal, December 13, 1917

Gardner was born April 14, 1892 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Before World War I, Gardner worked as a shoe salesman. He then served in the Army from November 27, 1917 to March 4, 1919, where he achieved the rank of captain.

After his service, Gardner opened the first J.C. Penney store in San Francisco. For several years, he was an executive with J.C. Penney, including as General Manager of the San Francisco store from 1933 until he retired in 1952. He built a home in San Francisco's Sea Cliff neighborhood on a bluff just above Baker Beach, then and now a well-heeled neighborhood.



*House at 12 25th Ave North, San Francisco, Gardner and June's address in the 1950 U.S. Census;
© Google Street View*

June and Gardner had one son, Gardner Williams, Jr. Gardner, Jr., married Anna Lea McDonald, and they had four children.

Gardner, Sr. died on May 20, 1959 in La Jolla, California. Because he served in World War I, he was buried in Fort Rosencrans National Cemetery in La Jolla.

Gardner L. Williams Buried at La Jolla

Gardner L. Williams, manager of the J. C. Penney department store here almost 20 years, was buried Wednesday in the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery at La Jolla. Mr. Williams died May 20 after a long illness. He was 67. Born in Minneapolis, Minn., Mr. Williams was general manager of the J. C. Penney store when it opened here in 1933. He retired in 1952, and went to live in La Jolla in 1957. Mr. Williams is survived by his widow, Mrs. June Williams; a son, Gardner L. Williams Jr., of Gilroy; two brothers, Clinton B. Williams of San Francisco, and Keith Williams of Lansing, Ill., and by two sisters, Mrs. Thomas McManus of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Mrs. William Simpson of Minneapolis.

Gardner L. Williams' obituary, San Francisco Examiner, May 30, 1959

June died on May 8, 1967, and was buried with her husband.

June Williams dies; funeral Thursday

Funeral services will be held Thursday for June M. Williams, 72, a Los Gatos resident for the past seven years who was found dead of natural causes Monday at her apartment, 347 Massol Ave.

Rites will be at 2 p.m. at Chapel of the Hills and burial will be in San Diego.

A native of Canada, she is survived by a son, Gardner L. Williams of Gilroy; a daughter, Mrs. Mary Ann Hughs of San Jose; and a sister, Mrs. Marguerite Johnson of Canada.

June Williams' obituary, Los Gatos Times-Saratoga Observer, May 10, 1967



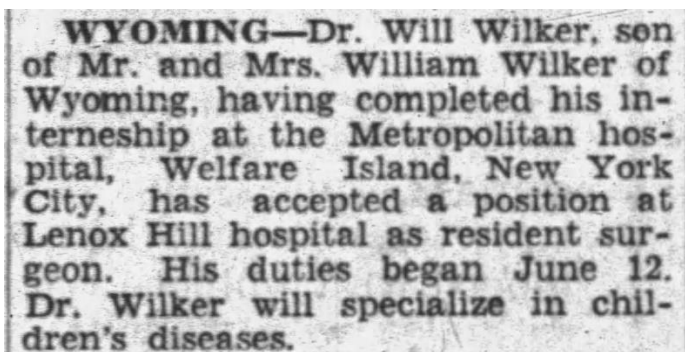
Headstone for Gardner and June Williams, Fort Rosencrans National Cemetery, San Diego, California

William Fawthrop Wilker

Will was born August 16, 1903 in Wyoming, Iowa.

Will graduated from Wyoming High School in May 1922, and enrolled at the University of Iowa that fall. He went on to attend medical school at the University of Iowa, graduating in June 1928.

After graduating, he served his medical internship at Metropolitan Hospital in New York City. The following June he accepted a surgeon's position at Lenox Hospital in New York City as resident surgeon, specializing in children's diseases. By early 1930, Will had left New York for a position at the Iola, Wisconsin hospital, where he practiced medicine for the rest of his life.

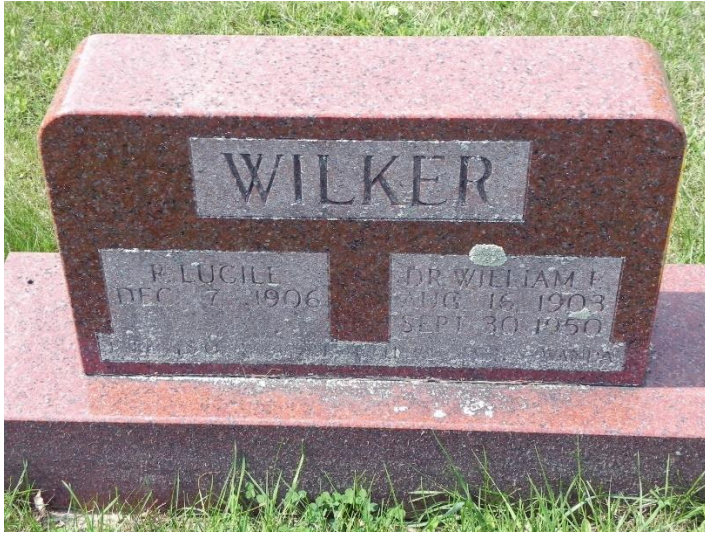


Will Wilker completes his medical internship, Cedar Rapids Gazette, June 13, 1929 (left)

He married Ruth Lucile Hall in July 1929 in New York City. Will and Lucile likely met at the University of Iowa, as she also graduated from there in June 1928.

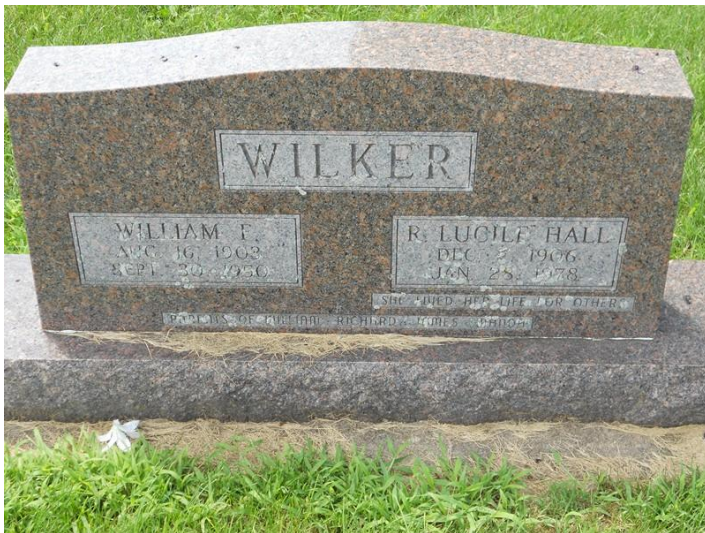
Will and Lucile had four children – Wanda Matthes, William H. Wilker, Dr. Richard Wilker and James B. Wilker – and several grandchildren.

Will died of a heart attack in Iola on September 30, 1950. He was buried in the Iola Riverside Community Cemetery.



Headstone for Will and Lucile Wilker, Iola Riverside Community Cemetery, Iola, Wisconsin

After Will died, Lucile and their family returned to Iowa City, where she operated a nursery for several years. Lucile died of a heart attack in January 1978. Her body was donated to the University of Iowa for medical research. She was eventually buried in a Williamsburg, Iowa cemetery, where her parents were also buried.



Headstone for William F. Wilker and Lucile Hall Wilker, East York Cemetery, Williamsburg, Iowa



LUCILE WILKER

Lucile Wilker

Mrs. R. Lucile Wilker, 71, of 947 Iowa Ave., died Saturday after she was stricken with a heart attack.

There will be no funeral. The body was donated to the University of Iowa for medical research. A memorial fund is being established to aid animals.

Mrs. Wilker was born Dec. 7, 1906, in Aitkin, Minn., to Ernest and Gertrude Groves Hall. She was a 1924 graduate of Iowa City High School and a 1928 graduate of the University of Iowa in home economics. She attended nursing school. In January 1929, she married Dr. William F. Wilker in New York City. The couple lived in Iola, Wis.

Following her husband's death in 1950, Mrs. Wilker moved to Iowa City and operated a nursery in her home for 25 years.

She was a member of the Iola Methodist Church, the Wisconsin Eastern Star, and the Pilgrim Chapter of the D.A.R. of Iowa City.

Survivors include one daughter, Wanda Matthes of Iowa City; three sons, William H. Wilker of Madison, Wis., Dr. Richard Wilker of Creston, and James B. Wilker of Antigo, Wis.; and one sister, Marguerite Fairchild of Iowa City.

Lucile Hall Wilker obituary, Iowa City Press-Citizen, January 30, 1978

Research Notes

Will's name is on Lucile's headstone in Iowa, but I don't know whether he was reinterred there.

Some Iowa birth records suggest that William was born in 1904, but most records and his headstone put the year as 1903.

Lucile's obituary said they married in January 1929, but New York marriage records put the date in July 1929.

Scenes from Wyoming, Iowa as the Wilkers Saw It



Washington Street, 1908



The Wyoming train depot



The north side of Main Street, 1909



The Williams Hotel on the south side of Main Street



The Methodist Church

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
Last updated November 1, 2024