

Kirtley Family Genealogy Notes

Nebraska

Mark B. Arslan
407 Highlands Lake Drive
Cary, NC 27511-9167
marslan@nc.rr.com

Kirtley Web Site: <http://arslanmb.org/kirtley/kirtley.html>

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*Franklin Co., Franklin County Sentinel, 1 Dec 1898, Obituary of William H. Kirtley
[#4423] {21376}*

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Franklin Co. Sentinel
Th. Dec. 1, 1898 5:1
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[Note: Williams brother, Thomas [#4427], was publisher of this newspaper at this time. Copy of Death Notice was purchased from Lynn E. Chase; 5120 Adams St.; Lincoln, NE 68504. – Glenda M. Jensen]"

Portrait and Biographical Album of Lancaster County, Nebraska (Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1888), pp. 662-663 {10242}

“ALEXANDER G. WILSON [#22211/1], who is prominent among the well-to-do residents of Middle Creek Precinct, is comfortably located on section 9, and carrying on agriculture after the most modern and approved methods. He is the offspring of a good family, and was born in that part of Green which is now Taylor County, Ky., July 14, 1831.

James Wilson, the father of our subject (sic), was a native of Virginia, in which State his paternal grandfather, William Wilson, was also born. The latter was there reared to manhood, where he lived until 1820, then removed to Kentucky, making the journey with teams across the mountains. He settled in what is now Taylor County, purchasing a tract of timber land, from which he improved a farm, and there spent the remainder of his days. James Wilson was a youth of eighteen years when his parents left the Old Dominion, and he grew to manhood in Taylor County, Ky., where he married one of its most estimable young women, Miss Betsy, daughter of John and Polly Spears. The father of our subject after his marriage purchased a tract of land seven miles from the parental homestead, a few acres of which had been cleared and where stood a log cabin. This rude structure served as a shelter for the young people until they were able to build a more commodious residence, and under this lowly roof our subject was born. It had been constructed after the fashion of that time, when nails were almost a thing unknown in that region. The chimney was built outside of earth and sticks, and the mother carried on her cooking by the fireplace. She also in the meantime spun and wove both wool and flax, manufacturing the cloth for her family for many years and also some to sell. The father industriously tilled the soil, and after the lapse of years gathered around himself and his family the more modern comforts essential to their well-being and happiness. His death took place at the old farm on the 14th of February, 1865, when he was sixty-three years old, the mother having died when our subject was quite small.

Our subject continued under the parental roof until twenty-two years of age, then leaving the farm started out for himself, engaging as a teamster from Taylor County to Louisville, 100 miles distant. He had served a complete apprenticeship at this employment, driving a team for his father from the time he was a youth of fifteen years. Now he purchased an outfit of his own, and was occupied in this manner until a man of twenty-eight years. He then rented a tract of land in Taylor County, where he followed farming until 1865 upon the soil of the Blue Grass regions. In the spring of that year he made his way to Logan County, Ill., and carried on agriculture there and in Mason County for the following sixteen years.

Mr. Wilson, in January, 1881, crossed the Mississippi, and making his way to this county secured the property which he now occupies and where he has since resided. This comprises 160 acres of good land, which yields bountifully the richest products of Southern Nebraska. He repaired the old buildings and added the new ones necessary for his comfort and convenience, and has now a good assortment of live stock and the machinery essential for the operations of the modern and successful agriculturist.

Our subject chose for his wife one of the most estimable young women of Green County, Ky., being married in November, 1857, to Miss Eliza Kirtly, who was born in that county, and is the daughter of Jefferson and Frances Kirtly, who were natives of Virginia, and who spent their last days in Kentucky. Of this union there were born nine children--William R., James T., Robert F., Henry, Charles, Nannie, Daisy, Rufus and Arthur. Mrs. Eliza Wilson departed this life at her home in Middle Creek Precinct, Feb. 29, 1884. Mr. Wilson contracted a second marriage, Nov. 11, 1885, with Miss Johanna Wright, the wedding taking the home of the bride in Lincoln Precinct.

The present wife of our subject was born in Henry County, Ind., Nov. 18, 1836, and is the daughter of James Wright, who was a native of Virginia, and the son of Rev. Reuben Wright, who was also born and reared to manhood in the Old Dominion. The latter emigrated to Henry County, Ind., during its pioneer days, where he purchased a tract of land and engaged in farming, spending there the remainder of his days. His son James, the father of Mrs. Wilson, although reared to farming pursuits, entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church when a young man, and preached in the State of Illinois many years. He took up his residence in Jasper County, Ill., in 1840, and labored in various places in that section of the State, traveling his circuit on horseback after the manner of the pioneer preachers. He rested from his labors in 1859. The mother was formerly Miss Lucinda McCormis, a native of Virginia, and who is still living in Missouri. Their family consisted of nine children.”