

George Wilson

Born: December 1, 1852 in Stafford Co., Va.

Parents: "Father" Wilson (c. 1805) and "Mother" Wilson (c. 1810)

Children of Father and Mother Wilson

Sarah	c. 1838		_____
Margaret	c. 1843		_____
Nancy	c. 1847		_____
George	1852	m Alice Rowe	1947

George Wilson (1852)

m 1876

Alice Rowe (1856-1908)

Children of George and Alice Wilson

Frederick	1879	m Unknown	1909
Georgia	1881	m Walter Bentley	1958
Murray (t)	1893	m Ina (?)	_____
Mildred (t)	1893		_____
Maude	1898		_____

Death

George: June 10, 1947 in Richmond; bur. Lakeview Cemetery

Alice: February 2, 1908 in Richmond; bur. Lakeview

About George Wilson

His Life in Virginia:

George was born on the Albion Plantation in Stafford County, Virginia, near Falmouth on the banks of the Rappahannock River (across from Fredericksburg). This was the home of George W. Strother and his family.

"Incorporated in 1727, Falmouth began as a prosperous business and shipping center. However, by the 1840s, the silting up of the Rappahannock River ended shipping activities and the town's business boom began to falter. In 1860, the town had a population of about 500." (History of Stafford Co., website.)

George Strother (1807) was the son of George and Sarah Kenyon Strother. He married Sarah and had five daughters and three sons: Sarah (1838), Mildred (1840), Marian (1842), Georgetta (1844), Catherine (1845), James (1846), William (1848), and George (1851). He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg. In 1850 his real estate property was worth \$30,000; his personal property worth \$37,500. This included 32 slaves. The Strother family had owned this land for generations. Albion was a plantation of hundreds of acres growing mostly

corn, some tobacco, some wheat. He and his older brother Ferdinand owned a mercantile in Fredericksburg (F & G.W. Strother) from 1830 until Ferdinand's death in 1834.

A report by "Historic Resources Survey of Stafford Co., Va." (Stafford Co Planning Dept., and Va. Dept. of Historic Resources, June 1992), contains this description of the Albion mansion: "Located on the south side of Route 3 and facing the Rappahannock River, Albion is an important Rappahannock River plantation. The dwelling consists of three parts. The original house is a small, one-room building from the eighteenth century with a steeply-pitched roof and a brick end chimney. The second portion, added onto the one-room building in the early to mid-nineteenth century, is a large, [3-bay] Federal I-house [with central passage]. The final two-story wing is a 20th century addition."

There were slave cabins and a separate cook-house. George's memories of the plantation: There were about 20 slaves, and 3 overseers. Slaves were rationed so much food a week, according to their age and the size of the family. In a cookhouse separate from the mansion were prepared daily servings of cornmeal for those in the fields and quarters. At Christmas and Easter, wheat and flour were given as a treat. (information from a news story 1941).

Henry, inock,	<p align="center">Public Sales.</p> <p>"ALBION" FOR SALE.</p> <p>A RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER FARM OF 550 ACRES.</p>
Or, the D. D., John	<p>Pursuant to a deed of trust from Geo. W. Strother and wife, to the undersigned, I shall offer for sale on</p>
TARY ix, in TON, liams,	<p>Tuesday, the 1st day of August, 1871,</p> <p>in front of the Auction Store of GABRIEL JOHNSTON, in the Town of Fredericksburg, that very valuable Farm in the county of Stafford, on which Mr. Geo. W. Strother is now residing, known as</p>
vania TTIE in the	<p align="center">"ALBION."</p> <p>This tract contains about 550 ACRES,</p>
a 25th years. ounty er of	<p>of which 220 acres are in wood, the remainder consisting of the best Rappahannock Valley land, lying adjacent to said river. No farm in this section of Virginia has surpassed this in profit from the usual crops of Wheat, Corn, Rye, &c. The Rappahannock river furnishes a highway to the best of markets North and South, and a beautiful road of six miles connects it with Fredericksburg, the market town of the vicinity, where there are numerous Churches and the best of Schools.</p>
ie res- AVUS of his e Col. f Fau-	<p>The Buildings consist in a</p>
	<p align="center">FRAME DWELLING,</p>
	<p>with 7 rooms, kitchen and the usual out buildings for farm purposes.</p>
	<p align="center">MARL IS FOUND ON THE LAND</p>
proved ly 3	<p>TERMS: The Deed requires the Trustee to sell for cash, but any one wishing to purchase can make liberal terms as to credit with the parties interested.</p>
TION piers, g pur- cent	<p>Parties wishing further information can apply to BRAXTON & WALLACE, Attorneys, or to the undersigned. THOMAS F. KNOX, June 29—ts, Trustee.</p>

The 1850 Slave Schedule documents 32 slaves of George W. Strother of Stafford Co.

Men	35-45	9	Father Wilson is one of those; also Richard Saunders
Men	18-25	4	
Women	35-45	3	Mother Wilson is one of these (age 32)
Women	18-25	2	
Boys	infant-7	5	George's sisters are in this group
Girls	infant-12	8	
Old woman	80	1	

His sisters Margaret and Nancy worked in the fields, as did George. His sister Sarah and his mother worked in the house as housemaids. He had a memory of seeing his father only once in his life. He was three or four and on Christmas Eve a man came to the house; George was told that this was his father. He had been sold to another plantation six months after George was born.

The Civil War was a time of great turmoil. Slaves were running away. (Richard Saunders was a runaway slave at this time who was advertised when caught.) Union troops were in Stafford County. In November 1862 Burnside's soldiers were camped all over the county. George remembered that "just before the Battle of Fredericksburg when the whole Army of the Potomac was concentrated near the shores of the Rappahannock under General Burnside. The...plantation was near this strategic point where Burnside planned to cross the river and push onto Richmond... soldiers camped all over the place and the whole countryside was in a tremendous turmoil."

One soldier camped in Stafford County noted in his diary: "The village of Falmouth is a wretched straggling old place, very dirty and now deserted almost entirely. There have been mills of considerable size here; indeed, the buildings are still standing though they look as if they had not done much work for years." (Col. Charles S. Wainwright, I Corps artillery)

Another soldier remembered: "Our permanent camp...was one mile west of the antiquated, weather-beaten hamlet of Stafford Court House. We never tarried in a poorer country. The whole Army of the Potomac, more than 100,000 men, was crowded upon the barren, ragged strip of ridges and hollows lying between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers. Every elevation on both sides of the railroad, from Aquia Creek to Falmouth, had a camp perched upon it. Our isolation from the outside world was...complete." (Union soldier from Indiana, winter 1862-63)

"The Union army occupied Falmouth from April-August 1862 and from November 1862-June 1863. They would later return briefly in 1864 during Grant's Wilderness & Spotsylvania operations. Most of the town was occupied by Union officers and the provost guard, among them was future Chief Justice Oliver Wendall Holmes Jr. who resided at Mrs. Dunbar's house which was located on present-day Carter Street. Only the Dunbar kitchen remains. Because of this occupation, many of the town's buildings were spared destruction and still stand today."

"The civilians of Stafford may have been the first in the world to suffer the devastation effects of modern war, having to host the entire Union Army from 1862 to 1863. Over 125,000 men – more that today's population – were housed, fed, warmed and entertained, straining the county's resources to the point of collapse." (Stafford Co., website)

The Battle of Fredericksburg was fought December 11-15, 1862. Before the battle Mother Wilson and her children left for Washington, D.C. This was a 60 mile walk north, along the Richmond-Washington Highway (Route 1). In Washington they lived in a room of a house on 10th street, "where we could look out the window and see Ford's Theater." On January 1, 1863,

the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. In the spring of 1864 a small pox epidemic broke out and hundreds of black people died.

George remembered the sadness of the people when Lincoln was killed April 14, 1865. He heard the news and rushed out into the street – as did so many others! “It seemed impossible that so many people and soldiers could have gathered together in one place in such a short time. People dashed madly in all directions, shouting that the President had been shot. I saw a woman bend down and touch her handkerchief to the pavement where a drop of the Great Emancipator’s blood was said to have dripped as he was carried across the street to a boarding house. It was impossible to pass through the street. Many persons wept openly.”

His Life in New York:

In May 1865, he was twelve years old and at the train station in Washington when a Union soldier, Bill Moffet, asked him, “Hey, boy, wanna go for a ride?” He went on the train with Bill and didn’t get off until they got to Livonia Station. Interviewed in 1941 at age 90 “his eyes still moisten with the memory of the mother and 3 sisters he left behind that day”

He arrived in Livonia June 1, 1865, then lived with the Moffet family until July 4. He went to live with Betsy Reed at Frost Hollow. He attended school at District #4, where he learned to read and write, finishing the 5th reader. He worked at the Reed and Barkley farms and later at the Pennell farm at Honeoye Lake.

In 1876 he met and married Alice Rowe of Lima. He remembered the early married years: “There were Mama and the children to take care of. Farming was a great deal more prosperous in those days and you worked hard from sun to sun. Then, too, on the Sabbath, I had my Sunday School class to teach down at South Bristol. They all are gone now (1941).”

In 1880 they lived in Bristol, then by the next year, when Georgia was born, they were in Richmond. He worked on various farms around town, eventually owned his own farm on East Lake Road (Wilson Point), three miles south of Honeoye, the next farm south of George Reed. George was known as a great student of the Bible and reportedly attended every funeral in the vicinity of Honeoye. “He was a friend to all who knew him.”

Comments of Louise Sellers (his granddaughter interviewed in the 1980s): “Grandpa always raised sheep and had an apple and peach orchard down by the lake.”

NOTES

Alice Rowe (1856) was born in Lima, the daughter of Horatio (1818) and Emily (1821) Rowe. She was the twin of Ann. Her other siblings were Maria (1846), Francis (1849), George (1852), Emma (1854), Josephine (1858), Phebe (1860). and Walter (1863). Horatio was from Dutchess County, New York.

At age fourteen Anne was attending school and working in the home of Albert Warner, his wife Ann, and their son Frank (white). She married George Wilson and gave birth to five children.

Alice died “at her home on the east side of Honeoye Lake of acute dilation of the heart Sunday evening, Feb. 2, aged 52 years. Mrs. Wilson was born in Lima... She was a kindhearted woman and a good neighbor.” (her obituary).

Frederick Wilson (1879) was born in October 1879 in Bristol. At the time of his death he was married (but I don't know his wife's name.) He died February 3, 1909 (age 29) of appendicitis. This was one year and a day after the death of his mother. His obituary said, "he was a young man of good repute and left many friends to mourn his early death. The sympathy of the community goes out to the family thus twice bereaved in so short a time."

Georgia B. Wilson (1881) was born in December 1881 in Richmond. She married Walter Bentley (1876-1953), of East Bloomfield, on December 24, 1901. He was a farm hand. They later lived in Rochester, Henrietta, and West Bloomfield. Their children were Lewis, Alice, and Jennie Louise. Walter died in a farm accident. (See below)

Murray Wilson (1893) was born in March 1893, the twin of Mildred. There is an "Edward Wilson", age 37 and wife Ina listed on the 1930 Richmond Census. Is this Murray? He died of a heart attack, age ---?

Georgia Wilson's Family

Georgia

m December 24, 1901

Walter Bentley (1876-1953)

Children of Georgia and Walter Bentley

Lewis	1903	m Julia Potter	_____
Alice	1908	m William Sellers	2002
Jennie Louise	1910	m Neil Sellers, Sr.	1987

Lewis Bentley

m March 29, 1930 in Rose (Wayne Co.), N.Y.

Julia Potter (1904-1962)

Children of Lewis and Julia (1940 Census):

Lewis	1930	m Anna Mae _____	2013
Norma Jean	1931	m _____ Reed	1986
Lola	1933	m Josiah McLeod	2011
Basil	1934		2011
Gerald	1937		
Geraldine (t)	1939	m _____ Morton	
Walter (t)	1939		2012
Dean	1940		
Deborah	1940+		
Sharon	1940+		
Bernard	1940+		
Robert	1940+		

NOTES

Julia Potter (1904-1962) was the daughter of Sylvester Potter (Oct. 1853) and Ida Johnson (April 1868). She died in September 1962 in Rochester. She and Lewis had two adopted children: Edward Dennis (1926) and Yvonne Dennis (1928).

Lewis Bentley, Jr. (1930) was born July 9, 1930 in Rose, N.Y. He died April 29, 2013. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Rochester.

Basil Bentley (1934) was born January 11, 1934 in Rose, N.Y. He died December 26, 2011.

Geraldine Bentley (1839) was born August 27, 1939 in Rose, N.Y.; her twin was Walter.

Walter Bentley (1939) was born August 27, 1939 in Rose, N.Y., the twin of Geraldine. He died April 8, 2012 in Elmira.

Alice Bentley (1908) married William Sellers (died 1983), brother of her sister's husband Neil. They settled in Walworth, New York. Their children were Wilma, Joan, and Joseph.

Jennie Louise Bentley (1910) married Neil Sellers, Sr. (1906-1982). He was the brother of her sister's husband William. Their children are Neil Jr. (1929-1989), Ronald (1932-1998), and Shirley (1933; married Frank Lucas).

1910 Census Rochester

Walter Bentley	33
Georgia Bentley	29
Lewis Bentley	7
Alice Bentley	2

1920 Census Henrietta

Walter	43
Georgia	39
Alice	12
Jennie	10

Rochester – Ward 3

Lewis Bentley 18, teamster for carting company
Lived in a lodging house on Caledonia Ave.

1920 Census Rose (Wayne Co.)

Julia Potter	15	in household of Sylvester Potter
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1925 Census Rochester

Lewis Bentley is living in household of Alex Williams (listed as “cousin”)

1930 Census Rose (Wayne Co.)

Sylvester Potter	77	
Lewis Bentley	27	son in law; married this year
Edward Dennis	4	adopted son
Yvonne Dennis	2	adopted daughter
Flora Philip	80	widow; mother in law

1930 Census Rochester -- Julia Bentley works as housekeeper in home of Albert J. Prescott

1940 Census -- The Bentley family lived in Elmira