

THE WILTSEE-WILLSEY FAMILY LINE

An interesting story is told of the early Wiltsee family in America. Recent research has proved that it is likely not true, but the legend has gone through the family, and there may be a shred of truth in it. It's fun to begin a story of our Willsey ancestry with it anyhow -

The first to arrive in America was Philippe Maton (Marton) Wiltsee, who came in the year 1624 with his family. It is certainly a fact that all by the name of Willsey in this country do derive from this common ancestor. Phillippe, who was a protestant born in Luxembourg had fought against the Germans and Spaniards in 1597. He had been born in 1570, and eventually settled in the Netherlands, where he married three times. His first wife is unknown, but the second was Phillipette Caron, and after her death in 1613, he married Sophia Ter Bosch of Overysse, Holland (born 1598, died in Holland in 1646). In 1621, we find on a list of French and Walloons who signed up to move to Virginia:

Philippe Maton, dyer, two servants; wife and two children.

Although the family did not go to Virginia, this indicates an early desire to move to the New World. A few years later, they were at Fort Orange in the colony of New Amsterdam, having arrived on the "New Amsterdam" in May 1624. In 1626, they moved to Waalboght on the west shore of Long Island, which was safer from Indians. The name Wiltsee was used since Philippe came from Wiltse in Luxembourg, and was originally Philippe Maton de Wiltsee.

The above is fact. Perhaps the next is true, also, but some historians think it only a legend. The story goes that Philippe took his two sons, Pierre and Hendrick and one servant and left during summer of 1632 to look over a place on the Delaware River which seemed suitable for settlement. On the way, he became ill and was carried to the quarters of the commander of Fort Swaendael in Delaware. While there, the Delaware Indians attacked the fort and murdered all who were there, including Philippe. The two boys, however, were taken captive and passed from one Indian band to another until finally they were sold as servants to Jesuit priests in Canada. They remained there seven years, and made their escape, returning to New Amsterdam after having been gone ten years.

Meanwhile, their mother, thinking her husband and sons dead, had returned to Holland in 1633 with her youngest daughter, Maria. The older daughter, Helen, had married and stayed in New Amsterdam. The sons returned to Holland to visit their mother, and Pierre stayed there. Hendrick, however, after some years, returned to the New World. He was listed in Public Records as "Hendrick Martense Van Coppenhagen." This seems to indicate that before his return, he had lived in Copenhagen.

Whether the above is all true or not, we can be sure that all those in America who descend from anyone named Willsey share the common ancestry of Philippe and of his son Hendrick, for they are the only ones known by that name to have come to this continent.

CHILDREN OF PHILIPPE M. WILTSEE AND SOPHIA TER BOSCH:

1. Lyntje (Helen) b. Holland 1618 - to New Amegsterdam in 1624. Married twice - first husband unknown (2) Adam Roelansten, the first Dutch schoolmaster in America. Later, they also returned to Holland where she died in 1646.
2. Pierre, b. Holland 1620, to New Am. with parents in 1624. Captured by Indians. He returned to Holland, where he married in 1660/
3. HENRICK MARTENZEN (see below)
4. Machelje(Matilda), b. 1625, Fort Orange (Albany) M. Andries Barentsen in New Amsterdam, and returned to Holland.
5. Martin, b. and died in 1627
6. Martin, b. 1628. Went to sea as a young man and not heard from again.
7. Maria, b. 1629 at Waalboght. Returned to Holland in 1633. She m. William Faestraels, 10 Oct. 1648. They had various children, all born in Holland.

SECOND GENERATION - HENDRICK MARTENZEN WILTSEE

Hendrick Martensen was born aboard the "New Netherland" in 1623, while his family was enroute to America. He lived at Fort Orange and Waalvoigt on Long Island, and according to the legend told previously was captured by Indians.

We know that he was a sailor at one time, and was in Europe for several years. After he returned to America, he served as a soldier at Fort Orange and Wiltwyck. He was sent to Quebec as an interpreter with the Mohawk Indians, and married a daughter of one of their chiefs, who bore him a son, 20 Nov. 1658, named Robert Richard Wiltsee. Later, he left the tribe, his wife, and son, and returned to New Amsterdam, where he met and married for his second wife, Margaret Meyers Jensen, widow of Herman Jensen, and daughter of Jan Meyers and his wife Treuntje Straitsman, 10 Jan. 1660. She had been born in Brazil where her parents were with a Dutch Colony who later removed to North America.

Hendrick was on the Muster Roll at Wiltwyck on 15 June 1661 during the Esopus War. He was reported killed, but had been taken prisoner. After his release, he and his family settled on a farm which he bought at Hellgate Neck in New York City. Their family records are found in the Dutch Reformed Church there, after May 1674. After Margaret's death, he married for a third time to Styntje (Christine) Adriance. There were no children of this marriage. He died in 1712.

CHILDREN OF HENDRICK M. WILTSEE AND MARGARET MEYERS, HIS WIFE:

1. Sophia, b. 11 Dec. 1660. Married at New York Dutch Church 10 Sept. 1679 to Theunis Herexen Crankeyt. She d. Sleepy Hollow (Tarrytown) in 1709. Issue
2. Jannetje (Jane), b. 7 Jan. 1663. d. June 1721. Md. (1) Myndert Hendrickzen Hogankamp. Moved To Tappen, N.Y. Had issue (2) Jean De.Pew. Issue
3. Barber, b. 1 March 1665. D. young
4. Martin Hendricksen, bapt. 3 April 1667. Md. Marritje (Maria) Van Wyck, 26 June 1690 at Flatbush N.Y. She died in 1725 and he in 1742. Was an apple grower and developed the Newton Apple. Had issue.
5. Hendrick, b. 24 Nov. 1669. Presumed killed by Indians on Staten Island
6. Myndert, b. 11 Feb. 1672. Md. Maria Brouhard, a French Huguenot. Moved to Raraton, N.J. Issue
7. THEUNIS HENDRICKSEN (see below)
8. Jacob H. b. 18 March 1676. Md. in 1700 Abigail Ferguson. To Philipsburgh, Westchester Co., N.Y. Had issue.

THIRD GENERATION - CHILDREN OF THEUNIS HENDRICKSEN

Thennis Hendricksen was born on 11 Jan. 1674 and died in 1741. On 23 Sept. 1697, he married Divertie (Deborah) Wilkes Barkman who had been born in 1674. He served as a private in Capt. Nathan Hayward's First Regiment, Queens Co. Militia in 1715; from Newtown and Dobbs Ferry. Later, he bought his father's farm at Hell Gate and lived there from 1706 until his death.

CHILDREN OF THEUNIS H. WILTSEE AND DIVERTIE W. BARKMAN:

1. Gartung (Gertie), baptised Flatbush 25 April 1698, md. John T. Ryker (1693-1781) son of Thomas and Grietie Van Benthuisen Riker. Md. at Closter in 1744.
2. Isaac, b. about 1700, m. Mrs. Sarah Wilsey. Issue
3. HENDRICK THEUNISE, b. 3 April 1702, bp. Jamaica, N.Y., d. Nov. 1794; md. Pieternelle Van de Boog, (see below)
4. Hilligant (Huldah) bp. Jamaica, 4 April 1704
5. Geradus, b. ca. 1706, d. 1762. Md. Effie _____. Moved to Morrisana, Westchester County, N.Y. Will proved 30 Aug. 1762
6. Deborah, bp. Brooklyn, N.Y. 9 Jan. 1709, m. 5 Jan. 1730 to Thomas Lawrence, son of John and Deborah Woodhull Lawrence. Issue
7. Sophia (no record)
8. Maria (no record)

FOURTH GENERATION- HENDRICK THEUNISE WILTSEE

Hendrick Theunise, son of Theunis Hendrickzen and Divertie W. Barkman Wiltsee, was born on 3 April 1702 and was baptised at Jamaica, N.Y. on 29 June 1702. He married Pieternelle Van de Boog who had been born 29 August 1703, daughter of Isaac Van de Boog and Hester Van Kleeck. Their marriage occurred on 21 Jan. 1726. They settled in Dutchess County, N.Y., where she died in 1785 and he in November 1794.

CHILDREN OF HENDRICK T. WILTSEE AND PIETERNELLE VAN DE BOOG

1. TEUNIS, b. 25 Feb. 1726 (See below)
2. Isaac, b. 17 June 1727, bp. New York Dutch Church 20 Aug. 1727. Married at Poughkeepsie Reformed Church 2 May 1751 to Catherine Swartwout, dtr. of Abraham Swartwout and Tryntjen Van Kleeck. Moved to Hackensack, N.J. before 1765, and later to Westerlo, Albany Co., N.Y. In February, 1775, he enlisted in the 8th Co., 2nd Reg. of New York Line and was a Lieutenant in Jan. 1782.
3. Deborah, b. 14 Feb. 1730, m. 12 Dec. 1748 to Rudolphus Swartwout, bn. 1726. They lived in Rensselaerville, Albany Co., N.Y. His will recorded 22 Nov. 1809.
4. Wilhelmus, b. 3 Feb. 1732, d. in Quebec, Canada, 17 July 1813. Md. (1) 1755, to Maria Pinckney who died in 1771. He married (2) her sister, Sarah Pinckney, both dtrs. of Jonathan Pinckney and Sarah Ward. He moved to Canada about 1790 with his family and a colony of relatives. Served in 1st Regt., N.Y. Line during Revolution.
5. Hester, b. 26 Sept. 1736, md. 23 Oct. 1754 to Thomas Allen.
6. Gerardus, b. 16 Aug. 1737, d. after 1800. m. Sarah Pinckney without issue. Removed to N.Y.C. before 1762 and then to Washington Co., N.Y. Served in 13th Albany County Regiment, and received land bounty rights.
7. Maria, b. 22 Mar. 1739, m. 27 Feb. 1756 Francis Jaycox, and resided in Dutchess County, N.Y. After 1783, moved to Westerlo, Albany Co., N.Y.
8. Abraham, b. 1740, m. Seltje Luckey.
9. Petronelle, b. 13 Feb. 1742, md. Ezeckiel Pinckney.
10. Hendrick, b. 27 Mar. 1746, d. 28 Jan. 1828. Lived at Berne, Albany Co., N.Y. m (1) Phoebe Wright in 1766 and (2) Elizabeth Waggner (1755-1831). Both are buried in Wiltsey Farm Burying Ground, South Berne, N.Y. Served in Revolution from N.Y. in the 4th Regt. Dutchess Co. Militia.
11. John, b. 28 Feb. 1748, d. 13 Aug. 1822 md. Jean W. Luckey (1751-1822). Buried New Hackensack Cemetery, Dutchess Co., N.Y.

FIFTH GENERATION - TEUNIS H. WILTSEE AND CORNELIA BARTLEY

Teunis H. Wiltsee, son of Hendrick T. Wiltsee and Pieternelle Van de Boog was born 25 Feb. 1726, their first child. On 2 Aug. 1751, banns for his marriage were read at the Dutch Reformed Church, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where he was married on 26 Sept. 1751 to Cornelia Bartley, who had been baptised 10 April 1734, daughter of Hendrick Bartley and Catryna Swartwout.

CHILDREN OF TEUNIS H. WILTSEE AND CORNELIA BARTLEY:

1. Henry T., b. 15 Jan. 1753 in Dutchess Co., N.Y., d. 18 Feb. 1835. Married 23 Jan. 1774 at New Hackensack Reformed Ch. to Margaret Miller, b. about 1752. He served in Revolution, and received a pension. Before 1790, he was in Albany County, N.Y. and later in Montgomery County, where he died 8 Feb. 1835. His widow later lived with her daughter Cornelia Wilsey and husband John Arnold.
2. Gerardus T., b. 29 Oct. 1755, Dutchess Co., d. 1800, md. Catherine Van Kleeck.
3. Catherine, b. 15 Mar. 1758, m. 25 Nov. 1782 to Robert Wilson of Rhode Island. She died Oct. 1833.
4. Hester, b. 29 June 1761, d. ____.
5. Rudolphus, b. 23 Dec. 1765
6. Johannes T., b. 29 April 1768, m. Margaret Crandell, moved to Westerlo.
7. Petronelle, b. 20 April 1771.
8. THOMAS, b. 24 Sept. 1773 (see below)
9. Cornelius, bp. 25 Jan. 1774.

- 10. Peter, bp. 19 April 1778.
- 11. Teunis, bp. 16 July 1780.
- 12. Mary, bp. 22 Feb. 1784.
- 13. Esther, bp. 11 March 1787.

SIXTH GENERATION: THOMAS WILSEY.

Little is known about Thomas Wilsey, and what I have is from an obituary: He died 17 Oct. 1847, aged 75 years. At that time, he was living in the town of Greig, Lewis County, N.Y. He was survived by his widow, Catherine, who died 25 March 1867, aged 99 years. Children:

CHILDREN OF THOMAS AND CATHERINE WILSEY:

- 1. Gertrude, wife of Joseph Alkins
- 2. Esther, wife of David Rugg
- 3. Polly, wife of Cornelius Van Aken.
- 4. Cornelia, wife of Aaron Haynes.
- 5. Charles, then living in Fort Plain, N.Y.
- 6. HENRY (below), living in Ohio
- 7. Philip, also living in Ohio

(I have searched everything that I can find looking for maiden name of Catherine, wife of Thomas Wilsey. Perhaps someday I will find it and we can add it to this.)

SEVENTH GENERATION - HENRY T. WILSEY

Henry T. Wilsey was born in 1795 in New York State, and married Orpha Snow who had been born in 1796 (or, if age was correct on her death certificate) in 1799, in Albany County, N.Y. I have also tried to find her father, but have no proof. The only Snow with small children in Albany County at that time was an Aaron Snow, and I think this is probably her family, but can not be sure. There were many by that name in various parts of New York. I have complete genealogies of families by name of Snow who were early settlers in Mass. and Conn., and am sure that these are her ancestors. They used the first name of Orpha frequently for their daughters, many moved into the upper New York area right after the Revolution, and they seem to be the only ones who could be her line. Someday, I hope to get the one piece of proof that I need to complete this lineage, and then we can add it to this book. I did find that an Enoch Snow had settled in Atwater and had a daughter named Orpha Ann Snow baptised at the Congregational Church there on 6 May 1836. He died 21 Sept. 1847 and is buried in the churchyard there. His widow was dismissed from membership in 1856, and there is no further record for this family, except for a picture of an Orpha Snow in my album, who lived in Michigan. My guess is that this is Orpha's brother, and perhaps the reason why the Wilsey family moved to Portage County, Ohio, where they arrived on 9 December 1840. In 1853, they moved to Denmark Tp., six miles east of Jefferson, in Ashtabula County, Ohio, where Henry died on 6 Jan. 1854. Orpha moved back to Atwater, where she married (2) a William Johnson. She died 28 March 1884, and is buried in Atwater Cemetery.

CHILDREN OF HENRY T. AND ORPHA SNOW WILSEY:

- 1. Alexander V. bn. 1822 in Schoharie Co., N.Y. (where all the children were born). He married Mary Clover on 3 Nov. 1846. She died 21 Feb. 1913, and he on 30 March 1890.
- 2. WILLIAM JARVIS (see below)
- 3. James H., bn. 1832, md. Arrmina Knapp on 24 Feb. 1853, and settled in Ashtabula County, Ohio. Md.(2) Adaline Meeks Williams, widow of J. D., in 1866.
- 4. Moses D. bn. 1834, md. 21 Nov. 1855 to Harriet McClintock, d. 10 May 1902.
- 5. Catherine - I do not have her birth date, but she married the Rev. Adam Moor.

EIGHTH GENERATION - WILLIAM JARVIS WILLSEY

William Jarvis, son of Henry T. and Orpha Snow Willsey, was born 3 October 1823 in Fulton Tp., Schoharie Co., N.Y. He moved with his family from N.Y. to Portage County, Ohio in 1840, where he lived the remainder of his life. He was married on 6 October 1853 at Edinburg, Portage Co., Ohio to Samantha L. Clover, daughter of Nathan and Hannah Roll Clover who were natives of Clarion County, Pennsylvania. Samantha had been born on 3 July 1833 at Deerfield, Portage County, Ohio.

William Jarvis died 2 Dec. 1906 at Edinburg, and Samantha 17 July 1914 at the home of her daughter, Cecelia Lois Adelia Willsey Gilbert, wife of Dix, in Atwater. Both are buried in the Edinburg Cemetery.

CHILD OF WILLIAM JARVIS AND SAMANTHA CLOVER WILSEY

1. Cecelia Lois Adelia, only child of William and Samantha Wilsey, was born 30 September 1854 near Atwater, Portage County Ohio. She was married to Dix Gilbert, son of David Daniel and Polly Wilson Dix Gilbert, on 16 October 1872. She died 7 January 1936. (See Gilbert Book for further on her).

Information concerning the Willsey-Wiltsee family can be found in the Yearbook of the Dutch Settlers Society of Albany, N.Y., Vol. 42, 1968-70. Information was correlated by Col. William V. Hannay, who got information from letters from descendants, church records, civil records, war records, and from two books: "Memoir of Philippe Maton Wiltsee and his Descendants" by Jerome Wiltsee Jr. (1908) and "Wiltsie Genealogy Book" by Nelson S. and Roger H. Wiltsie. Information concerning generations Seven and Eight come from my own research - from records at Portage County Courthouse, Ravenna, Ohio; from Ashtabula County Records; from Bible records; from newspaper clippings and church records.

(Preserved in my Grandmother MacLaughlin's Family Bible, I found the following obituaries which I am quoting):

(1) William Jarvis Willsey was born in Fulton Township, Schoharie County, N.Y., October 3, 1823. His parents, Henry T. and Orpha Snow Willsey were natives of that state. Mr. Willsey was one of five children. The Brothers, Alexander V., James H. and Moses D. having passed away some years since. One sister, Catherine, wife of Rev. Adam Moore of Canton, Ohio, still survives. Mr. Willsey removed to Ohio with his family in 1840, arriving in Atwater December 9, where his father purchased a tract of land which he cleared off and made a comfortable home for his family. In spite of the hardships of pioneer life, Mr. Willsey succeeded in obtaining a thorough education for thosetimes. He attended the public schools of his native state and also in Ohio, and at the age of 21 years entered what was known as the Atwater Academy where he studiously spent two years of his life; for five years following he taught school in various parts of Portage County, working on the farm during the summers. On 6 October 1853, he was united in marriage to Miss Samantha L., daughter of Nathan and Hannah Clover of Edinburg, Ohio. To this union was born one child, Cecelia L., wife of Dix Gilbert of Atwater. After marriage, he purchased land in Atwater, where he and his wife lived four years. In the spring of 1857, they removed to the Nathan Clover farm at Edinburg, where they lived until 1871, at which time he purchased and removed to the farm home south of Edinburg where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a great lover of home and known for his hospitality. He was always interested in educative matters, being president of the board of education for several years. He also served several terms as township trustee, assessor, justice of the peace, and public notary, which commission he resigned on account of failing health. Of a conservative nature, he performed these functions with eminent ability, and to the satisfaction of his fellow citizens. In the autumn of 1905, he was stricken slightly with paralysis. After this stroke, he never fully regained his former vigor, but retaining his mental faculties wonderfully

for one of his years, being able to meet and greet most cordially and in a jovial manner each member of his immediate family and many of his near relatives who assembled at his home on Thanksgiving day. He retired in not quite his usual health Saturday night, 1 December 1906. Toward morning, it was discovered that he had peacefully passed from the earthly to that sweet sleep of complete rest. Thus, the wife who had been his faithful companion for over half a century, the loving daughter, grandchildren, great grandchildren and many friends are called upon to mourn the loss of this loved one. "We cherish thy memory."

(2) Mrs. Samantha Willsey, widow of the late Wm. Willsey died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Dix Gilbert north of Atwater Center early Friday morning, aged 81 years. Funeral services in charge of undertaker, Walter E. Wood were held on Monday afternoon, Dr. W. J. Wilson officiating. Burial was made in Edinburg. The deceased spent nearly a lifetime in Edinburg township and is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Gilbert. Samantha L. Clover was born in Deerfield, Ohio, 3 July 1833, daughter of Nathan and Hannah Roll Clover. She attended the village school and completed her education in the high school in Edinburg. After finishing her studies, she remained at home with her parents until her marriage with William J. Willsey, 6 Oct. 1853. He died six years ago on the homestead farm in Edinburg. She then went to the home of her daughter where she spent practically all of her remaining years. She became a member of the Edinburg Church of Christ in earlier life and continued her fellowship until the disbanding of the church. Dr. Wilson truly said of her, "The infirmity of years prevented her from performing many public christian duties, but she continued to preserve consistent Christian character. The neighbors speak in high terms of her kindly disposition and her pleasant ways and were always glad to have her visit them." Her life was that of wife, mother, and homemaker. She was of New Jersey stock and preserved the inheritance of that sturdy commonwealth.

(3) Mrs. Samantha Willsey, who was the widow of the late Wm. Willsey, passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Dix Gilbert, in Atwater, Friday morning, 17 July. Her funeral was held from the same residence on Monday, 20 July 1914, Rev. Wilson, pastor of the Atwater Congregational Church being the officiating clergyman. The interment was made in Edinburg cemetery beside the remains of her deceased husband who had preceded her some eight years.

Mrs. Willsey was the daughter of Nathan and Hannah Clover, pioneers of Edinburg township. She was one of seven children but two of whom are now living, Horace B. Clover of Hartford, Mich., and Mrs. Susan Herald of this city. Although having passed the 81st milestone, she was up to her last two weeks' sickness in more vigorous health than her brother or sister who are younger. She was industrious, never tiring in doing for others, hers being a labor of love.

"Those were such dear heands;

They were so full; they turned at our demands

So often; they reached out

With trifles scarcely thought about

So many times; they did

So many things for me, for you."

She was a member of the Christian church of Edinburg which was recently disbanded. During the past three years she has spent a portion of her time in this city at the home of her niece, Mrs. J. H. Dussel on Freedom Street. While here she formed many warm friendships and will be missed here as in Edinburg, her old home, and in Atwater as well.

The door of the Willsey home was always ajar to the unfortunate ones. Many were the recipients of the hospitality and generosity of the aged occupants. No deserving person was ever turned away. Her belief was

"A rose to the living is more

Than sumptuous wreath to the dead;

In filling love's infinite store,

A rose to the living is more

If graciously given before

The hungering spirit is fled -

A rose to the living is more

Than sumptuous wreaths to the dead."

From: PORTRAIT AND BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF PORTAGE AND SUMMIT COUNTIES, OHIO
 Pub. by A. W. Bowen & Co., Logansport, Ind., 1898.

(The copy of this book which I have was originally owned by Samantha Willsey, and has her signature on the frontispiece)

On pages between 816 and 821, there are pictures of Samantha and William J. Starting on page 816:

"William Jarvis Willsey, notary public, ex-justice of the peace, and a prominent farmer of Edinburg Township, Portage county, Ohio, was born in Fulton Township, Schoharie County, N.Y., October 3, 1823, a son of Henry T. and Orpha (Snow) Willsey, both natives, also, of the Empire state.

Henry T. Willsey brought his family to Ohio in 1840, arriving at Atwater, Portage County, on the 9th day of December. He purchased a tract of about 36 acres in the wilderness close by, went to work with a will, and in a short time cleared off the forest, and made a comfortable home for his family. He soon afterward added to his first purchase 60 acres from the old Snow homestead, and later purchased 121 acres of unimproved land one-quarter of a mile north, to which he moved and on which he resided until 1853, when he moved to Ashtabula county, and purchased 160 acres in Denmark township, about six miles east of Jefferson, which he cultivated until his death, which occurred 6 January 1854; his widow survived until 28 March 1884, when she expired at the home of her son, A. V. Willsey, in Atwater, Ohio. To this couple were born five children, viz.: Alexander V., now deceased; William J., the subject of this biography; Catherine A. Wife of Rev. Adam Moor; James H., and Moses D.

William J. Willsey, the subject, was educated in the public schools of his native state and in Portage county, Ohio, which he attended until 21 years old, and then attended the Atwater Academy for two years; for five winters following he taught school in various parts of Portage County, working on the home farm during the summers. October 6, 1853, he married Miss Samantha L. Clover at Edinburg, the lady being a daughter of Nathan and Hannah (Roll) Clover. The father, Nathan Clover was born in New Jersey, 16 August 1792, and died in Portage county, Ohio, 17 September 1872; his wife was born 26 June 1797 and died 15 May 1877. They were parents of seven children, viz.: Dr. Davenport C., who died 25 Jan. 1876, Hadassah Hester, Mary Jane, Dr. Roll F. who died 28 December 1861; Samantha L., Horace Bigelow, and Susan Keron. Mrs. Samantha L. (Clover) Willsey was born in Deerfield, Portage County, 3 July 1833, was primarily educated in the village school and later attended the high school in Edinburg. After finishing her education she remained at home with her parents until her marriage. She is deeply imbued with the faith of the Disciples' church, of which she is a member. She has borne her husband one child, Cecelia Lois Adelia, who was born 30 September 1854 and is now the wife of D. Gilbert and is the mother of two children - David William and Edith Polly.

After marriage, subject purchased 36 acres of land in Atwater township, on which he lived four years. In the spring of 1857, he removed to the Nathan Clover farm at Edinburg, of which he had the full management for 13 years, but in the spring of 1871, he purchased his present farm of 100 acres of excellent land, on which he lives in comparative retirement. A republican in politics, he has been elected justice of the peace of Edinburg, and has also served as township trustee, assessor, supervisor, school director, and as president of the board of education. He at present holds a notary public's commission, and in every position he has held has performed his functions with eminent ability and to the entire satisfaction of his fellow-citizens, in whose esteem he stands very high. In conjunction with a brother, Mr. Willsey owns 45 acres of land at Atwater, on which are a store and elevator, and a brick dwelling. He has always been industrious and practical, and well deserves the esteem in which he is universally held."

Records of Congregational Church, Atwater, Ohio:
 Orpha Ann Snow, dtr. of Enoch and Sarah, bpt. 6 May 1836
 Sarah Snow, dismissed, 4 April 1856
 Enoch Snow, death, 21 Sept. 1847
 Catherine Snow, by letter, 13 Aug. 1821.

Buried in cemetery beside Atwater Congregational Church:
 Alexander V. Willsey, d. 30 March 1892, aged 70 years
 Mary (Clover) Willsey, d. 27 Feb. 1913, aged 84 years

Portage County Marriage Records, Ravenna, Ohio:
 Willsey, Alexander V. and Mary Jane Clover - 3 Nov. 1846
 Willsey, Phillip and Sally Whelon, 25 Aug. 1843

(My note: this is probably the brother of Henry T. who also went to Ohio, acc. to his father's obit).

From 1874 ATLAS OF PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO' pp. 28.

Alexander V. Willsey, Atwater Tp., was born in Greene Co., NY 2 Dec. 1819. He was the eldest son of Henry T. Willsey of the same place. In the year 1840, Mr. Willsey came with his father and mother to Ohio and settled in the north part of Atwater Tp.; his general business since his majority has been farming and carpenter and joiner work. He was appointed School Director; for ten years he held the office and gave general satisfaction; he had the office of Constable the office of Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, which office he holds at present and was also appointed Postmaster of Atwater in the year 1871. Mr. Willsey was united in marriage in the year 1846 to Miss Mary Jane Clover of Edinburg, Portage Co., by whom he has had 3 children - one son and 2 daughters, all of whom are living; one daughter is married. Mr. Willsey commenced life with empty hands; all the advantages of education thrown in his way consisted in part of three terms in district school. By industry and economy Mr. Willsey is possessed of about 100 acres of land and considerably interested also in the mercantile business. Although he has been reared among strong drink, yet he has always been temperate, and has no inclination for the monster hydra. His principal business now is the produce trade; he spent 2 years of his life on the Atlantic and SW RR as a foreman. Mr. Willsey has visited his native place once since he came here."

Death Certificates in Portage County Health Department:

HENRY NATHAN WILLSEY - place of death, Atwater Tp., Portage Co. Husband of Emma Willsey; date of birth: 8 Nov. 1852; age at death 71 y 3m 3d. Occupation: farmer. Birthplace, Atwater, Ohio. Name of father: Alexander V. Willsey, bn. N.Y. Mother: Mary Clover, bn. Virginia. Informant, Mrs. Henry Willsey. Place of burial; Atwater, O. Date of death 6 Mar. 1924; of burial 9 Mar. 1924. Cause of death anasarca and arteria sclerosis. Signed C.W. Cummings, MD.
 (Place of birth of Mary Clover is wrong - she was born in Penna.)

EMMA IRENE WILLSEY, place of death: Atwater Tp., wife of Henry Willsey. Born 26 Aug. 1854, age at death 81 y 2m 13d. born Atwater, O. Father: John Parker, birthplace unknown; Mother _____ Grate, unknown. Informant: Mrs. Mary Stark, Atwater. Burial: Atwater 10 Nov. 1935, undertaker Robt. A. Wood, Ravenna. Date of death 8 Nov. 1935. Cause of death: senile myocarditis. Snd. W.E. Unger, MD
 MARY JANE WILLSEY, death Atwater, O. date of birth 7-7-1824. age at death 88y 7m 20d. Widow. Birthplace Penna. Father: Nathan Cooper Clover, mother unknown/ Informant: G. B. Gelhart, Atwater. Date of death 27 Feb. 1913. Cause of death: grip, contributory: old age and weak heart. Burial Atwater O. C.W. Cummings, MD.

On an 1874 map of Portage Co. - tax map in Courthouse:

A.V. Willsey owned 21 acres next, to North, of D. Gilbert's 32 acres. Across the road he owned two pieces of land, one with 29.75 acres and one of 2.68 acres. Other neighbors were R. Siddall, Henry Myers, Harry Myers on west side of road; and Jno. Myers, O. Martin, and K. Siddall on east side.