

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Wilson, John Lowry, Sr. Senator Wilson,  
John Lowry Sr. - Represented Clinton County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 25 Oct 1857 near Albia in Clinton County in  
Elkhorn Township

2. Marriage (s) date place

Susan E. Cook 15 Dec 1880 Clinton County Iowa  
Hampshire Township

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business Was a stockholder, director and vice president of the  
First National Bank of Iowa; president of Farmers' Mutual Fire and Life  
Insurance Company in Albia, Iowa

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Clinton County Old Settlers  
Association; member of the District Fair Association; Eastern Star; Knights of  
Pythias

C. Profession Farmer - owned Admet Block Farm (near Percheron  
horse, Chester White swine and Pollock Durham cattle)

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1894, 1896. House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> 32<sup>nd</sup> 33<sup>rd</sup> 34<sup>th</sup> 35<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1898, 1900,  
1902, 1904, 1906, 1907, 1909, 1911, 1913 - Senate

A. Local Township Clerk, Township collector; Township school board treasurer

B. State

C. National

7. Death 31 Aug 1946 Clinton, Iowa; buried Oakwood Cemetery, Clinton, Iowa

8. Children Clara Vernon (Mrs. Hugh Clark); Charles M.; John L. Jr.; Anna E. (died age 10);  
Ollie (died at age 6)

9. Names of parents Matthew and Lybella (Rugh) Wilson

Wilson, John Long, Sr.

10. Education Educated in Elk River Township of Clinton County Iowa

11. Degrees Attended business college in Clinton, Iowa,  
graduating in Feb 1876.

12. Other applicable information Democrat

- He and his family lived on the farm of his parents until 1916 when they moved into Clinton.
- His wife, Susan born 25 Sept 1860, Clinton County Iowa died there in 1937.
- His parents left Pennsylvania settling in Clinton County, Iowa in 1855 where they rented a farm for 2 years. In 1856 he purchased 80 acres of land. He kept adding to his land until he owned 520 acres.
- John L. was reared to farming and stock raising with his father.
- Later, he inherited 140 acres making him own 500 acres in Clinton County.
- He retired in 1916 and left the farm to move into Clinton, Iowa.

Sources Log For Legislation Entries

Applicability

Source	Non Applicable	Applicable	Information obtained
-			<u>Obituary - The Clinton Herald, Clinton, Iowa, Sat. Dec 31, 1946, p. 8, col 3</u>
-			<u>Iowa Official Register 1913-1914, p. 652</u>
-			<u>ancestry.com (accessed 26 July 2009)</u>
-			<u>Iowa Its History and the Foremost Citizens Vol. III, 1916, pp 1836-1839</u>
-			<u>Senate journal 1947, p. 1502-1503</u>
-			<u>Biographical Record of Clinton County, Iowa 1901, p.</u>
-			<u>Portrait - The original copy of the portrait is located at the State of Iowa Historical Library, 600 E. Grand, Des Moines, Iowa</u>
-			<u>Outline of Personal History by The National Department of Iowa (located in the clipping file)</u>
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WILSON, JOHN L.



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# Father of Labor Day Was Peter J. McGuire

Monday, Sept. 2, will be a full day for members of the Clinton Labor Congress.  
For that day is their heyday, as

## JOHN WILSON, FORMER STATE- SENATOR, DIES



John L. Wilson, Sr.

John L. Wilson, Sr., 88, of 812 Fourth avenue, South, a life-long resident of Clinton county and former state senator, died in his home at 8:30 a. m. today. He suffered a hip injury two weeks ago.  
Services will be held at 1:30 p. m. Tuesday in the Shaddock funeral home. The Rev. H. E. Harned, pastor of the Church of Christ, will officiate, and interment will be in Oakland cemetery. The body is in the funeral home where friends may call.

Wilson was born Oct. 25, 1857, in Elk River township near Almont, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Wilson, who were early pioneers from Pennsylvania. His early education was acquired in district schools, and he later attended business college in Clinton, graduating in 1876.

**Retired in 1916**  
On Dec. 15, 1880, Wilson married Miss Susie E. Cook with the Rev. Charles Mahlow Lombard of the Lyons First Presbyterian church officiating. The couple lived on the old Wilson farm until his retirement in 1916. At that time they moved to the present address in Clinton.

In addition to farming, Wilson found time to devote his talents to the public interest. He was a consistent Democrat and was that party's successful candidate for state office in several elections. In 1893, he was elected state representative and reelected in 1895, serving in the 25th and 26th General assemblies.

In 1897, he was elected state senator from the 22nd district. Clinton county, and was reelected in 1901, 1906, and 1910. His legislative service thus extended through 11 successive sessions. Wilson was a member of Lyons lodge, 93, A. F. and A. M., DeMolay consistory, and was president of the Clinton County Old Settlers association.

Survivors are three children, Mrs. Hugh Clarke, Maquoketa; Charles Wilson, Clinton, and John L. Wil-

to the limit. He added, how-  
ever, that police alone can't insure  
adequate safety for students unless  
motorists, parents and the children  
themselves lend full cooperation.

It is for laboring people all over the country.

It is Labor day, and it means a holiday for all people. It means the closing of businesses and celebrations with picnics, parades and athletic events.

The father of Labor day was Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. In 1882, he proposed the founding of one day in the year to be established as a general holiday for the laboring classes. Agitation for a holiday to be designated as Labor day was also begun early in the same decade by the Knights of Labor, predecessor of the American Federation of Labor.

### First In 1882

As a result of McGuire's suggestion the first celebration was staged in New York City by the Central Labor Union on Sept. 5, 1882, with a parade in which more than 10,000 marchers participated. It became an annual affair in that city, and in 1884 the Knights of Labor adopted a resolution urging that the first Monday in September be considered a holiday for labor. Workmen of all organizations aided in the movement, and several states soon passed laws making it a legal holiday.

On June 28, 1894, Congress passed a bill making Labor day a legal holiday throughout the nation. However, legislative action was needed by separate states to put the bill in operation. By 1928, all the states and territories of the United States had passed such a law except Wyoming and the Philippines. The latter celebrates Labor day on May 1.

In Clinton Monday, the Labor Congress will sponsor a transcription of Sen. Claude Pepper's speech, delivered recently to the state convention of the Iowa Federation of Labor. The speech will be broadcast over KROS at 1:30 p. m. and 6:30 p. m. Another broadcast being publicized by the congress is the life of McGuire, which will be heard over the same station at 11 a. m.

### All Star Game

Although the annual Labor day picnic was postponed by the congress as a precautionary measure against the further spread of polio, that organization will sponsor the all-star game in Riverview stadium at 8 p. m. Proceeds will be used to give a banquet for both teams at a later date.

Only in the United States and Canada is Labor day celebrated on the first Monday in September. In every other industrial country of the world, it is celebrated on May 1, sometimes with bloody riots. In this country, too, May 1 is widely celebrated by working groups, although the day is not designated as a national holiday.

In Europe, trade unions and other labor organizations agreed on May day as their holiday at the meeting of the first congress of the Second Socialist International in Paris, France, 1889. It was originally intended that workers should enforce a holiday on May 1 no matter what day of the week it might be. Since this has frequently led to clashes

son, Jr., living north of Clinton; six grandchildren, Mrs. William Rick-off, Clinton; John L. Wilson, III, living north of Clinton; John Clarke, Elwood; Edward Clarke, Fayetteville, Ark.; Mrs. William Donaldson, Davenport, and Mrs. William Sandlin, Maquoketa; three great grandchildren, a niece and nephew. Preceding him in death were his wife, in 1937, his parents, two daughters, a brother and a sister.

## Funerals

**HERBERT F. (MIKE) MOORE**  
Services for Herbert F. (Mike) Moore, 68, of 229 Nineteenth place, who died Wednesday, were held at 2:30 p. m. today in the Pape funeral home.

The Rev. A. S. McCullough, Morrison, Ill., officiated, and interment was in Springdale cemetery.

Palbearers were John Kromrey, Fred Eads, Richard Eads, Robert Hockman, Eugene Bull and Ronald Bull, grandchildren of the deceased.

**MRS. DETLEF O. PASSICK**  
Services for Mrs. Detlef O. Passick, 67, of 145 1/2 Fourth avenue, South, who died Wednesday, were held at 2 p. m. today in the Snell funeral home.

The Rev. F. E. Schoenbohm, pastor, Zion Lutheran church, officiated, Miss Effie Gramstrup played organ selections, and Gilbert Hennings sank. Burial was in Springdale cemetery.

Palbearers were nephews, Walter and Harold Joens, Henry and Claus Jessen, Peter and Marvin Nielsen.

Out-of-town relatives present were Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Heinz, Arcadia; Mrs. Heinz Brandt and Ferd Hill, Manning; Mrs. Anna Olson McCabe, Mont.; Miss Adele Anderson, Culbertson, Mont.; Mr. and Mrs. Ed McQuellan and Mr. and Mrs. Ed McQuellan, Jr., Peoria, Ill.; Mrs. Mary Hallinan, Mrs. Ida Meyers, Chris Peters, Charles Pranger and Mr. and Mrs. Al Joens, Blue Island, Ill.; Mrs. Arthur Koch, Ottawa, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. John Passick, daughter, Alberta, son, Jack, and Hans Sorenson, DeWitt; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Joens, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. Leo Stephanic and Frank Joens, Cedar Rapids.

## DREDGE WILL START WORK HERE TUESDAY

A government dredge is expected to start Tuesday on pumping sand from the Mississippi river into the low, marshy area bordering Sixth

with the police, it now usually falls upon the nearest Sunday to May 1.

In Great Britain, the Labor day celebration generally takes place on the first Sunday after May day, and in London the workers meet in Hyde Park for their traditional festivities. May 1 is an official holiday in the United States, but its observance was introduced in Italy in the past.

Not given; compared with 1934, week's day's receipts largest since 1924, weekly total going back to last July; unusually wide proportion medium to good grade steers in only fishy feeder condition in run; choice fed steers closed steady, medium to good grades unevenly 1.0-4.00, mostly 2.08-3.00 down; choice heifers weak to 1.00 lower, others 2.00-4.00 off; very ragged market late as most grades and classes still stand far above OPA compliance prices due for reinstatement next Monday; beef cows 1.00-2.00 lower; canners and cuters 25-75 cents down; bulls generally 1.00 lower, and vealers 1.00-2.00 down, medium and good grades falling most; extreme top steers 30.25; several loads 29.00-30.10; best 970 lb. yearlings 30.00; best heifer yearlings 23.50 but odd head choice kinds reached 25.00; grassy and shorted medium to good grade steers closed at 15.00-19.50 mostly, good weasty kinds

avenue, North, north of Riverview park.

The dredge arrived here this week and has been working across the river along the Illinois bank.

A park official said today that work on the Iowa side is expected to get under way Tuesday.

## GRAND MOUND MAN ADMITS BAD CHECK

Sam P. Schilling of Grand Mound pleaded guilty yesterday in district court to false drawing and uttering a check and was sentenced to a year in jail by District Judge W. L. Keck.

Schilling who has been in custody since April 29 awaiting grand jury action, was given credit for the time he has served and the balance of the sentence was suspended.

He pleaded to a county attorney's true information which alleged false drawing of a \$35 check.

## TWO MINOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS REPORTED

Two minor traffic tangles were on the police accident report today. Norman A. Phillips, Savanna, Ill., reported that at 3:10 p. m. yesterday at Ninth avenue, South, and Third street his car was struck in the rear by a truck owned by the W. G. Block company.

Earlier, at 2:30 p. m., Morris M. Wieser, Dubuque, reported an accident at the Eclipse Lumber company. He said he was backing his truck into the yard and hit a car which pulled in behind him.

**COMBINED HOG RECEIPT**  
Des Moines, Aug. 31—USDA—combined hog receipts at 19 conceal yards and 11 packing plants local interior Iowa and southern Iowa for the 24 hour period ending 8 a. m. today were 3,300 cars with 38,000 a week ago and 16,700 ago.

Market rather active, steady or more higher. Week end mail much lighter than 19,600 a earlier.

**CHICAGO GRAIN TABLE**  
Chicago, Aug. 31—(AP)—

	High	Low	Close
<b>WHEAT—</b>			
Jan. 197	1.96 1/2	1.96 1/2	1.96 1/2
Mar. 194	1.93	1.93 1/2	1.93 1/2
May 192 1/2	1.90	1.91 1/2	1.91 1/2
<b>CORN—</b>			
Jan. 136 1/2	1.35 1/2	1.36 1/2	1.36 1/2
Mar. 135 1/2	1.34	1.35	1.35
<b>OATS—</b>			
Sept. 76 1/2	.75 1/2	.76 1/2	.76 1/2
Nov. 73 1/2	.73	.73 1/2	.73 1/2
Dec. 72 1/2	.72 1/2	.72 1/2	.72 1/2
Mar. 72 1/2	.72	.72 1/2	.72 1/2
<b>BARLEY—</b>			
Nov. ....	.....	1.35	1.35
Dec. ....	.....	1.35	1.35
Mar. ....	.....	1.35	1.35

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**We are now AUTHORIZED DEALER for Pillsbury's Best Feeds!**

This announcement is important because it means so much to you — our friends and customers. It links our organization with a great line of feeds and concentrates under the famous old Pillsbury's Best Trademark. It combines our sincere efforts to serve you with quality products for your every-day use, consistent and profitable for your own feeding methods.

**Pillsbury's BEST FEEDS**

For all Livestock and Poultry

**CHARLOTTE LUMBER CO.**  
PHONE 801 CHARLOTTE, IOWA

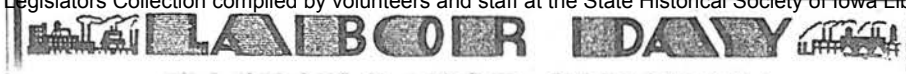
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THE  
BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD  
OF  
CLINTON COUNTY,  
IOWA.

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ILLUSTRATED.

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*The people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations.*"—MACAULAY.

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CHICAGO:  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY.  
1901

WISCONSIN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

contain three hundred and twenty acres, upon which he has built a commodious house and barn, together with other buildings, and has also set out fruit, shade and ornamental trees. In connection with the operation of his farm, Mr. Crampton is engaged in breeding and raising thoroughbred Hereford cattle, of which he now has a fine herd of eighty, and he feeds about two car-loads of stock for market each year. He is a progressive and up-to-date farmer, and is meeting with marked success in his labors.

Politically Mr. Crampton is a staunch supporter of the men and measures of the Republican party, and takes a deep and commendable interest in public affairs. He served two years as school director and as road supervisor two terms. His wife was reared in the Lutheran faith and is now a member of the church of that denomination at Elvira. He attends church with her and assists in its support, although he is not a member of any religious body. He is a man who commands the respect and confidence of all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life, and those who know him best are numbered among his warmest friends.

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#### HON. JOHN L. WILSON.

Hon. John L. Wilson is one of the leaders of the Democratic party in Clinton county, his large acquaintance and unbounded popularity giving him an influential following, while his shrewd judgment of men and affairs make his counsel of value in all important movements. He is also one of the most successful farmers and stock-raisers of Elk River township, his home being on section thirty-six. He is a son of Matthew

and Sybella (Rugh) Wilson, both natives of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, where they were married June 21, 1849. In early life the father learned the carpenter's trade, and was employed as ship carpenter on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers for two years. He spent about fourteen years on the water, however, and rose to the rank of first mate, in which capacity he was serving when he left the river. Returning to his native county, he made his home there for a few years after his marriage, during which time two children were born to him, and the older one died. In 1855 he came to Clinton county, Iowa, and rented a farm adjoining that now owned and occupied by our subject. Shortly afterward he purchased eighty acres of wild land, and in 1865 erected a stone house upon that place, making it his permanent home. As one of the early settlers of the county, he was actively identified with its growth and development, and was always regarded as one of the most useful and valued citizens of his community. The services he rendered his fellow townsmen were widespread and cheerfully given, and he was held in the highest regard by all who knew him. In his political views he was a stalwart Democrat, and never wavered in his allegiance to his party. He died August 27, 1884, and his wife passed away May 17, 1882. She was a faithful and consistent member of the Lutheran church; was gentle and motherly, and won many friends by the sweetness and beauty of her life.

Of the four children born to them, the oldest and youngest both died when quite young. Of those living Anna M. is the older, and to her the father left the five hundred and twenty acres of land he owned in Story county, Iowa. She is the wife of James Robb, a successful farmer and stock-

raiser of that county, who is the owner of nine hundred acres of valuable farming land there, and is now practically living retired in Ames. They have three children, Lula, Roy and Glenn.

John L. Wilson, of this review, completes the family. He began his education in the district schools of Elk River township, and later attended the Clinton Commercial Business College, where he was graduated with high honors in penmanship and bookkeeping, February 18, 1876, receiving his diploma and the commendation of all concerned in his success. To him his father left all his property in Clinton county, and he now has a fine farm of three hundred and sixty acres in Elk River township, under a high state of cultivation and well improved. Besides this property he owns ninety acres of timber land, and is to-day one of the most prosperous and substantial men of his community. He devotes considerable attention to stock-raising, and in all his undertakings is meeting with marked success.

On the 15th of February, 1880, Mr. Wilson married Miss Susie E. Cook, who was born in Hampshire township, this county, September 25, 1860, and was educated in the district schools. Her parents, John B. and Rebecca (Miller) Cook, were born, reared and married in Ohio, and in 1848 came to Iowa, locating in Hampshire township, Clinton county. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson became the parents of five children, namely: Anna E., who died at the age of ten years; Charles M., who is taking a commercial course at the Clinton Business College; Ollie, who died at the age of six years; John L., Jr., and Clara Vernon, both at home.

Socially Mr. Wilson is a thirty-second-degree Mason, and a member of the East-

ern Star Chapter, and also belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He is pre-eminently public-spirited and progressive, and does all in his power to advance the interests of his township and county. He has not only been called upon to fill various local offices, but has been elected to the twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth, twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth general assemblies, being the only Democrat on his ticket elected in 1894, while in the twenty-eighth general assembly he was one of the four Democrats appointed chairman of a committee, securing the chairmanship of the committee on public lands. He was also a member of the committee on appropriations; congressional and judicial districts; agriculture, military, federal relations; and banks. In 1898 he served on the railroad and commerce, claims, compensation of public offices, animal industry, industrial schools, representative districts, ways and means committees. He ably represented his district, and was one of the most active and influential members of the house.

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CLAUS C. RUUS.

One of the energetic and successful agriculturists of Clinton county is Claus C. Ruus. He was born May 5, 1836, in the village of Apenrade, Schleswig, then a part of Denmark. Our subject was the son of Claus A. and Margarita (Hoeck) Ruus, life-long residents of that place. The father of our subject was a ship carpenter by trade, which occupation he followed up to the time of his death. Mr. Ruus received his early education in the village of his nativity, attending school until about the age of fourteen, when he started to learn the trade of cabinet maker. This occupation



# IOWA

*Its History and Its Foremost  
Citizens*

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME III

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CHICAGO  
THE S. J. CLARKE PUBLISHING COMPANY  
1916

21072

spoken of by a contemporary biographer as a man "whose splendid physique is but the expression of a still broader, stronger and more stalwart nature. With him life is real and earnest and he attacks each duty with a contagious enthusiasm that produces gratifying results."

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JAMES F. POWELL.

James F. Powell, publisher of the Ottumwa Courier, was born in Harrington, Delaware, August 16, 1868, a son of C. C. and Kate (Fountain) Powell, who were natives of Delaware and Maryland respectively. When his textbooks were put aside he turned his attention to the printing trade, mastering the mechanical processes of the business and gradually working his way upward to positions of importance in connection with newspaper publication. In 1895 he became foreman on the Ottumwa Courier and five years later was advanced to the position of assistant business manager. In 1901 he became business manager and in 1905 took over the publication of the paper, to which he now devotes his time and energies. He is interested in the Lee Newspaper Syndicate and is one of the prominent representatives of newspaper interests in Iowa.

On the 11th of September, 1907, in Fremont, Nebraska, Mr. Powell was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Gardner, a native of Nebraska and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gardner, who removed to that state from Illinois. Mr. and Mrs. Powell have three sons, Robert, John and William. The family attended the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Powell gives his political allegiance to the republican party, but aside from manifesting a citizen's interest in the questions and issues of the day, is not active in politics. He is a Mason and Elk and has some club relations but could not be called a club man in the usual sense of the term, as his time and energies are concentrated upon his business affairs.

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HON. JOHN L. WILSON.

Whenever a resident of Clinton county is asked to name the most prominent farmers of the district, almost immediately is mentioned the name of John L. Wilson, proprietor of the Walnut Stock Farm, whose important agricultural and stock raising interests place him in a prominent position in business circles, while his public spirit has gained him recognition as one of the foremost citizens of the county. He was born October 25, 1857, on the farm where he now resides, his parents being Matthew and Sybbila (Rugh) Wilson, both of whom were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were reared and married. The former was a son of John and Nancy Wilson, and John Wilson was the progenitor of this branch of the family in America, coming from Ireland with his parents, who settled in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, when he was eight years of age. He spent his life as a farmer and continued his residence in Allegheny county until called to his final rest. In politics he was a stalwart democrat but never cared to hold office. His religious affiliation was with the Presbyterian church. M. J. Stick, the maternal uncle of Sybbila

Wilson, was a Lutheran minister who was born in Germany but came to America and occupied many pastorates in this country. His profession made him widely known and he was highly respected, enjoying the unqualified confidence and esteem of the people. In politics he was a democrat and passed away in Pennsylvania, after rearing a large family.

Matthew Wilson was the second son in a family of three sons and three daughters. He remained at home until twenty-two years of age and then engaged in steamboating on the Ohio and lower Mississippi rivers, occupying the position of mate. In those days the river offered many attractions and opportunities to a young man of spirit, for the waterways were the principal methods of travel and transportation. While thus engaged Mr. Wilson was married and soon afterward left the river to take up his abode upon a farm in Pennsylvania, but believing that there were better opportunities in the west, he left the Keystone state and made his way to Clinton county, Iowa, in 1855, after which he rented a farm for two years. He brought with him to Clinton county his wife and one child, a wagon, team of horses and four hundred dollars in money. In 1856 he purchased eighty acres of land upon which was a little house, and with characteristic energy he began to cultivate and improve the place, adding to his holdings from time to time until he owned three hundred and ninety acres of farm land and ninety acres of timber land in Clinton county, together with five hundred and twenty acres in Story county, Iowa, with two hundred acres under cultivation. He was a very hard-working, industrious man and an able financier and with the assistance of his wife, who indeed proved to him a helpmate, he accumulated a large estate. Clinton county was new and undeveloped when he became one of its residents and he assisted in promoting its social and moral progress by every means in his power and aided in upholding the legal and political status, thus laying the foundation of good government. For years he carried on general farming and stock raising and his surplus earnings were satisfactorily invested in lands. His business career demonstrated the fact that he possessed ability and judgment far above the average. In politics he was an uncompromising democrat but he preferred not to hold office. Reared in the Presbyterian faith, he never departed from it and remained a consistent and loyal member to the time of his demise. His honor and integrity were never impeached or questioned and he was most widely known and highly respected. On the 27th of August, 1884, he departed this life, having for a little more than a year survived his wife, who died on the 17th of May, 1883. She was a devoted Christian woman, holding membership in the Lutheran church. Four children were born to their union, of whom the eldest, Martha, and the youngest, Benjamin F., died in infancy. Anna M., the second child, married James Robb, lived for many years on the Story county farm which was given to her by her father and now resides in Ames, Iowa.

John L. Wilson was reared to farming and stock raising and attended the district schools and the Clinton Business College, being graduated from the latter on the 18th of February, 1876. By the terms of his father's will he inherited the homestead property, to which he has added one hundred and forty acres, making his total real estate holdings over five hundred acres, constituting one of the largest farms in Clinton county. While carrying on general agricultural pursuits, he has given his attention most prominently to the breeding of standard high grade stock. Percheron horses. Chester White swine and Polled Durham cattle and handles alto-

gether registered stock. His home place, known as the Walnut Stock Farm, is one of the finest stock farms of the state. The place is well watered and highly improved and convenient arrangements have been made for carrying on the business of stock raising. The place is situated about six and one-half miles from Clinton and upon the farm are two large barns and sheds and other outbuildings, furnishing adequate shelter for stock, grain and farm machinery. His residence is a commodious three story house and no equipment of the model farm of the twentieth century is lacking. By the consensus of public opinion Mr. Wilson ranks among the foremost agriculturists of eastern Iowa. Moreover, he is well known as a stockholder, director and the vice president of the First National Bank of Lyons and he has many other business interests.

On the 15th of December, 1880, Senator Wilson was united in marriage to Miss Susie Cook, whose birth occurred in Clinton county, September 25, 1860, her parents being John B. and Rebecca (Miller) Cook, who were born, reared and married in Ohio. John B. Cook, a farmer and carpenter, was one of the earliest settlers of Clinton county and became prominent and well known. He was a strong republican but never aspired to office. His death occurred on December 30, 1906, and his widow now lives at Lyons, to which city they had retired. They became the parents of eight children, as follows: one who died in infancy; Martha, who married Nobert Boyd, by whom she had one daughter, and after his demise became the wife of A. E. Boynton; George F., an agriculturist by occupation; Susie, the wife of Senator Wilson; Perry R., a traveling salesman; William, who was a contractor and is now deceased; Anna, who passed away when thirteen years of age; and Robert, who was employed as clerk on a steamboat and was accidentally drowned. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson became the parents of five children, as follows: Annie E., who died on the 2d of May, 1891, aged nine years and seven months; Charles, who was born October 30, 1883, married Freda Abrecht and cultivates a portion of the home farm; Ollie R., who passed away on the 10th of May, 1891, at the age of five years and three months, she and Annie dying of diphtheria; John L., Jr., who was born November 17, 1887, and married Florence Briggs, daughter of Harry and granddaughter of Stephen Briggs, who was a well known banker in Lyons; and Clara V., who was born August 26, 1892, and gave her hand in marriage to Hugh Clarke, a raiser of blooded stock. They reside near Elwood, Iowa, and have one son, John Wilson Clarke.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are earnest Christian people, the former being a consistent member of the Lutheran church and the latter an active member of the Episcopal church. In his fraternal relations Mr. Wilson is a Mason, holding membership in Lyons Lodge, No. 93, F. & A. M., and De Molay Consistory, A. & A. S. R. He is also connected with the local chapter of the Eastern Star and with the Knights of Pythias. In politics he has always affiliated with the democratic party and is a strong advocate of its principles, recognized as one of the party leaders in Iowa. For many years he has labored untiringly to secure democratic successes and he has filled various township and local offices and has served as a member of the county central committee. In 1891 he was elected to the lower house of the general assembly and filled that position during the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth sessions, while on the expiration of his term he was elected to the senate, in which he remained a member from the twenty-seventh to the thirty-fifth sessions inclusive, holding the record for the longest term of continuous service in the legislature of any

man in Iowa. His course was ever most satisfactory to his constituents, and although many times he sought to retire from active politics, his party continued to nominate him and the people to elect him without consulting his feelings. This was indeed a case in which the office sought the man. By reason of his long term of service and his extensive acquaintance in the state capital, Mr. Wilson was able to do valuable legislative work for his constituents. He served on many important committees, including the public lands committee, of which he was chairman, the committees on ways and means, appropriations, agriculture, schools, cities and towns, telegraph and telephones and highways. He ever proved an active working member of both house and senate and was connected with much constructive legislation. Of Iowa's men prominently identified with the work of framing her laws, none has continued longer in office and there is none who has been more faultless in honor, fearless in conduct and stainless in reputation.

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EDWIN MANNING.

The spirit of self-reliance as exhibited in the energetic action of individuals has at all times since the birth of our republic formed a marked feature of American character and furnishes the true measure of our power as a nation. In all eras of development and progress there have been demanded leaders—men who had the sagacity to conceive, the prescience to discern ultimate conditions and the courage and ability to set in motion the occult machinery necessary to bringing about this development. The system of demand and supply seems to have maintained its equipoise in this as in other regards, and rising above the heads of the mass there have always been a series of individuals, distinguished beyond others, who have been the initiators, the originators, and who have commanded the homage of their fellowmen by reason of their capacity for the management of affairs of great breadth, their honesty of purpose and their power to accomplish results, thus exerting a contemporary as well as a perpetual influence upon the well-being of their country and its people. Thus it is an unmistakable pleasure and privilege to revert in this connection to the career of the honored pioneer whose name initiates this paragraph, for his it was to play a most prominent part in developing the resources of the great and favored commonwealth of Iowa and in insuring her material prosperity through the normal resources which ever define the march of progress. And to him must be accorded a tribute of honor as one of the patriarchs of Keosauqua and as one whose identification with the history of the state was most intimate and most conspicuous. Our subject was one of the largest landed proprietors in the state, and to him does she owe much of her industrial wealth and her position as one of the foremost in the galaxy of sister states.

Edwin Manning, who for sixty-two years maintained his residence on the site of the present city of Keosauqua, Van Buren county, who stood forward as a type of the self-made man, was a native of the old historical town of South Coventry, Connecticut, where he was born on the 8th of February, 1810, being the son of Calvin and Desire (Gurley) Manning, representatives of old and prominent New England families. They became the parents of two sons and two daughters, as follows. Fannie became the wife of James Preston and her death occurred in her


STATE OF IOWA  
1947

**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**  
OF THE  
**FIFTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Convened January 13, 1947  
Adjourned April 25, 1947

ROBERT D. BLUE, Governor  
KENNETH A. EVANS, President of the Senate  
G. T. KUESTER, Speaker of the House

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ginning in October, 1931, the farm loan business being continued.

In addition to his local business Mr. Van Alstine was active in public affairs, his most lasting and important public work being in the Iowa legislature, serving in the Senate, representing Buena Vista, Humboldt and Pocahontas counties, in the Thirty-seventh, Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth General Assemblies, as chairman of the code revision committee, chairman of the appropriations and other standing committees. In 1920 he was appointed chairman of the state tax commission, which at that time carried no compensation, and he devoted a large part of his time in securing revision of tax laws and taxation practices; for many years was a member of the National Association of Tax Commissioners, and was a recognized authority on methods of taxation; in 1928 designed and drew the legislation under which the present Iowa State Tax Commission was organized and was offered appointment as its first chairman but declined this honor; served as president of the Iowa Farm Mortgage Bankers' Association, a member of the board of directors of the Iowa Tax Association and of the Pocahontas County Mutual Insurance Association and president of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers Association. While his primary legislative interest was taxation, he was the author of a number of the statutes curative to real estate titles and he was the author of the Chattel Lien Recording Law, both of which have been of very material value to the business men of the state.

His life was devoted to aggressive community and county development, being active in the movements that secured for Gilmore City a gas plant, which was later supplanted with an electric service in 1912, also in the organization and installation of a municipal water works. A Republican and a member of the Knights of Pythias and various Masonic bodies, and during World War I was active in government service. A son, Lieutenant Sewal Van Alstine, is now with the U. S. Armed Forces in the Pacific area.

J. F. MILLER,  
DUANE E. DEWEL,  
C. V. FINDLAY,

*Committee.*

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

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JOHN L. WILSON

MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee, appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life, character and public service of the late Honorable John L. Wilson of Clinton, Iowa, begs leave to submit the following:

John L. Wilson, farmer and legislator, died at his home in Clinton, Iowa, August 31, 1946. He was born in Elk River township near Almont, in Clinton county, Iowa, October 25, 1857, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Wilson, who were early Iowa pioneers from Pennsylvania.

He was educated in the rural schools and business college at Clinton, graduating in 1876, his life-long occupation being that of farming.

Mr. Wilson was married to Susie E. Cook on December 15, 1880, and

resided on the old Wilson farm until retirement in 1916, when they removed to Clinton. He was vice president of The Lyons Savings Bank, and president of Farmers Mutual Fire & Lightning Insurance Company of DeWitt, Iowa.

Mr. Wilson served as State Representative in 1893 and was re-elected in 1895. He was elected as Senator in 1897 and remained in the Senate until 1914, his legislative tenure extending through eleven successive sessions.

He was a member of the Masonic bodies, president of the Clinton county old settlers' association and a Democrat.

In the passing of Senator Wilson, Iowa has lost a valuable and honorable citizen, and an honest statesman.

O. H. HENNINGSEN,  
ROBERT C. REILLY,  
FRANK D. MARTIN.

*(Committee.)*

The resolution was unanimously adopted.



Outline of Personal History of

*Geo L Wilson*

RESIDENCE *Almont, Iowa*

Kindly furnish on this sheet the necessary data for a personal sketch and return at your early convenience. Every question is important.

The Historical Department of Iowa

DES MOINES, IOWA

EDGAR R. HARLAN, CURATOR

(This form is for use in collecting data on deceased as well as living persons. Appropriate alterations may be made in matter below.)

1. Name in full (all names) *John Lowry Wilson*

2. Chief occupation or profession *Farmer and Stock raise*

3. Former occupation or profession *none*

4. Date and place of beginning each

5. Present residence address *Almont Iowa*

6. Present business address

7. Date of birth *October 25<sup>th</sup> 1857*

8. Place of birth *Elk River Township near Almont*

9. If born abroad, where

10. Emigrated to America, when

11. First migrated to what state and county, whether born abroad or in America

12. Emigrated the second time to what state or county

13. Further emigration, if any

14. Education. Give name and location of rural, high, business or technical school, college or university

*Elk River Twp rural and Clinton Business colleges*

15. Date of graduation and degree if any *15<sup>th</sup> day February 1876*

1, 25, 26, 26  
1, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32  
32 - 33, 34, 35, 36

16. Place of death .....
17. Date of death .....
18. Place of burial .....
19. Name of father in full (all names) *Matthew Wilson*
20. Occupation of father *Steam Boat and Farmer*
21. Full Maiden name of mother (all names) *Sybilla Rugh*
22. Residence when married *Westmoreland Co. Penn Alleghany Co.*
23. Military service, if any (exact dates) .....
24. Political offices, (from the smallest to the largest, with dates) *none*
25. Director or trustee of financial, religious and educational institutions *none*
26. Politics *Democrat*
27. Religious denomination if any *Presbyterian*
28. Religious preference if non-affiliated with a denomination *—*
29. Member of what societies or associations of learning *—*
30. Member of what secret organizations, with honors or offices held, with dates *—*
31. Member of what clubs if any *—*
32. Belonged to what firms (give names in full and dates if possible) *—*
33. Officer or director in any corporation *—*
34. Enclose business card if possible *—*
35. Enclose photograph and autograph *—*

36. *Author of books or pamphlets, with titles and publishers in full and dates of publication*.....

37. *Miscellaneous*.....



## FAMILY HISTORY

1. *To whom married* Miss Susie E Cook
2. *Date of marriage* December 13-1880
3. *Place of marriage* Hampshire Township Clinton County
4. *Date of his ~~or her~~ birth* Oct 23--1857
5. *Place of ~~his~~ or her birth* September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1860
6. *Religious denomination* Lutheran
7. *Date of his or her death*.....
8. *Place of his or her death*.....
9. *Place of his or her burial*.....
10. *Father's full name*.....
11. *Born where and when*.....
12. *Occupation of his or her father*.....
13. *His or her mother's full name*.....
14. *Born when and where*.....
15. *Parents' residence at time of their marriage*.....
16. *Miscellaneous remarks on their family*.....

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. <i>To whom married second time</i> .....</p> <p>2. <i>Date of marriage</i> .....</p> <p>3. <i>Place of marriage</i> .....</p> <p>4. <i>Date of his or her birth</i> .....</p> <p>5. <i>Place of his or her birth</i> .....</p> <p>6. <i>Religious denomination</i> .....</p> <p>7. <i>Date of his or her death</i> .....</p> <p>8. <i>Place of his or her death</i> .....</p> | <p>9. <i>Place of his or her burial</i> .....</p> <p>10. <i>Father's full name</i> .....</p> <p>11. <i>Born where and when</i> .....</p> <p>12. <i>Occupation of his or her father</i> .....</p> <p>13. <i>His or her mother's full name</i> .....</p> <p>14. <i>Born when and where</i> .....</p> <p>15. <i>Parent's residence at time of their marriage</i> .....</p> <p>16. <i>Miscellaneous remarks on their family</i> .....</p> |
|---|---|

CHILDREN OF

AND

NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE	MARRIED TO WHOM	WHERE	DATE

CHILDREN OF

AND

NAME	PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE	PLACE OF DEATH	DATE	MARRIED TO WHOM	WHERE	DATE

SIGNATURE .....

DATE .....



You searched for **John L. Wilson** in **Iowa**

### 1900 United States Federal Census

Name:	<b>John L Wilson</b>	
Home in 1900:	<b>Elk River, Clinton, Iowa</b>	
Age:	<b>42</b>	
Birth Date:	<b>Oct 1857</b>	
Birthplace:	<b>Iowa</b>	
Race:	<b>White</b>	
Ethnicity:	<b>American</b>	
Gender:	<b>Male</b>	
Relationship to Head of House:	<b>Head</b>	
Father's Birthplace:	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
Mother's Birthplace:	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
Spouse's Name:	<b>Susan E</b>	
Marriage Year:	<b>1881</b>	
Marital Status:	<b>Married</b>	
Years Married:	<b>19</b>	
Residence:	<b>Elk River Township, Clinton, Iowa</b>	
Occupation:	<a href="#">View on Image</a>	
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	John L Wilson	42
	Susan E Wilson	39
	Charles M Wilson	16
	John L Wilson	12
	Clara V Wilson	7
	Peeter C Petersen	29

**Source Citation:** Year: 1900; Census Place: Elk River, Clinton, Iowa; Roll T623\_426 Page: 6A; Enumeration District: 23.

**Source Information:**  
Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

**Description:**  
This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1900 United States Federal Census, the Twelfth Census of the United States. Census takers recorded many details including each person's name, address, relationship to the head of household, color or race, sex, month and year of birth, age at last birthday, marital status, number of years married, the total number of children born of the mother, the number of those children living, birthplace, birthplace of father and mother, if the individual was foreign born, the year of immigration and the number of years in the United States, the citizenship status of foreign-born individuals over age twenty-one, occupation, and more. Additionally, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1900 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)



You searched for **John L. Wilson** in **Iowa**

### 1920 United States Federal Census

Name:	<b>John L Wilson</b>	
Home in 1920:	<b>Clinton Ward 1, Clinton, Iowa</b>	
Age:	<b>62 years</b>	
Estimated Birth Year:	<b>abt 1858</b>	
Birthplace:	<b>Iowa</b>	
Relation to Head of House:	<b>Head</b>	
Spouse's Name:	<b>Susan E</b>	
Father's Birth Place:	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
Mother's Birth Place:	<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
Marital Status:	<b>Married</b>	
Race:	<b>White</b>	
Sex:	<b>Male</b>	
Home owned:	<b>Own</b>	
Able to read:	<b>Yes</b>	
Able to Write:	<b>Yes</b>	
Image:	<b>725</b>	
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	<b>John L Wilson</b>	<b>62</b>
	<b>Susan E Wilson</b>	<b>59</b>

**Source Citation:** Year: 1920; Census Place: Clinton Ward 1, Clinton, Iowa; Roll T625\_484; Page: 154; Enumeration District: 9; Image: 725.

**Source Information:**  
Ancestry.com. 1920 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2005. For details on the contents of the film numbers, visit the following NARA web page: [NARA](#).

**Note:** Enumeration Districts 819-839 on roll 323 (Chicago City). Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1920. T625, 2,076 rolls.

**Description:**  
This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1920 United States Federal Census, the Fourteenth Census of the United States. It includes all states and territories, as well as Military and Naval Forces, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, and the Panama Canal Zone. The census provides many details about individuals and families including: name, gender, age, birthplace, year of immigration, mother tongue, and parents' birthplaces. In addition, the names of those listed on the population schedule are linked to actual images of the 1920 Federal Census. [Learn more...](#)

/ 930 States Federal Census

Name:	John L. Wilson	
Home in 1930:	Clinton, Clinton, Iowa	
	<a href="#">View Map</a>	
Age:	72	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1858	
Birthplace:	Iowa	
Relation to Head of House:	Head	
Spouse's Name:	Susan E.	
Race:	White	
Occupation:		
Education:		
Military service:	<a href="#">View image</a>	
Rent/home value:		
Age at first marriage:		
Parents' birthplace:		
Neighbors:	<a href="#">View others on page</a>	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	John L. Wilson	72
	Susan E. Wilson	61

**Source Citation:** Year: 1930; Census Place: Clinton, Clinton, Iowa; Roll: 649; Page: 22B; Enumeration District: 8; Image: 720.0.

**Source Information:**  
Ancestry.com, 1930 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2002. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930. T626, 2,667 rolls.

**Description:**  
Containing records for approximately 123 million Americans, the 1930 United States Federal Census is the largest census released to date and is the most recent census available for public access. The census gives us a glimpse into the lives of Americans in 1930, and contains information about a household's family members and occupants including: birthplaces, occupations, immigration, citizenship, and military service. The names of those listed in the census are linked to actual images of the 1930 Census. [Learn more...](#)