

Commemorative Biographical Encyclopedia of the Juniata Valley, Comprising the Counties of Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry, Pennsylvania, J. M. Runk and Company, Publishers 1897

William W. Wilson, retired railroader, Port Royal, Juniata County, Pa., was born August 19, 1823, in Mexico, Juniata County. He is a son of **John** and **Tabitha (Wallace) Wilson**. His grandfather, **William Wilson**, born in England, emigrated to America before the Revolutionary war, and was among the earliest settlers of Juniata County. He was a carpenter, and also farmed the land that he acquired in Juniata County. He married **Miss Brown**, and had eight children, of whom four died in early life. The remainder were: **John**; **Katharine**; **James**; and **Mary**. **Mr. Wilson** was a Whig. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. His eldest son, **John Wilson**, was a carpenter, having learned the trade with his father, and resided in Mexico, Juniata County, during his whole life. He married **Tabitha Wallace** born in Perry County, daughter of **William Wallace**, a blacksmith, of Scotch-Irish descent. They had five children: **Robert**, who died in 1841; **Abraham**, a retired resident of Perry County, now deceased; **Martha (Mrs. Henry Umholtz)**, deceased; **William W.**, of Port Royal, Pa.; and **Prudence E.**, widow of **M. P. Howard**, of Lewistown. **John Wilson** was a Whig; he was universally respected and esteemed. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church.

William W. Wilson received his education at a subscription school in a log school house in Mexico. He began life by working on farms at a meager compensation of \$12 per month, and continued at labor of this character until he had reached the age of twenty, when he learned plastering in his native town, and continued to work at that business until 1847. From August of that year until 1855, he was in the employ of the Pennsylvania Railroad, as a track hand. He then took charge of the Tuscarora wood and water station, where he remained until May 10, 1866. From 1866 to 1869, he was again a track hand. In the latter year he was appointed foreman of Division No. 18, which place he filled for twenty-one years and three months. In December, 1890, he was appointed engineer for the engines at the water troughs, and continued to be thus employed until he retired from active duties, in 1896; he was over fifty years in the service of the Pennsylvania Railroad, during all of which time his record was that of a faithful and trusted employee.

William W. Wilson was married, in Path Valley, Perry County, to **Miss Jane Brant**, born in Turbett Township, daughter of **John Brant**, of German descent, well known as "**Mason John**." Of their ten children, two died in infancy. The others were: **George F.**, a conductor of local freight trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad, residing at Harrisburg; **Herbert C.**, in the coal business at Peoria, Ill.; **William A.**, telegraph operator at Port Royal; **Cora J.**, station agent for the Pennsylvania Railroad at Rockville, Dauphin County; **Edward N.**, train runner, at Bellwood, Pa.; **Blanche C.**; **Charles K.**, agent of the P. & N, W. R. R. at McGees Mills, Clearfield County, Pa.; and **Jerome I.**, a telegraph operator at Port Royal. **Mr. Wilson** is universally respected for his industry and many good qualities.

He has been for two terms a school director of Turbett Township; and is a member of the Pennsylvania Railroad Relief Association. He is a Democrat. He was at one time a member of the I. O. O. F. He is a consistent member of the Lutheran Church, and has held the office of deacon. He has also been a teacher in the Sunday-school, and was superintendent of a Sunday-school in Mexico, Pa.