

Charles Hellen Wilson

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of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Iowa, Newton entered that office in 1872 as a clerk, and in 1877 became deputy grand secretary. In 1885 the headquarters of the fraternity were removed to Cedar Rapids and on the death of his father in 1901 he became grand secretary as well as librarian of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Iowa, which positions he administered with fidelity and ability until his death. He was made a Mason in 1874 and advanced through all the degrees until 1895 when the thirty-third degree was conferred on him. He was vice president of the National Masonic Research Society, St. Louis, Missouri, and was recognized nationally and internationally as an authority on Masonry. The library his father and he built up is a credit to the order and to the state.

A. W. WILKINSON was born in Scott Township, Madison County, Iowa, November 22, 1848, and died at Winterset February 20, 1925. His parents were John and Clarissa (Matthews) Wilkinson. He was educated in district school and in Winterset Academy. He became a surveyor and was elected county surveyor in 1871 and served two years. He was admitted to the bar in 1872, but in 1873 went to California and followed civil engineering and school-teaching for two years. He returned to Winterset and January 1, 1875, opened a law office in Winterset and soon obtained a good practice. In November, 1882, he was elected district attorney for the Fifth Judicial District, and served four years, or until the office of district attorney was abolished. The fall of 1886 he was elected a judge of the Fifth District and by reason of re-elections served for sixteen years, or until 1902, when he resumed the practice at Winterset, in partnership with his son, Philip R. Wilkinson, continuing until his death. He stood high in his profession and as a citizen.

CHARLES HELLEN WILSON was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania, April 25, 1834, and died in Washington, Iowa, February 28, 1925. His parents were William Wilson, Sr., and Minerva J. (Hellen) Wilson. He attended common school, but when seventeen years old, 1851, entered the printing office of the *Pennsylvania Democrat* at Uniontown. In July, 1853, removed to Muscatine, Iowa, and took employment in the office of the *Muscatine Journal*. In June, 1855, he purchased of Jacob and John Mahin their half interest in the *Journal*, his partner being Orion Clemens, a brother of Mark Twain, and they changed it to a daily. In 1858 he disposed of his interest in the *Journal* and removed to Washington where, for the next half century, he was in active business, for a time as groceryman, then as hardware merchant, as well as engaging in commercial enterprises. He was a leading member of the Methodist church, and an influential Republican. Besides being a member of the City Council, he was twice Mayor of Washington, and in 1871 was elected representative and served in the Fourteenth General Assembly.

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