Newspapers by Ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image-view/456425386/

Downloaded on Dec 8, 2025

Geo. H. Wilson, Popular Ottawa Citizen, is Dead

Passing Occurred Suddenly at His Home Last Evening After Day Spent at His City Hall Duties. Long in Public Life. Was Public School Trustee. Originated And Conducted The Citizen's "Old Time Stuff" Page For Over Ten Years.

George H. Wilson, departmental secretary in the city engineer's department, public school trustee, and one of the best known residents of the Capital, passed on suddenly last evening as he sat down to dinner at his home, 82 Evelyn avenue. While he was off duty several months ago as the result of injuries suffered in a traffic accident, he apparently fully recovered and for some time past had been exceptionally active and in unusually good spirits. He was in his office at the city hall all day yesterday although he remarked that he was not feeling just right, and went home at the usual hour. With members of his family he had just sat down to dinner and was taking a drink of tea when he suddenly collapsed and was dead in an instant. Mr. Wilson was 68 years of age.

News of his death spread very rapidly and came as a great shock to his associates in the various circles in which he had played a very active part. Descendant of two pioneer families of the Ottawa district, the late Mr. Wilson was born in Gloucester township on the Montreal road, and in the early seventies moved into the city with his father. Following his education in various Ottawa schools he occupied several posts with business firms and in 1886 yielded to the lure of the newspaper field in which he was outstanding for quarter of century in various capacities, climaxed with several years as news editor of The Evening Journal. He retired from newspaper work in 1913 but simply could not get the smell of news ink out of his system and his spare time was devoted to special newspaper work. In April, 1923, he originated the Old Time Stuff for The Citizen, a department which he made so popular that it has continued as a weekly feature which was appreciated by a wide circle of readers.

In Public Affairs.

His newspaper work naturally brought him in contact with public bodies and gave him an insight into public affairs, a knowledge which prompted him to run as public school trustee in Wellington ward. He was elected, sat for four years and then was elected alderman for the same ward. In 1909 he was a member of the Board of Control and later aspired for the mayoralty but was defeated. After the appointment of A. P. Macallum as commissioner of works, Mr. Wilson, who was doing some special municipal newspaper work was appointed secretary to Mr. Macallum in 1914. The position developed into departmental secretary, one of his most important duties being the purchasing of various supplies for the department. This appointment did not prevent his running for the Public School Board and he was elected in 1926 and sat as trustee continuously from that time.

In addition to his public duties to which he devoted his very best thought and effort, Mr. Wilson was active in fraternal organizations and was a keen supporter of various branches of sports. In his earlier days he took part in different lines of sports and gained some prominence as an amateur boxer.

Both in public and private life, the late Mr. Wilson bore the highest reputation for strict honesty and he was held in marked esteem for his sincere endeavors for the betterment of the city. His was the happy family of making friends and throughout the city there is very sincere regret at his passing.

His Career.

George H. Wilson was born on the Montreal road in Gloucester, the last below Green's Creek on the original Hugh Wilson farm, where his father, Hugh Laird Wilson, had built a large stone house, which by the way still stands.

Early in the seventies Hugh Laird Wilson sold the house on the Montreal road to Dr. D. W. Bell of New Edinburgh and came back to Ottawa to live, locating in the then new district of Rochesterville, but subsequently moving to the city proper, taking a house on Hill street. He died in the year 1879.

School Days.

George H. Wilson received his education first at the little log school house near Green's Creek, and subsequently at the George street school (1861), under Archibald Smirle, and at the Kent street school (1861), where the late John Munro was principal. At that time the public schools were doing the work now done by the first form of the Collegiate.

Several years ago he organized the reunion celebration of Kent street school. During his schooldays he attended the old Grammar School was in the same grade for several years with A. E. Fripp, K.C., newly appointed Canadian senator.

Of Pioneer Family.

Mr. Wilson's father, the late Hugh Laird Wilson, came to Bytown in the year 1836, and for many years was in the general store and lumbering business, with his brother, the late Zachariah Wilson, who in his later years was so well known as collector of customs here. The Wilson family came to Bytown from St. Johns, Que. Hugh Wilson, the father of Hugh Laird and Zachariah, also came to Bytown in 1836 and settled on a farm on the Ottawa river just below Green's Creek. He had spent most of his life in the Imperial regular army.

George H. Wilson's mother was born in Richmond. She was a daughter of Dr. Crawford, one of the pioneer physicians of Richmond, and a granddaughter of Colonel George T. Burke who was the commandant of the military settlement at Richmond and the first member of Parliament for Carleton county.

Mr. Wilson's grandmother, the late Mrs. M. J. Crawford a daughter of Col. Burke, was born while the battle of Queenston Heights was in progress. Col. Burke was major of one of the British regiments which took part in the battle, and Mrs. Burke was staying in a village not far behind the lines.

By his family connections with the old time life of the Capital and district Mr. Wilson was well equipped to be editor of Citizen's Old Time Stuff page, and the many readers of this weekly page of The Citizen will join with his many civic, social and fraternal friends in mourning his sudden death.

George H. Wilson started to work when he was 14 years of age and has had quite a varied career. In succession he worked as office boy in the insurance office of the late E. P. Hartney, as junior clerk in the dry goods store of the late Robert Surtner, as clerk in the law office of Pinhey and Christie, as cashier for the late R. J. Devlin, as bookkeeper in the plumbing and gas fitting shop of the late J. P. Murphy, and as bookkeeper in the wholesale and retail grocery of the late Herbert H. Brennan. Incidentally it may be said that Mr. Wilson secured his bookkeeping diploma at the old Musgrove Business College.

In the year 1886, while keeping books for the late H. H. Brennan, Mr. Wilson felt the urge to take up newspaper work. He joined the staff of the Free Press. In 1887 he went to the Journal (then only two days old) and he remained on the Journal for 25 years, filling almost every position on the paper from junior reporter to managing editor and editorial writer. He was sporting editor for several years, and for a time was connected with the circulation branch.

In 1913 Mr. Wilson left newspaper work and entered the real estate business, which was then in its hey-day. In 1916 he entered the civic service as secretary of the engineering department and has been there since.

Military Experience.

Coming as he did of two military families, Mr. Wilson early associated himself with the local militia. He was a member of No. 1 Company of the 43rd Battalion, when Sir Percy Sherwood was captain, and Col. Maynard Rogers was a lieutenant. Private Wilson was a number of years the "war correspondent" of the battalion.

Public Life.

In 1900 Mr. Wilson began his public career. He was elected public school trustee for Wellington ward, and served for four years, and then ran for council for the ward. He was elected and sat on council for four years. In 1909 he became commissioner of the Board of Control and was elected. At the end of the first year business reasons compelled him to retire. In 1912 he ran again and was again elected. In 1913 he became a candidate for mayor, but was defeated in a three-cornered fight.

During 1909 Mr. Wilson was also elected as a member of the Board of Trade under the then presidency of Peter Whelan. He served as a member of this board for many years.

In 1928 he returned as a member of the Public School Board and served on that body till his death. It was stated last evening that his death will not necessitate a by-election as the board can appoint another member in the event of the death of a trustee.

As Fraternalist.

From his earliest days Mr. Wilson has been a "fraternalist." When a youth he joined the Oddfellows and the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and a few years later, the Canadian Foresters, the Orange Order and St. Andrew's Society.

During the 1926 centenary, Mr. Wilson was chairman of the Old Boys' Home-coming committee.

One of the most enthusiastic supporters of the Ottawa Rough Riders football team for many years, Mr. Wilson was to be found at every game during the past season, elated at the revival of the grand old game in Ottawa, and cheering the home team with all his might.

Surviving in addition to his widow, formerly Margaret Keenan of Bells Corners, are one son, Earl O. Wilson, and one daughter, Miss Gladys Wilson, and several grandchildren, as well as one sister, Mrs. Ida Hugh, all of Ottawa. His only brother, Laird Wilson, predeceased him three years ago.

The funeral service will be from the parlors of George B. Burney and Son, 238 Somerset street west, on Saturday at 2.30 p.m. Service will be conducted by Rev. J. Hall, and burial will be at Beechwood cemetery.

Many Tributes Paid.

"I am deeply shocked and grieved at the sudden passing of George Wilson," stated Mayor P. J. Nolan when informed last evening of George H. Wilson's death. "I have known him intimately for 33 years, and always held him in the highest esteem throughout his career as a newspaperman, city controller, public school trustee and secretary to the commissioner of works.

"George was always of an energetic disposition," continued the Mayor, "in all his activities, but perhaps he excelled in his civic duties and his appreciation of all civic affairs. It will indeed be difficult to replace such an outstanding civic servant and gentleman."

Col. Stanley Lewis, when told of Mr. Wilson's death, voiced keen regret. He said that in the several years he had known him in city hall circles, sports and private life, he had always looked upon him as an outstanding man and a tireless worker and that the city and public at large loses a very valuable servant.

W. E. Gowling, senior member of the Ottawa Public School Board, said that for many years he and Mr. Wilson had been close friends. He stated that while they differed at times on matters pertaining to the school board, this did not affect their friendship. Trustee Gowling said that Trustee Wilson was a hard worker and always fought hard for what he thought was right, and that he was a fine type of citizen.

A. P. Macallum, former commissioner of works for Ottawa, said that he and Mr. Wilson entered the civic service the same year in the engineering department and continued together in the department, Mr. Wilson as secretary and himself as commissioner for fifteen years. Mr. Macallum said that he had always found Mr. Wilson a hard and conscientious worker.

Trustee J. E. McClenaghan, last year's chairman of the Public School Board, said he was greatly shocked at the news of Mr. Wilson's sudden death. He said that he knew Mr. Wilson for many years and had always found him to be conscientious and very much interested in the welfare of the public schools.

"Though we did not always agree on matters of the school board I always found him to be most sincere," he said. "Mr. Wilson will be greatly missed."

Trustee D. Roy Kennedy, former school board chairman, said that the sudden death of Mr. Wilson has removed from the school board one of its strongest debaters, and his loss will be keenly felt by his fellow members. A man of great experience in civic affairs and a member of the school board 30 years ago, he returned to the board several years ago. He held definite opinions on all school subjects, and though a keen debater he was always gentlemanly and his constant interest was to serve the ratepayers with the best he could give. Mr. Kennedy said that personally he admired Mr. Wilson a great deal. "We were good friends, and I shall miss him as a member of the board," said Mr. Kennedy.

Trustee H. Stanley Higman was deeply grieved to learn of the death of his colleague, and expressed the opinion that Ottawa had lost a good citizen. "He was always sincere in carrying out his duties, and had a full realization of the responsibilities placed on him as the representative of the people," said Mr. Higman. "Trustee Wilson took an active interest in each and every phase of school board work, and insisted on his having a full knowledge of all matters before lending his support. Without exception he acted in the best interests of the public as he saw them."

"In addition to his intimate connection with educational matters, Mr. Wilson for many years was an outstanding citizen," said Cecil Bethune, secretary and administrator of the Collegiate Institute. "He has served the city in many ways, and was a valued civic employe. His passing is a loss to the city."

F. D. Burkholder Staff Royally Entertained

Dinner-dance Given By Mr. and Mrs. Burkholder.

Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Burkholder entertained at a dinner-dance last evening at Chez Henri hotel, Hull. Their guests were members of the staff of F. D. Burkholder, Limited, and a number of their friends, about seventy in all. Dinner was served at half past eight o'clock, after which dancing was enjoyed in the ballroom. During the evening, prominent artists and entertainers staged a floor show for the party.

A delightful spirit of friendliness and good fellowship prevailed and heartiest thanks were extended to the host and hostess for their generous hospitality and the splendid entertainment arranged for their pleasure.

Civic Employes' Meeting

The new Ottawa Civic Employes' Association held a meeting last night at No. 8 fire hall under the chairmanship of Alex. Mason. L. Pichette is vice-chairman and Nap. Tremblay, secretary-treasurer. It was reported that organization work of the association is now well under way and that the membership, which embraces all civic departments, now stands at about 1,600. Arrangements were got under way for an entertainment later in the month.

Hollywood Closeups

BY DAN THOMAS
NEA Service Staff Correspondent

HOLLYWOOD — Wandering with the film celebs:

Otto Krueger giving a new hoe a workout in his backyard garden . . . he's forsaken his golf clubs for the hoe, temporarily at least.

Madge Evans and Tom Gallery off for some morning tennis . . . Madge looking most attractive in her gray knitted tennis shorts and gray polo shirt. . . .

Spencer Tracy and Pat Paterson telling each other bits of their past while strolling across the studio . . . they are playing the leads in "Bottoms Up" and feel they should be really well acquainted.

Dorothy Tree taking her newly acquired abrey dog for an airing . . . or maybe the dog's taking her . . . It's hard to tell. . . . Pat O'Brien and his wife showing Pat's parents all the sights of Hollywood . . . or nearly all of them. . . . Joan Crawford busily perusing plans for a swimming pool . . . which she hopes will be ready for use by the time swimming weather rolls around again.

* * *

BEATING A STORM.

JEANETTE MacDONALD'S two dogs, Stormy Weather and Captain, chasing Ted Healy down the street . . . with Healy's stooges urging the dogs on. . . . Jean Hersholt translating the inscription on Muriel Evans' Egyptian bracelet.

Will Rogers playing hob to Jimmy McCrea and Frances Dee, otherwise known as Mr. McCrea, in the Fox cafe. . . . Frances still isn't used to that Mrs. business. . . . Margaret Livingston, out here for a short visit, lunching with her sister, Helen, in the same place. . . . Carole Lombard and George Raft still are keeping their twosome intact. . . . Lupe Velez coming into the M-G-M commissary with her two Mexican chihuahua puppies in her bathrobe pockets . . . and getting chased out again for letting one of them nose in a table. . . . Jean Parker looking most attractive in a blue "Gibson Girl" dress . . . and lunching with William Bakewell, looking most uncomfortable in one of those high 1900 collars.

TENNIS AND SWIMMING!

ROUND Palm Springs in an afternoon. . . . Charlie Farrell playing tennis on the El Mirador courts . . . with Virginia Hall and several others forming an interested gallery. . . . Jimmy Durante clowning around the swimming pool . . . he's as funny in water as he is on the screen . . . maybe funnier. . . . Lilian Harvey attired in a white bathing suit with a cactus design on one hip . . . out here on the desert Lilian has earned the game of "a prospector's dream of home."

Back in Hollywood and up to Colleen Moore's party . . . what a party! . . . practically the entire film colony roaming through the many-roomed mansion. . . . Gloria Swanson and the Marquis de la Falaise conversing mirthfully off in a corner . . . and neither Michael Farmer nor Connie Bennett anywhere in sight. . . . Colleen bustling here and there, making sure that everyone is happy . . . and looking almost like a picture in deep purple pajamas. . . . Laura LaPlante actually enthusiastic over being home from her European jaunt . . . and proving that the reports of trouble between her and William Seiter were exaggerated grossly.

NO HARD FEELINGS.

MARIAN NIXON and her ex-hubby, Eddie Hillman, most congenial . . . even though they didn't arrive together. . . . Russell Gleason, Dick Powell and Billy Bakewell all making a big fuss over Mary Brian . . . one at a time, though. . . . Hoot Gibson and June Gale trying out all the different refreshments . . . all three

Would you be taken aback if pretty June Collyer, of the movies, turned her back to you like this? You might admire the flouncy decolitie, at least.

Gives History Of Canvas Destroyed In Gleeson Fire

"Angel's Choir" Was Brought Across Atlantic More Than 100 Years Ago Says Former Owner

The celebrated canvas, "Angel's Choir," ascribed to Van Dyck, destroyed in the fire at the Gleeson residence, was purchased from C. S. Parsons of the Department of Mines, Ottawa, native Nova Scotian, by John Gleeson, well known Ottawa business man, it was revealed last night. International interest has been aroused by the loss of the picture, one of the three paintings each known as "Angel's Choir" or "Concert des Anges" attributed to the Flemish master.

Covered with dust, it was found rolled up in the attic of the old home at Greenbush, N.Y., of Dr. Christopher C. Yates following his death at Parrsboro, N.S., on September 23, 1848, said Mr. Parsons. The canvas then became the property of his daughter, who married former Canon King of Parrsboro.

The picture was given by Mrs. King to a daughter, Mrs. Alexander Stewart Townshend, who died at Middleton, N.S., and was buried in Amherst. From his grandmother, Mrs. Townshend, he had received the painting, Mr. Parsons stated.

Back of the time the picture came into the possession of Dr. Yates, Mr. Gleeson gave its history as obtained by a representative whom he had sent to Europe for that purpose. The painting had been taken out of Belgium by soldiers of Napoleon and brought to Albany, N.Y., more than 100 years ago by a French doctor and then came into the possession of the Yates family.

Both Mr. Parsons and Mr. Gleeson declined to give the sale price as between them. It was purchased by Mr. Gleeson seven or eight years ago.

Answer Crossword Puzzle

Successful Pound Party

The pound party conducted over the holiday season for the Sisters of the Precious Blood was a great success, many friends and benefactors contributing generously to the cause. At the conclusion of the party the Reverend Sisters of the Precious Blood, through the Mother Superior of the monastery, extended thanks to all those who assisted in any way in making the party a success.

LATE GEORGE H. WILSON

Prominent Citizen Who Passed Away Suddenly

SATURDAY! These Two Popular Stars Return!
LORETTA YOUNG — Man's Castle — SPENCER TRACY
Regular Admission Prices. CENTRE Preview Showing Friday, 11.15 p.m.

Four Weeks of Happiness in the WEST INDIES
28 Days of Sunshine
13 PORTS $270 UP
by the Duchess of Bedford
A complete cruise of the Caribbean visiting not only the West Indies but Bermuda, The Spanish Main, South America and the Canal Zone. Each port fascinating, different, full of interest . . . reflecting the influences—British, French, Dutch and Spanish—which have shaped the destinies of these happy isles. Your ship the Trans-Atlantic favourite, Duchess of Bedford . . . deck pools, 'talkies', dancing, concerts.
FROM NEW YORK Jan. 20 or Feb. 21
13 PORTS $270 UP
visiting BARBADOS PANAMA BERMUDA TRINIDAD JAMAICA PUERTO RICO VENEZUELA PORT AU PRINCE, HAITI MARTINIQUE CURACAO NASSAU
Complete information from your own travel agent or
J. A. McGILL, General Agent, Passenger Dept., Phone Queen 1618, Ottawa.
CANADIAN PACIFIC

Fragrant and flavoury "SALADA" TEA
'Fresh from the gardens'
MESSRS. PROVOST & ALLARD, Distributors for Ottawa.

DOMINION STORES LIMITED "Where Quality Counts" CANADA'S LARGEST RETAIL GROCERS

Richmello COFFEE 1-lb. 39c Fresh Ground.
"Domino" Black TEA 1-lb. 45c Our Own Good Blend.

Better Values

WHITE NAPHTHA P and G SOAP 10 REG. SIZE BARS 29c 4 BARS

GRADE A LARGE "FRESH EXTRAS"
EGGS For Boiling 42c Doz.

NEW SEASON'S HALLOWI DATES 2 LBS. 15c

Tasty BREAD 24-oz. Loaf 7c — It's Wrapped
Fresh MILK Qts. 9c Pts. 5c

Fruits and Vegetables
Red or Yellow ONIONS 10 lbs. 21c
CELERY HEARTS - - 15c
ORANGES 23c Doz. 29c Doz. 35c Doz.
CALIFORNIA SUNKIST NAVELS.
BAHAMAS TOMATOES 2 lbs. 25c
FRESH WELL FILLED Cauliflower ea. 19c
No. 1 SNOW APPLES 25c Gal. — COOKING APPLES 15c Gal. — No. 1 SPY APPLES 25c Gal.

WEEK-END TREATS
WESTON'S "Piccadilly" Assorted BISCUITS 1-lb. Box. See before you buy 25c
LOWNEY'S Cream Caramels, lb. 19c 60 Pieces of Delicious Candy
BASSETT'S LICORICE, All Sorts ½-lb. Box 15c
Butterscotch WAFERS lb. 25c
Lowney's Chocolate Covered Peppermints 24 Pieces Per Box 15c

MEAT MARKET VALUES
PRIME STEER BEEF, GOVERNMENT BRANDED
Sirloin Steak or Roast, lb. 21c
RUMP ROAST, lb..... 15c
ROLLED PRIME RIBS, lb.. 21c
SHORT RIB ROAST, lb..... 12c
BONELESS ROLLED POT ROAST. lb.... 10c
PRIME QUALITY LAMB Legs 21c lb. Fronts 12c lb.
CHOICE YOUNG TURKEYS lb. 25c
FRESH PORK TENDERLOINS lb. 29c
MAYFIELD SMOKED PICNICS lb. 13c
Fresh or Salt Large Size HERRINGS 4 lbs. 25c
HADDOCK FILLETS Fresh or Smoked 2 lbs. 25c

KELLOGG'S or QUAKER Cornflakes - - 3 Pkts. 25c
PLAIN or QUICK Quaker Oats Large Pkt. 25c
Keen's Mustard ½-lb. Tin 27c
Lowney's Cocoa 1-lb. Tin 25c
Pink Salmon Tall Tin 12c
Oxo Cubes Tin of 4 14c
Habitant Pea Soup 28-oz. Tin 10c
C. & B. Tomato Juice 12-oz. Tin 8c

Golden Wax BEANS STANDARD QUALITY 8c REG. PRICE 10c TIN
TENDER AND STRINGLESS—REAL VALUE AT THIS PRICE.

SMYRNA NEW SEASON'S Cooking Figs 3 lbs. 25c
FANCY QUALITY Mincemeat 2 lbs. 25c
Millionaire Sardines 2 Tins 25c
Classic Cleanser Tin 5c
Babbitt's Cleanser Tin 5c
Lux Toilet Soap Cake 8c
EVERYTHING Toilet Tissue 3 Rolls 10c

Copyright © 2025 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.