

A. G. WILSON, BONDED ABTRACTER`

COMPLETE ABSTRACTS OF TITLE TO ALL
LANDS AND TOWN LOTS IN
THAYER COUNTY

HEBRON, NEB. Jan. 1, 1916.

Dear Cousin Martha;

Your New Year's Greeting has been received today and I wish to return the wish for your happiness and welfare for the coming year. I want to thank you very much for the long letter you wrote me about the relatives in Pennsylvania. It is a real mine of information on the subject and I value it very highly. We meet so many Wilson's out west but never are able to trace any relationship. We have in Hebron a family of H.G. Wilson, who come from Mifflin County, Pa. but I cannot find that we are related. He has a brother who is a banker in that county. He loans money for his relatives and takes mortgages on land here to secure the loans.

In Chester in this county there are Wilson Brothers, Robert, James, William and they have a brother Walter who has gone to Canada. The ones in Chester own a bank there and quite a large amount of land here and in Canada.

My father was in Jefferson College, Pa. (Cannonsburg) in 1851, and Prest. Woodrow Wilson's father was there in 1842 and later. Both belonged to the same literary society there and both went to Allegheny Seminary later, but I do not know that they were related. The picture of Woodrow's father, Joseph Ruggles Wilson in the "Continent" of Chicago strongly suggests my brother James' face, and James' daughter Martha who was in Colorado Springs College was told by her schoolmates that she looked very much like Woodrow's daughter. I cannot tract Woodrow's ancestry farther back than his father who was a Presbyterian minister and Woodrow was born in Staunton, Virginia.

I have been trying to trace the history of the Wilson family and the Gordon family so far as it is given in any books that are published. I have

written to McClurg & Co. of Chicago, who claim to have special advantages for securing such books, but so far have not located any books that help to give the history of the Wilson family through the McClurgs.

I wrote to two booksellers in Edinburgh Scotland, who make a specialty of books on family history. I secured two large volumes (about 600 pp. each) on the Gordon family which gives a world of information about the Gordon clan in Scotland, but is sadly lacking in information about the branch or branches that located in Ireland. Mother's father came from Newton Airs, County, Down, Ireland, only a few miles from Belfast. His father was captain of a ship that was lost in the Bay of Biscay. These Gordon books give the history from about the year 1150 to the present for the Gordons in north of Scotland, especially those about Aberdeen. The Earl^s of Aberdeen have been Gordons for about 200 years. The present Earl is John Campbell Hamilton Gordon (born in 1847) who was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland appointed by Gladstone in 1886 and held that position till a short time ago. He and his wife have been visiting the California expositions and I saw pictures of both in the papers. The Duke of Gordon was of the same line and in 1688 was in command of the Castle of Edinburgh during the wars between the Catholics and Protestants. The dukedom has passed to other names because of lack of male descendants and the title is now Duke of Richmond-Gordon-Lenox, and the 8th Duke is Charles H. Gordon-Lenox.

The Gordon history goes back beyond the Reformation and the Gordons being naturally conservative, many of these Gordons in North of Scotland remained Catholic. However the Gordons in south of Scotland were protestant, being mostly Presbyterian or Covenanters. The Earls of Sutherland (the northernmost county of Scotland) were Gordons being descended from the Earls of Huntley in Aberdeenshire. The Gordon Earls in Sutherland date from 1509 to 1839. In 1839, Elizabeth (the only daughter of Earl William Gordon she having held the title of Earl of Sutherland for 72 years) died and so the present representative of that line is not Gordon but George Sutherland Levison-Gower, 5th Duke of Sutherland, a descendant of said Elizabeth.

These Sutherland Earls were Presbyterian. I think from what I am able to trace, that our branch of Gordons came from Gordon of Lochinvar (of whom Walter Scott wrote the ~~poem~~ poem "Lochinvar" which is founded on a Scotch ballad that is much older) and he was one of the Gordons in south of Scotland though related to those in Aberdeenshire through the first Earls of Huntley. During the reign of James I of England the king undertook to colonize the north of Ireland with Protestants (about ^{the year} 1600) and counties

Down and Antrim in Ulster in the north of Ireland were largely owned by these colonists. I think likely about this time or later the Wilsons went to county Antrim and the Gordons to county Down. The Wilsons probably were English originally, but there have always been many Wilsons in Scotland. I have been reading especially on the history of Scotland for the past 6 months, and find the Wilsons and Liggits both mentioned often in connection with Scotch history.

The Gordon books that I have are written by J.M. Bulloch who was appointed by the Spaulding Club to edit these books from material collected by the members of the club. He gives almost nothing about the Gordons in Ireland, but says that they are mostly from the Lochinvar branch. He says Armistead C. Gordon of Staunton, Virginia, has worked up the history of the Gordons in Ireland. So I wrote ~~me~~ to this Armistead C. Gordon, but find that he has not yet published the results of his searches and so I have nothing from him that helps to complete the chain for the Gordons.

I intend to write to certain parties in Belfast Ireland and see if I cannot learn something more about both the Wilsons and the Gordons in Ulster. As grand-father Andrew Gordon was a graduate of Belfast College there should be some records there that would help. I use the new ^{international} language Esperanto, and am the delegate of the Universala Esperantista Associo for Hebron. The Associo has delegates in nearly all the important cities in Europe and before the war I could write to any of these delegates and be sure of a reply to any request for information. The war has greatly changed the conditions and for several months almost every one I have written to in France, England, Belgium or Germany or Italy has failed to answer, in some cases their friends have answered for them saying they have gone to the war. Germany, France and Italy all publish official accounts of the war in Esperanto language which are sent to me as the U.E.A. delegate, as they are to all the other delegates in America.

Possibly you are acquainted with A.G. Collins of this place. ~~xxxx~~ His mother and my mother were sisters. He has an old water pitcher which has the name Andrew Gordon painted on it and the "Farmers Coat of Arms" which is a shield showing various farm tools, rake, scythe, hoe, plough, etc. It also shows the lighthouse at Liverpool and the flags (20 or 30) used for signals by the ships. I think it must have belonged to mother's grand-father, the captain whose ship was lost at sea.

I hope you will pardon my delay in answering your very interesting letter. This holiday has been the first day I could find time to answer as I wanted to do. With kindest regards to yourself and James, Your cousin.

A. S. Wilson

A. G. WILSON, BONDED ABTRACTER



COMPLETE ABSTRACTS OF TITLE TO ALL
LANDS AND TOWN LOTS IN
THAYER COUNTY



INSURANCE

HEBRON, NEB. Dec. 27, 1916.

Miss Martha Wilson,
York, Penna. #141 W. Jackson St.

Dear Cousin;

Your very interesting letter was received a long time ago, and I am afraid I have failed to answer it. It came in March and during March and April I am always so crowded with office work that I find it just about impossible to write letters. The pictures you sent were received and I thank you very much for them. I am sorry I cannot send you one of my own, but I have not had one taken for about 20 years and dislike to have one made at present. I have a pretty good camera and used to take a good many pictures, but cannot find the time now to take any and have about forgotten how to make them. Ruth and Beth bought a small camera but have not had much luck with it so far and have gone back to the regular photographer again. I will enclose a small card showing the children as they look now. Beth has been helping me some in the office this year and is getting to do fair work on the typewriter. Gordon acts as office boy when he is not in school. Ruth does not take to office work, likes housework better and says she is going to teach school as soon as she is through high school, which will be next year.

We are having a nice winter here though it is a little colder than it was last winter at this time. The little snow that we had has about all melted and the roads are good again, though slippery in shady places.

Our auto is laid up for the winter, and I was unfortunate enough to let the storage battery freeze when the thermometer went down to 20 below zero. I thought it had charge enough to keep it from freezing but was mistaken.

We sometimes see "Pullman" autoes here, which I think are manufactured in York, but the most of the autoes here are Buick, Overland, Maxwell, Fords, and Studebakers; there are a few Dorts, Dodges, Chandlers, Chalmers, Hudsons and Glides, and Reos.

Mr. Collins daughter Mary (now Mrs. Harry Russell) was here with her husband over Christmas. Mr. Russell is a member of the firm of Clark, Buchanan Investment Co. of Hastings, Nebr. They are both quite musical and sing in the choir of the Presbyterian church at Hastings. Their church put in a new pipe organ last spring, which is said to be the finest in this state. Mr. & Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Wilson and myself went up to Hastings to hear the concert when they dedicated the organ. It certainly is a fine organ. It is able to imitate almost any musical instrument I ever heard, from the bag pipe to the human voice.

Last night we heard the Hallowell Orchestra Company assisted by the Peyson male chorus from Hebron. Peyson is Prof. of Music in the Lutheran College here and is a very fine instructor. His chorus has about 24 voices and they gave the Hallelujah Chorus from the Messiah and it was fine, made ones hair stand on end. The members of the orchestra are all soloists and it made one of the finest programs we ever had here. We do not get the best music here usually and this was a treat for us.

I hope you can answer more promptly than I have done.

With kindest regards from all of us to both of you,

Yours very sincerely,

A. G. Wilson

Hebron, Nebraska. August 7, 1917.

Dear Cousin;

Your very interesting letter of May 28, 1917 was duly received and I ought to have answered long ago but have been very busy this summer. I was specially interested in the facts you gave about the family of James Wilson (father's cousin) who died last December. I think I did not have the names of his children before, and I have added them to the family tree as I have it.

We had a good rain of about 1 1/2 inches last night and about 1 inch a few days ago, which breaks the drought here, but comes too late to help the corn very much. The winter wheat was nearly all killed last winter and most of the wheat land was planted to corn, but there was no rain for about 6 weeks, and the hot winds with thermometer at 105 to 110 prevented the formation of the ears, so while there are plenty of stalks there will be very few ears. Many of our farmers have ~~xxx~~ silos and will save the fodder for feed, but many are shipping their cattle and hogs on account of poor pasture and lack of corn. Corn is selling for about \$2.20 and wheat at \$2.70. Some of the thoroughbred stock has been shipped at regular market prices. There will be a scarcity of stock here next year as well as scarcity of seed wheat. Some of the farmers had some wheat, paying them as high as \$60 or \$70 per acre. Our folks are planning an auto trip to Des Moines (about 300 miles) about Aug. 25, to visit Mrs. Wilson's brother, F.C. McKean, pastor of the Central Presbyterian church there, and to take in the state fair. It comes at the same time as our Hebron Chautauqua though and we hate to miss that. We all went to Lincoln, Neb. to hear Roosevelt when he spoke there a couple of months ago and enjoyed the ride, though it was a little tiresome making 170 or 180 miles in one day beside riding around the city while there.

We have talked some of going on a farm down in old Virginia, because the cost of living is so high here. Our coal costs us about \$200. a year and all foodstuffs and fruits are very high here. I think the "Valley of Virginia" between the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny Mts. is a fine place to live, and the foot hills on the east side of the Blue Ridge are fine also. The scenery is very fine, the soil is good if it gets fertilizer, and ~~fuel~~ fuel is cheap, they only have to feed stock about 2 months in the year and sheep and cattle fatten on blue grass with almost no grain. Then it is a fine country for fruit, and government reports make it about the most health-

ful location in this country. It is my judgment that stock and grain are going to be high in price till the war is over and for some years afterwards.

There is a great scarcity now in leather, all kinds of meat, wheat, corn and many other things produced on the farms. Virginia has the advantage over this state in being near the markets and having good railroad connections, in having plenty of rain, and almost every farm has some timber, which is very scarce here. For instance a farm of 200 acres, 160 cleared, within 3 miles of Lynchburg, within 1 mile of a station on Southern R.R. with good level land, 8 room house with modern conveniences, running water on place, silo, good barns, fitted for truck farming or dairying, and with 1200 bearing apple trees (claimed to be worth \$10. apiece) and a variety of other fruits, is offered for \$12000. or \$60. per acre. That is certainly much cheaper than a farm with such buildings can be bought here. Timber land can be bought at about \$10. per acre and cut over land that soon grows up in blue grass at about \$3. My impression is that western land prices are too high in proportion to land in the eastern states. Land in bearing apple trees in the state of Washington will sell for \$1000 to \$3000. per acre, which is more than it is worth.

Orchards in Florida and California sell for more than they are worth, and Virginia has the advantage of them in nearness to markets and cost of handling.

Mrs. Wilson has a cousin living near Roanoke and another a little farther south. I think a large part of our family tree branched off into Maryland and Va. and many of the lost members of the tribe are probably to be found the western part of that state. The Gordons also are quite numerous there.

My brother James is still in Denver; his oldest, the boy James, is in the automobile business, the next two, Ella and Martha are teaching, and I believe the rest have not finished high school. I have not seen them for several years. Our girl Ruth expects to finish high school this coming year and then says she is going to teach.

I think grand-father's brother, James Wilson, who married Ellen Manifold, went to Maryland, and the movement of the population before the year 1800 was from Penna. up the Shenandoah Valley, at least of those who came from Scotland and Ireland. The proportion of Scotch-Irish in the western part of Virginia is much larger than here, where the Germans are taking all the farms. More than half the farms in this county are now owned by Germans. Even the Bohemians have to move out. Most of them are loyal to U.S. in this war, but many would not be if they felt free to express themselves. One of them was taken to Lincoln and will be held till the war is over.

With kindest regards from all of us to you and your brother,

Yours very sincerely
A. S. Wilson

P.S. 6 P.M.

We have just returned from Fairbury. Although Claire has not been sitting up today she insisted on going this afternoon to see the flying machine. We started about 2 and reached the town in a little over an hour and found the air-ship was in the air and while we were watching it the machine passed directly over our heads at a height of about 1500 ft. and we watched its maneuvers for quite a while. The noise of the motor was heard very distinctly. We had a fine afternoon for the ride as there were enough clouds to keep it cool and the roads were in good shape. Our fan belt gave out on the way over but I had another one in the car and soon replaced the broken one. A good many Hebron people went over to Fairbury and there was a large crowd there and we met scores of cars going as we came home. I do not think Claire is any the worse for the trip.

Are you near the route of the airplanes that carry the mail between Chicago and New York? I expect you often see them flying, but they are not very common here.

I believe this is the day the big balloon (dirigable) is expected from England, and it is to land at New York sometime this afternoon. The Atlantic is beginning to deserve its name of the "big pond" for it does not seem as large as it did.

After all the Germans did with their big Zepelins they never attempted, or at least never succeeded in crossing the Atlantic. It would have seemed a terrible thing if they had bombed New York as they did London.

We are arranging for our church and S.S. picnic which is to be held in a few days. The Sunday ^{School} Council at their last meeting voted to turn the matter over to the Ladies Aid Society to make all arrangements. This struck me as a very sensible move for I have always dreaded the matter of arranging for the S.S. Picnic.

The Supt. of our S.S. at present is R.M. Gordon who lives about a block from us, in fact on the other side of the same block. They have two boys and two girls and our children are playing with theirs most of the time when not in school. Mr. Gordon is one of our elders, and Mrs. Gordon was brought up in the U.P. Church and graduated from Park College in Missouri.

I suppose the President will be passing through this state soon on his trip to explain the Peace Treaty. I have never seen him yet. Hoping to hear soon from you ~~soon~~ believe me
yours as ever

A. G. WILSON, BONDED ABTRACTER



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HEBRON, NEB. 1/14/1918.

Dear Cousins;

Your very interesting letter of Jan. 4, was received a few days ago and we enjoyed every word of it. If you will just keep on telling me about the friends and cousins there I think I may get to feel acquainted with them even if I do not get to see them. I remember that I had one or two letters from one of Uncle William's daughters a number of years ago, but I cannot find the letters now. I am glad to know that you have such nice neighbors on both sides and so many cousins in and near York. You certainly can never get lonesome.

It seems strange that there should be such difficulty in getting coal in York, as I always think of that as near the centre of the coal region. We use Penn. anthracite coal in our furnace, but have to pay \$15. a ton for it and it is a poorer grade than it used to be when we paid \$8. for it in Iowa. For soft coal (for the kitchen and office) we generally use Colorado "Maitland" coal which has advanced from \$7. to \$10.50 since we came to Hebron. There have been several times this winter when we could not get either kind, but we have always had enough to carry us through. I usually fill the bin for the furnace in late summer when the price is a little lower, and take it direct from the car. I think we have enough of that to last through the winter. We have not had much snow here this winter, and the roads have been like asphalt pavement most of the time. Our coldest weather has been during the last 3 or 4 days, and night before last it was 21 below zero. None of the churches here had services ~~before~~ yesterday except the Methodist. We have union services of all the protestant churches every Sabbath evening to save

coal. Our church is now without a pastor but we are trying to secure a man who is now at Fairmont, Neb.

We have always been able to buy at least 5 pounds of sugar this winter at about 10¢ a pound, and eggs are about 42¢ and butter 45¢ and flour \$3. for 48 pounds. The farmers are the ones that are making money here on account of the high prices, though the crops this last year were not so good as usual. The wheat this winter has suffered from lack of moisture. We now have about 5 inches of snow, but before this came we had scarcely any rain or snow for about three months. Hebron merchants have done well this fall as people come a long distance to trade when the roads are good and the town was full of cars nearly every day till this snow came. Now it is so drifted that they cannot run till the roads are broken. We had a red cross sale here on New Years day, which brought in about \$2100. People donated the things to be sold. One little boy gave his pet scotch collie pup, which he said was all he had to give. It brought \$60. One turkey brought over \$50. being sold several times. Two calves sold for over \$100 each. Of course we all took membership in the Red Cross society. A letter from my brother James the other day said his boy James had volunteered. He had been in the automobile business in California and so entered the engineering department and has gone to Texas. Three brothers/^{Franzen}from Hebron volunteered for the aviation department of the navy as mechanics and they have gone to Chicago. Two other families in Hebron have sent three sons each to the army, one is named Tripp and the other Hartman. The Franzen boys were our best experts at repairing autoes and we do not have any one that can fully take their place.

One of brother James girls has been teaching in Raton, New Mexico and brother wrote that she would probably make us a visit as she was about to take up work at Manhattan, Kansas and might come this way. We were all hoping she could come, but just at that time she was offered \$75. per month at Montpelier, Idaho and went there instead and we did not

get the visit we had hoped for. Her sister Ella is teaching in the same school in Montpelier.

As to the war, I have no doubt as to the result, for I feel sure that the Kaiser is doomed. No man can commit the crimes that he has and make a success of it permanently. The uncertain thing about it, ^{is} as to how long it will last. I hope next summer will see the end. I am still rather expecting to see Russia right itself with the world. Either the Bolsheviki will unite with the Cossacks and Ukrainians and fight the Germans, or else the Bolsheviki will be overthrown and the people of southern Russia will come back into the alliance in time, if the war does not end before that takes place. The Japs are likely to take a hand in the Russian muddle, at least in the eastern part of the country.

I was delighted to see Jerusalem taken from the Turks & Germans and hope the whole of Palestine and Syria and Persia will be freed from their power. We took a collection in our Sabbath School for the Armenians and Syrians and I suppose nearly all schools did the same.

I think the title of "father of lies" fits the Kaiser very well and it would certainly be folly for any government to enter into a treaty with the present government of Germany after they have shown their contempt for treaties and for all laws of God and man. I think our navy has already done splendid work against the submarines and in a few months we will have one of the finest land armies the world has ever seen and the best navy except that of Great Britain. The air men have the best chance to "get" the Kaiser by a chance shot. He always moves with the greatest secrecy and greatest caution and it is very hard to locate him. The war means a great sacrifice in men and money for all of us, but I would never have felt right if we had stood by and allowed the Kaiser to blot out the civilization of western Europe and we had done nothing to prevent it. I think it is a great privilege to be able to go as one of the American soldiers. The war will result in making Americans of a lot of foreigners who heretofore have always stood up for Kaiser. With kindest regards from all of us to you and all the friends there,

Your cousin, *A. B. Wilson*

Hebron, Nebraska. Oct. 30, 1918.

Dear Cousin;

Your very interesting and welcome letter of Sept. 26 was received some time ago, and I will enclose with this the the clipping and announcements about the old Hopewell church. I will make a copy of the newspaper clipping for my own use and wish to thank you for sending the papers to me. You have doubtless heard from the Liggitt family about Clark Liggitt's death. It came very suddenly and unexpectedly. He had been suffering some from the influenza as had the rest of the family, but no one seemed to think he was in any danger. He was so very fleshy (nearly 300 pounds I think) and his heart action was not very strong so that he would often fall asleep in the day time. He did not have any pneumonia but I think it was heart failure that caused his death. All meetings had been prohibited by the local board of health so there was not a large funeral as there would otherwise have been, for Clark was well known in this region and had lots of friends. None of the relatives on Clark's side of the family could come from a distance, but two of Mrs. Liggitt's sisters from Iowa were here. There were loads of flowers. Cornelius Collins (son of A.G. Collins) had an addition to his family the other day in the person of an 11 pound boy, who has been named John Clark Collins. John is for Cornie's uncle and Clark ~~for Clark~~ is for Clark Liggitt. Clark Liggitt and Cornie were in partnership in the auto and implement business and they were always great friends.

- a 6 year old-

Cornie's other boy, (who is also named Cornelius) / was delighted with his new brother. He says the baby is almost as large as he is and he hopes no one will teach him to wrestle as he is afraid he will soon be able to throw him. We have had about 190 cases of the "Flu" here and 9 or 10 deaths. Mrs. Collins and her daughter Mary (who is here now) both have it in light form but are ~~xx~~ getting better. Mary's husband Harry Russell was in the draft and went to Camp Dodge near Des Moines about two months ago. Mary has been teaching in the Hastings schools, having charge of the domestic science work, but the schools had to close on account of the "Flu" and she came here to be with her parents. Harry has just been promoted from corporal to sargent and has been transferred to the officers training camp at camp Oglethorpe (in Georgia I think it is).

None of our family have had the "flu" yet and are hoping to escape it. My brother James is now at Armour looking after his share of the crops on his farms there. He has 1200 acres or more there and he says his corn is fine and going from 25 to 50 bushels per acre and his small grain was equally good. They had a heavy snow there on the 24th & 25th and we had a three day rain on 25", 26" & 27 winding up with a little snow. Our wheat is looking finer than I ever saw it here at this time. Jim says they have no "flu" in Armour but in Denver where his home is it is very severe and they are talking about quarantining against all travel, but none on his family have the disease. His daughter Martha is teaching at Manhattan, Kansas and they have closed schools there on account of the epidemic.

I had a letter last month from my brother's boy, James L., who is now at Aviation Repair Depot, Montgomery, Alabama. He is in Repair Squadron #883. He says that they got the report some weeks ago that the war was all over and some of them undertook to celebrate and got their things all packed up to turn in to the government, but the officers came down on them pretty hard and gave them a severe reprimand.

I wrote to cousin John A. Wilson at Stewartstown and asked for the address of his son who is at Camp Dodge. He sent me the address and I have written to Harry but have not had time to get a reply yet. He is working in the Base Hospital and his address is Base Hospital, Camp Dodge, Iowa. c/o Med. Sup. Depot. One of the boys from our church, ~~David~~ David Velte, was with his regiment in Alaska for over a year and was recently transferred to Camp Dodge. They found that while the boys had good health in Alaska in spite of the severe cold, when they came to the camp at Des Moines they could not stand the climate and they expect to send them to some camp near the sea coast. David was quite sick at Camp Dodge for a while. Cousin John A. wrote me an interesting letter. He spoke of the old family grave-yard and said the old homestead had lately been owned by cousin Thomas Wilson who died at Stewartstown, and whose funeral you were telling me about. He says the old farm is to be sold this fall. I wonder if the grave yard will be sold with the farm or is that owned separately. Cousin John said his son Charles and family

all had the "flu" and no one to help them except the hired girl and so cousin John and his wife were going out to stay with them a while. It has been very hard to get doctors here as two of our doctors had the disease and a third one died of it and a fourth was in the draft and had to go to his assignment last week. Still another doctor is expecting to move away in a short time. It will leave only two doctors in town and one of them a very old man. The one who died was Dr. Boyes, who had built up a fine hospital here and was a very skillful surgeon. He had about a dozen trained nurses and one or two surgical operations nearly every day. He had put up a \$25000. building and was making money faster than any one in Hebron. He had volunteered his services for the army and was to have left for camp on the day he took sick. He got over the first attack but came down town too soon and took pneumonia. We have no surgeon here who can take his place and I do not know what will be done with the hospital. Eight of his nurses had also volunteered for red cross work and they have to go. The local red cross had planned to run the hospital while Dr. B. was gone with the aid of the other doctors in the county, but that arrangement can not be permanent.

Our food prices here are a good deal like yours. We have to pay 16 ¢ for a 5 lb loaf of bread; 65 ¢ for creamery butter; 12 ¢ a pound for sugar, and get only $\frac{1}{2}$ pound a week for each person; Potatoes have been selling at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ a pound as our home grown crop was a failure, but they have good potatoes in western Nebraska and they have just shipped in 3 car loads and we got a supply of fine potatoes at \$1.50 a bushel and they are selling the large "Pearl White" at \$1.25 but I think they are not quite so good. Apples cost us about \$1. per peck but may be cheaper when they get them in car lots. The government would not let us have any hard coal in Nebraska this winter so I bought four tons of semianthracite from Arkansas and three tons of Colorado Maitland coal. I suppose I will have to get more before the winter is over. It takes a good deal of coal to heat a house for 7 people, and then I have to heat the office too. This coal costs about \$10.50 a ton. We bought peaches in bushel baskets @ \$3.25 and pears (Bartlett) @ \$3.75 a bushel and tomatoes @ \$2 per bushel.

Hebron, Nebraska. July 4, 1919.

Dear Cousin;

Your letter of January 3 has remained unanswered so long that I am ashamed of it. I have had a very busy year since January 1. There is a decided boom on in lands here in the west. Very little land in this county can now be bought for less than \$100. per acre. Some of it brings \$200. and over. In Iowa it runs from \$200. to \$300. and in Illinois as high as \$500. per acre. In South Dakota it is selling at from \$60. to 80. per acre east of the Missouri river. A.G.Collins has just sold a half section in S.Dak.for about \$60 per acre. When we came to Hebron in 1902 160 acres could be bought for \$1800 to \$2500. The prices seem to me to be too high, but many claim they will go much higher yet.

The crops here are very good this year, the wheat is now being cut and much of it is expected to make 30 bushels an acre or more. I suppose the price will be around \$2.20. The corn is a little late and weedy on account of the unusial amount of rain this last spring, but is growing very fast. We have a long growing season for corn and it will likely make a good crop. We had some loss by hail in this county, probably about 100 square miles of farm land was badly hailed. Nearly all were insured but not for over half the value of the crop. It did not damage the corn much but the alfalfa and wheat and oats were often a total loss. We have been having fine harvest weather, but not enough help to handle the crop. The business men have been going out after supper to help with the shocking.

The amount of abstract work varies as the number of transfers in land so that I will likely be crowded with work for some months yet. I have managed to get about even with it yesterday for the first time since the first of the year.

Nearly every bod^y here had the "Fly" and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ % of our population died with it. Mrs.Wilson's brother, Frank, from Des Moines was here on his way to Hastings, Nebraska, where he preached the baccalaureate sermon for Hastings College, and he told us about the deaths at Camp Dodge among the soldier boys. He said the undertakers in Des Moines made a fortune off of it. One firm cleared \$75000. The government made a contract at about \$50. for each funeral and then the relatives often bought better

materials than the contract called for and of course that was figured above the contract price.

Our family all had the "flu" except myself, and they were all sick at one time, but none of them were very bad, although they were all in bed for a time. It made rather hard sledding for me for a few days as no one came to help, every one having his hands full at home.

Our oldest girl, Ruth, is now in California, a Freshman in "Leland Stanford University" at Palo Alto, about 30 miles south of San Francisco. Her grandmother wanted to go to California and did not want to go alone, so she offered to take Ruth along and pay her expenses. She entered at the beginning of the Spring term on April 1, and is now in the second term, as they have 4 terms a year, 12 weeks each, and about 1 month vacation in September. Ruth is enjoying herself immensely, as they hear the very best music and best lecturers there and it is a lovely place. It has had the reputation of being the richest university in the world, but I think Harvard possibly now has more money.

They have about 2000 students, of which about 500 are girls. The number of girls is strictly limited to 500.

Ruth is taking swimming lessons as part of her physical training and has found it hard for her to learn. I think a fat person swims more easily than a bony person, as fat will float and bones tend to sink. Ruth was quite slender and tall, but is taking on some flesh now and eats ravenously since she went to California. Their rooms are about 2 miles from the University and she has to be there by 8 A.M. so she gets some exercise. In her last letter she said she had finally learned to swim and float on her face or on her back.

I bought a lot down town this spring with the idea of building an office for my abstract books and work but there is an old building (the oldest in town) on the front of the lot and I have to wait till that is removed before I can build. The Court House is $\frac{1}{2}$ block away. The City Library is to be on the adjoining lot. The cost of building materials is now very high and it may be just as well for me to wait a little before building. I had expected to be compelled to move as the building where my office now is was sold the the buyer said he was going to remodel the building for a department store, but he has now changed his mind on account of

the high cost of materials and labor, and I can keep my present location for another year. The lot is 30 ft. front and 165 ft. deep. Gordon has planted the back part of the lot in garden stuff and we have been enjoying our own vegetables this summer for the first time in about 9 years. The neighbor boy has helped Gordon with the work.

Clair had a misfortune the other day in being bitten on the lip by a large shepherd dog that she was playing with. The dog seemed to be very fond of children and Claire was very fond of the dog. Gordon and Claire had gone over to Corney Collins' house to play with Corney's boy and the dog was staying there though it belonged to the neighbor's boys who are away for the summer. Gordon and "Corneal" were playing together ~~with~~ and Claire was playing with the dog. They did not see the attack but heard the dog bark and before they could look around the dog had bitten her on the lower lip, the tusk cutting through the lower lip on the right side and nearly through on the left. Her face was scratched and bruised also though she was not thrown down. The neighbors rushed over and took care of Claire and then phoned to me at the office as they did not like to frighten Mrs. Wilson. Just as I reached the house by the back way a neighbor brought Clair in by the front door. The Doctor took Clair over to the hospital and they cauterized the wound and sewed it up. She went back the next day for a second treatment and now the lip seems to be almost well and I do not think she will be disfigured at all. The shock upset her digestion however and she has had a bilious attack since from which she is just beginning to recover. On account of Clair's condition we are staying at home today. We had planned to go to Fairbury, 25 miles east of here. and let the children see the air ships. We had some fear of hydrophobia at first and many people thought the first thing to do was to kill the dog, but the surgeon advised that the dog be watched to see if any signs of the disease appeared. The dog seems to be as well as usual and no one can account for his attacking Claire.

We had just enough rain to lay the dust last night and this morning and the roads are in fine shape. We are expecting to have two roads through Hebron that will be improved by

federal aid. I think the plan is to first cover with a mixture of gravel and clay which is abundant here and when this has been thoroughly packed down to give a treatment with crude oil. Some of our streets in town have^{been} treated in this way and they are in fine shape all the time. In a good many places in Nebraska they are planning to pave the roads with brick or with concrete. I think the best roadbed I have seen was in Council Bluffs where they had paved with vitrified brick and then flooded the surface with asphalt. This made a smooth surface that sheds all the water and is very durable and not slippery when wet, and never bothered with dust.

Beth has finished her first year in the highschool and has joined the Camp Fire girls. They have a hike once a week. One of the girls in the next house to ours, Edith Carter, is the head of the local organization. She is the deputy County Clerk and gets a salary of \$100. per month.

Our Hebron Hospital has changed hands lately. Dr. Boyes who had built it up, died with the "flu" and a doctor from Oklahoma has bought the plant. He and his wife are both good surgeons and they are having a great run of business. Boyes had made about \$50000. from the hospital and the new Dr. Bowles will doubtless make a greater success of than Boyes. Dr. Boyes owned a farm on which he kept a fine herd of Holstein cattle and so the hospital was always well supplied with the best of cream, milk and butter.

They have several surgical operations every day and several of the other physicians in the town act as assistant physicians.

We had the spring meeting of presbytery in our church and had the pleasure of entertaining the visiting ministers and elders. We had 2 ministers and 2 elders at our house, one of the elders being Prof. Slaymaker from the University at Lincoln. He is a young man, a native of Pennsylvania, a graduate of Grove City College near Pittsburg. On the week before Presbytery met, we also had to entertain the District Couvention of the Y.P.S.C.E.

Cornelius Collins, who is now Cashier of the Hebron State Bank made a trip east last month. He sold more insurance than any other agent in a certain territory for a certain company and they paid his expenses for the trip to Hot Springs in Virginia, and on the way he visited the friends in Pennsylvania. **EEK**

I wonder how you folks like the daylight saving law. Every body here is opposed to and especially the farmers, as it puts them in the fields before the dew is off the grass and grain and brings the day to an end in the middle of the afternoon. If they have any hired help it means quite a loss to them. I am glad the Congress has ~~xxx~~ decided to repeal the law. It affects us worse probably than it does you. Before that law was passed our time was about half an hour ahead of the sun as we are near the west line of this "zone" and the time changes on the railroads not very far west of us. So when the clock is set forward an hour it makes our time $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours ahead of the sun.

Gordon has made a sun dial in our back ~~yard~~^{yard} and the shadow of the sun at noon by the clock has gone less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the distance around the half circle which it moves over during the day. You see the shadow moves east faster near the noon hour (by the sun) than it does toward evening or morning.

The time change has a bad effect on the attendan^{ce}~~ce~~ at Sunday School as people will not get up early enough to get to church by 9:45 railroad time, which would be 8:15 by sun time.

If a person lived a short distance west of the place where the railroad time changes, say west of Pittsburg, it would make nearly an hour difference and the new time would be only about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour ahead of the sun. I can see how the law may be of some advantage in a region where there are many factories and large bodies of men employed in the cities, but it is certainly a nuisance out here. I cant see that it saves any light or fuel here, as the lights have to be used in the morning instead of in the evening.

I hope you are having a very pleasant 4th in York. They do not allow the sale of fireworks here nor any booze so we are having a very quiet time. Some of the neighboring towns have celebrations but Hebron has none.

With kindest regards to yourself and your brother and all the friends in York and York County, I remain,

Your cousin,

A. G. Wilson

Hebron, Nebraska. Jan.31, 1920.

Dear Cousins;

Your very interesting letter of Nov.25,1919 was received a long time ago and should have been answered sooner. I have had to work so hard for the last few months that it almost impossible to find time to write letters except those which I have to write in my business. About five months ago I had the phone taken out of my office, partly because they raised the price again (the rate id \$3.75 for office phones) but more because I do not use it much myself and when I am very busy I am so often interrupted by some one phoning to ask about the title to some piece of land or how many mortgages there may be on some ~~one's~~ one's lots. It takes time to look such things up and time is the most valuable thing I have. I often do as much work after I come home at night as I do in office hours as I keep a typewriter at the house and most of the exhibits, such as copies of Wills, affidavits, etc. are made at the house. Beth is getting so she is quite a help in that kind of work. I pay her 15¢ a page for the copying she does. She sometimes makes \$1. in one evening in that way.

We have had rather a disagreeable winter as we had more snow and rain and mud than usual and the coldest month of December we ever had here. Just when the coal strike was on we were having nights as cold as 22 degrees below zero. I had bought 12 tons of coal in August so we had plenty all the time at the house, but at the office I have not room for very much and so had to order more during the strike. They would only let us have a half ton at a time and not that if we had as much as a half ton on hand. We had to get an order from the Mayor to get even the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton. There was no suffering here on account of fuel. They started a city wood yard and sent gangs of men to the timber and cut wood which sold at about the same rate per cord as coal was per ton.

I wonder if you have the pet fox squirrels in York. We have a lot of them here living in the trees in the town and they are protected by law. They have become quite a nuisance as they gnaw through the wood shingles on the house roofs and get in the attics and it is almost impossible to get rid of them. They run up the trees and jump over on the house roof. I have closed up at least a half dozen squirrel holes in our roof but they make new ones as fast as I

can shut them up. They do not do any harm except that they make a racket running around over head at night. I suppose they carry in nuts also. Mrs. Collins says they went in one of her bed room windows and carried off some ribbon for a nest. One of our nearest neighbors shot a squirrel a few years ago and the small boys, who did not like him, made complaint and had him arrested for it. I believe he paid a small fine.

I think I told you ^{Ruth} had gone to Leland Stanford University at Palo Alto, about 30 miles south of San Francisco. By the first of April she will have been there one year. They have four terms a year of 12 weeks each, so she can do 12 terms work in three years which would count as four years work. I think they will be home sometime in June. Her grandmother wanted to go to California and took Ruth along for company. Ruth is now in the girls boarding hall, called Roble Hall and is greatly taken with the work there. Herbert Hoover lives there. He was one of the first students to enter the university when it opened, I think it was about 1891.

There are some cases of "flu" in town and they have closed all the churches for the present. They have not decided whether they will close the schools. Moving picture shows are closed. They say it is much milder than last year. They quarantine each family where there is a case of "flu".

We have a new law on auto licenses. The old rate was \$3.00 no matter the kind of car. Now it is from \$10. up depending on weight and horse-power of the car. It brings in a lot of money for the roads. They have now about \$250,000 to be used on roads in this county. We generally have good dirt roads here and when they are dry and smooth they are as good as any road. They are planning to make permanent improvements, in bridges, paved roads where there is a great deal of travel and grading down the hills.

Hebron is planning the paving of some of the streets. The street we live on will probably be one of the first to be paved as it is the one next north of the main street and is one of the principal

residence streets. It will cost lot owners about \$400. per lot in the residence streets and about \$800 per lot in the business section. They are planning a foundation of concrete, then a layer of brick and then flooding with asphalt to fill the crevices.

They are getting the taxes pretty high here as this year they are 122 mills on the assessed valuation, which is one fifth of the actual value of the property. So it makes a tax of over 2% on the real value of all property.

I was glad to see the 16th of January pass without the war prohibition law being set aside. I did not care to have the peace treaty ratified till after that date, but I think now Uncle Sam ought to get into the league of nations. I think at least some of the reservations which Lodge has advocated should be adopted. The European nations say they will not object and I do not think Woodrow ought to be so stiff about not crossing a "t" or an "i".

You ~~not~~ beat us a little on prices on some things. We have not had to pay more than 75¢ for creamery butter and 65¢ for country butter and creamery is now selling at 65¢ For milk though we are paying 14¢. For apples we have to pay \$3.70 per box, about 200 in a box. These wre western apples. Best cuts of meat are about 30¢ a pound. Chickens from \$1.50 to \$2. Bread costs us 16¢ a loaf. Flour \$3.75 for 48 pound sacks. We stocked up with irush potatoes at \$2. per bushel last fall. They are much higher now.

Do you know the post office address of the Wilson brothers before they left Ireland? As I have it, they came from County Antrim, but I do not know the town. I think they came about 1757. I am trying to get some books from Wm. Brown, old book dealer in Edinburgh, Scotland that give the names of the families that went from Scotland to Ireland from about 1600 to 1660. One, called the "Hamilton Manuscripts" names those that went to Antrim and the "Montgomery Manuscripts" gives those that went to County Down, where Andrew Gordon came from. Mr. Collins was showing me some letters written from Newton Airds, County Down to grand-father Gordon in 1823. I have some others written to him in 1829. by Thos. ~~Knox~~ Knox. They give the name of grandfather's mother and uncle and the place where she was buried and the inscription on the tombstone. I asked Ruth to look for books on this subject in the university library, but she said they had none of the books that I named either in the univeraity library or the city library but would

June 31 1879

see if they had any of them in the State library at Sacramento and would borrow them if they could. I do not expect to find them any where in this country though. These city libraries seem to fill up with novels almost entirely. We are expecting to get started on the Hebron city library this spring. Lew Secrist willed a farm to the city for that purpose. Now the farm has been sold for about \$15000. and we expect to get the money soon. I am one of the members of the library board. Some of his relatives are trying to break the will and prevent us from getting the money. The judge is favorable to us and the will is very plain so I think the city will get the money unless the case is appealed to some other court.

You mentioned a visit which my mother and brother John made at your house when the boys played with the bumble bees. I think that must have been in 1876 as father and mother and John and Lanus went to the Centennial that year in Philadelphia and visited in York County. James and I had started to college at Hopkinton the year before and I think were there part of the time while they were in the east. Our home at that time was in Linn Grove, Iowa.

The land boom in this region has increased my work a good bit and I am dreading the time from now to March 1st. There are a lot of men who have bought farms and paid about \$1000. down and expect to borrow \$10,000 of \$12,000 to pay over on March 1st. Most of the loan companies have quit making loans as they say they already have all they can ~~accommodate~~ ^{carry} and the banks have arranged for about all they can loan, so I think a good many will be unable to complete payments ^{first} according to contract on March/and will lose what they have paid.

The lawyers who examine abstracts are getting much more particular about titles and will not pass a title if they can find any flaws in it. This makes my work heavier and makes things uncertain all around.

There ~~are~~ are a great many cases taken into the District Court to "Quiet title" and then I have to show the court proceedings on the abstracts.

I had a letter from my brother James the other day. His son James L. has been in the government camp at Montgomery, Alabama, and he expects soon to be transferred to San Jose, California. He is head of the "magneto and carburetor" department in the repair shops of the aviation work. They would not let him fly as they said his eyes were not perfect. The family join me in kindest regards to both of you.

Your cousin,
A. G. Wilson

Hebron, Nebraska. July 26, 1920.

Dear Cousins;

Your very interesting letter came during May and I am just now getting even with my work, so have not found time to answer sooner. I was sorry to learn of cousin Rachel Wilson's death. Of course I never met her, but I always put down on my "family tree" all items of this kind so as to have a record of all the relatives so far as possible. I was very much interested in reading what you said about Grandmother Wilson's ring, which Uncle Alex had at one time. I was quite well acquainted with Uncle Alex as he often visited us in Iowa before his death. I remembered that there was something interesting about his early romances and a special reason why he did not marry but never heard the particulars and never heard the ring mentioned. My brother, James, was with Uncle Alex for some years in South Dakota, where Jim was in the hardware business and where Uncle Alex owned a good deal of land. Jim was one of the administrators of his estate when he died.

Our farmers here are through with harvesting now and are busy threshing. They were rather blue about wheat in the early spring as the weather was dry and the wind blew some of it out of the ground entirely so that some of the fields were plowed up and planted to corn. But the weather since has been so favorable that the crop seems to be a bumper. The fields are yielding from 20 to 45 bushels per acre and some of it weighs as high as 63 pounds to the bushel, so that some are realizing as much as \$100 per acre from the wheat. They have cut two good crops of alfalfa and will no doubt get at least one more cutting. They get about \$25. per ton for that. Usually when we have a good wheat crop the corn is not good, but the corn now is looking better than I ever saw it here, and if we do not get hail or hot winds when the corn is in tassel, it should make a splendid crop. Fruit is scarce here this year as the apple and peach orchards have nearly all died out in the last few years. Every thing is still at top price here, except that butter has come down from 75¢ to 60 and potatoes from \$6.50 a bushel to \$3.00. Sugar is selling for \$25.00 per sack and 27¢ per pound. I bought a sack a couple of months ago for about \$17. per 100 lb. Then I found I could get it cheaper in Denver so I wrote to my brother and had him buy a couple of sacks at \$16. a sack to which I had to add 70¢ a sack for freight. The dealer would only ship 2 sacks to one person. I let a neighbor have one of the sacks.

We have had some very hot weather last week. My office faces west & north and is on the west side of ~~a~~ a brick building on the second floor. As the sun gets around to the west the thermometer rises and continues to rise till sunset. It went as high as 103 degrees on Thursday and Friday. Ruth and her grandmother surprised us by coming home about July 1st. They had planned to stay six weeks longer so that Ruth could take a short summer term and enter the Junior class. But her grandmother took sick and the doctor told Ruth she ought to go home as soon as she was well enough. She has been improving since she came. The doctor there was treating her for heart trouble, but the doctor here says it is her

stomach and his treatment seems to help her. Ruth is greatly taken with the University there and bought her ticket back when she started home as it would make the return fare cheaper. It costs them about \$1000. a piece at Stanford for a year, which is about four times what it cost me at Wooster University, but of course the times have changed. One of the neighbor girls, Lillian Cottrell, is planning to go with Ruth when she returns in October. Her father is a dentist here and Lillian has been helping him in the office for a couple of years past.

Ruth has been helping me in the office in the forenoons since she returned. She runs the transfers (deeds, mortgages, releases, assignments, leases, wills, decrees, agreements, etc.) on the abstract books. I had been so crowded that I had gotten badly behind with that work. I take off every instrument filed in the court house, each evening, but had not been able to index these from my transfer book. She is a good penman, and as I am not and do not like pen work, it is quite a relief to have her do that work.

I pay her by the hour and she works just as many hours as she wishes. I keep a "temporary index" which simply shows the date of filing and the land described in the instrument, and I had to rely on that and the indexes in the county offices until I could properly index my own books.

One of brother Jim's daughters was married about a month ago, the second ^{Martha,} girl, and when Ruth and her grandmother came through Denver they stopped and had a visit with Jim and the rest of the family. Martha had been teaching for several years. Ruth says she is very nicely located in Denver and her husband belongs to a very nice family. I believe they are English in origin.

His oldest girl, Ella, expects to be married soon. His boy, James, is still in the government service, and is head of the "ignition and carbureter" department in connection with the air service. We have had several airplanes flying over Hebron lately. Two were here on July 6th. They took passengers up for about \$1. per minute. One of the planes was badly damaged by landing in a wire fence, but no one was hurt.

We are looking forward to our Chautauqua which comes in August. I happen to be chairman of the local committee in charge of the local end of the arrangements. We simply agree to sell 400 course tickets and furnish grounds and seats. I shall not serve again on that committee as people think we select the "talent", but in fact have nothing to say about that. The Redpath-Horner Co. selects all the attractions, and we have to take their word for it that they will all be first class.

They are spending a lot of money on roads in this county, making road beds wider, cutting down grades, cutting off short turns etc. and as a result the roads have been impassable most of the time, but will be greatly improved when they finish and get them smoothed down again.

Mary Collins seems to be fully recovering from her sickness and is now at home in Hastings. Grace Collins and her family were here from Denver a few weeks ago. They have six children, and they are a fine looking bunch.

The family all join in kindest regards to you and your brother,

Your cousin,

A. G. Wilson

Hebron, Nebraska. December 13, 1920.

Dear Cousins;

Your interesting letter of Nov. 26th came a short time ago and was soon followed by your letter of Dec. 3. I was very sorry to hear of the death of cousin Maggie, and of the death of the little baby of cousin Edna Wilson Stewart. We have not had any diphtheria, scarlet fever or measles here but there has been some whooping cough. Our little Claire took it at school a couple of weeks after the fall term opened. She was not so very sick except for a couple of days. We kept her out of school about 6 weeks. She is now back in school and seems quite recovered from the effects of it. We did not like to have her get it just as winter was coming on as it sometimes leaves a cough that lasts all winter. Our minister's family all were sick last week but not with whooping cough. It seemed to be more like the old fashioned "grip".

His name is D. C. Williamson. They have five children, the youngest only about 3 months old. They are very nice children, one ^{girl} ~~girl~~ and four boys. What was Maggie's mother's name before she married? That is one item I do not seem to have in my family tree. It must be nice to have so many of the cousins together there in York.

We have had a mild winter so far. We had a little snow this morning, but it has all gone before night. Two weeks ago we had quite a snow storm and the mud was just drying up from that one when the snow today gave us some more mud. For five or six Sabbaths we had rain each day and it was rather discouraging to the preachers.

The farmers here are feeling rather blue on account of the fall in prices of grain and stock. They had not much live stock on hand in this region as feed had been so high. Then the bumper crops this summer made them wish they had hogs and cattle to feed as they could not sell grain to any advantage. Corn in Hebron went as low as 30 cents a bushel. Some of the farmers west of us claimed corn was cheaper than coal and were burning corn for fuel. The farmers have generally agreed to hold their wheat till the price went to \$3.00. But there are too many of them and it is too easy to ship from Canada, and Australia and South America.

I think though that the farmers are not much worse off than the merchants. The clothing stores are nearly all offering clothes at 33% off or 50% off and shoes are coming down. A man from Fairbury (the next county seat east of Hebron) was telling me the other day that he was in a large tannery not long ago and he found they were not working half

the capacity of the tannery and their warehouses were crammed to the doors and they could not sell the leather. Raw hides are way down also. Steel products are said to be coming down about 1/3 in price.

One thing though that is very slow to fall is coal. Some of the Senators made the threat about a month ago, that if prices of soft coal did not come down decidedly before December 6 (when Congress met) that they would pass a law providing for the government taking over the coal mines. But the price of coal has never wavered here. Colorado soft coal is still selling here for \$16. and Illinois coal for \$14. We have not been able to get hard coal at all for a couple of years. We can beat you a little on price of butter and eggs and potatoes. Eggs 62¢ butter 60¢ for creamery and 55 for country. Home grown potatoes 1.35. Red River potatoes \$1.75 and they are certainly fine. Sweet potatoes were \$1.50. Carrots \$1.00 per bushel. Cabbage 2½ ¢ a pound. We do not use much cabbage but you ought to see the loads the Germans can get away with. The first winter that I taught school was up in the Turkey river country in northeast Iowa and I ~~was~~ boarded for the 6 month term with a native who fed us on sour kraut and venison. That was a very hard winter (1880-1881) and the snow was three feet deep in the timber. The deer were driven down from Wisconsin. I certainly enjoyed the venison, but I have never been able to eat sour kraut since.

When I was out in the mining camps in Idaho in 1906 & 1907, we had some fine venison. But as it was not the open season for deer the hunters always called it "cougar" meat. But the trout and white fish from the Payette river were even better than the cougar. We drove a tunnel (16 ft. wide and 10 ft. high) through a granite ridge for 1200 ft. and turned the Payette river through the tunnel by building a dam just below the upper entrance to the tunnel. When about half way through we came to some hot rock. The water that dripped from it was boiling hot. The rock was old volcanic rock and perhaps had not entirely cooled off, and some of the heat may have come from chemical action in the rock. At any rate the roof caved in near the hot part and we had a time of it getting the stuff cleaned out again. The ridge over the tunnel was about 600 ft. high. We shortened the river channel about 5 miles by the tunnel as it ran in the form of an ox bow at that place. There was a good supply of placer gold in the bed of the river which we intended to work and we had plenty of fun panning it out of the sand in the crevices of the rocky bed. We had mining claims which covered the bed of the river for about 15 miles and had a fine layout for water power which we intended to use

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for making electricity to send to Boise and other towns nearer and to the mining camps around our tunnel. We had things about ready to operate but the men we left in charge of the works were too greedy. After we had developed our ~~sixteen~~ claims the government took in the whole territory in a forest reserve. Our men told us they had secured the patents for our claims, and we felt perfectly safe if we were inside the reserve. But they ~~next~~ also organized a lumber company and began cutting the pine timber all along the river and the forest rangers objected and reported the matter to Washington. The result was that the government refused to give us any patents at all. We did not dare to invest capital in a plant if we could not get title to the land and so the whole plan had to be abandoned. We could have developed 30,000 or 40,000 horse power at least as the valley was a perfect V shape and not over 60 ft. wide at the bottom and the walls were solid granite. It was an ideal place for a dam and it could easily have been built 200 ft. in height.

We had the finest winter bathing at the lower end of the tunnel where we had a pool with solid rock bed and sides and the water came out of the tunnel at a little over 100 degrees. We camped out in a tent the first time I was up there, when the temperature was 5 degrees below zero and there was a foot of snow on the ground. Of course while the tunnel was being made there were comfortable shanties and bunk houses. We had about 50 men working on the tunnel, running it from both ends.

We had some enjoyment out of it but no profit on account of the greed and dishonesty of the ones left in charge of the work.

We had a union meeting in one of the churches last night and had an address by a man from Lincoln, on community welfare plans. He was very severe on the moving picture shows and is trying to secure passage of a law for state censorship of all films used in this state. I hope they will carry it through for I am sure many of the films used are not fit for children to see. In some communities the movie business is controlled by the churches which is a good thing when it can be managed that way.

The family all join in kindest regards to you both and in sympathy for cousin Maggie's family. I am sorry I never met cousin Maggie.

Your cousin,

A. G. Wilson