

Research Report

Who was the father of William Wilson (1827-1896), who married Louisa Lewis about 1855 near Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA?

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Research Report

Who was the father of William Wilson (1827-1896), who married Louisa Lewis about 1855 near Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA?

1. Research Question

Who was the father of William Wilson (1827-1896), who married Louisa Lewis about 1855 near Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA?

2. Limitations

Despite being born about 1827, William is not definitively found in any records until the 1860 U.S. federal census. He appears to have lived his adult life in Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, the State of Pennsylvania did not consistently record birth, marriage, and death records until the beginning of the 20th century rendering documentary evidence scarce or entirely unavailable.

3. Results Findings in Brief

Research suggests there is likely only one good candidate for the father of William Wilson. This person is William B. Wilson (b. 1809), son of John Wilson and Elizabeth Boyd. Advanced genetic tools and documentary evidence were used in making this determination. In particular, Y-DNA and autosomal DNA formed the foundation of the analysis.

4. Background Information for William Wilson (1827-1896)

The earliest known accounts for William Wilson (1827-1896) come from the 1860 U.S. federal census where he resided in Elizabeth Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.¹ Here, he was enumerated with his wife, Louisa Lewis (1835-1887), and three children. William was listed as a coal miner. He lived in the Allegheny-Washington-Fayette County area for remainder of his life dying in Pittsburg on 21 August 1896.² A timeline for William is depicted in Table 1, and the locations listed in Table 1 are presented in a map in [Figure 7](#) later in the report.

¹ 1860 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Elizabeth, William Wilson, p. 228, image 23 of 153; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1065.

² Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S., Deaths 1870-1905, William W. Wilson (1896), vol. 83, p. 605, image 196 of 704; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024).

Table 1 – Places of Residences for William Wilson (1827-1896)

Date	Location	Source
1860	Elizabeth, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania	U.S. Federal Census ³
1870	Jefferson, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania	U.S. Federal Census ⁴
1880	Monongahela, Washington County, Pennsylvania	U.S. Federal Census ⁵
---	Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania	Death record ⁶
1894	Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania	Daughter's marriage record ⁷
1896	Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania	Death record ⁸

Based on census and other collected information,⁹ William's family comprised 11 children, seven of which survived to adulthood.

1. John L. Wilson, b. 1856, d. unknown
2. Mary Martha, b. 1857, d. unknown
3. William T., b. 5 Feb 1859, d. 18 Feb 1930, m1. Anna Bargeman, m2. Emma Susan Freund
4. Margaret Jane, b. 1860, d. 26 Jun 1892, m. Christopher Minger
5. Frederick Ira, b. 18 Oct 1862, d. 12 Feb 1940, m. Ellen Overlin
6. James Finley, b. 27 Mar 1864, d. 5 Jun 1944, m. Sarah Louisa French
7. Benjamin Franklin, b. 16 Jan 1866, d. 1 Jul 1910, m. Annie Wesley
8. Louisa Elma, b. 17 Nov 1868, d. 8 Oct 1875
9. Charlotte N., b. 1869, d. 16 Oct 1874
10. Edward Charles, b. 2 Mar 1872, d. 10 Aug 1947, m. Kate Barnett
11. Elizabeth C. (Florence), b. 13 Apr 1874, d. 17 Dec 1917, m. George McEnney

Within the limited documentary records found for William Wilson (1827-1896), great confusion exists for when and where he was born as well as his middle name. Before exploring potential candidates for his father, the evidence for this information is evaluated as it will likely influence the interpretation for who his father was.

³ 1860 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Elizabeth, William Wilson, p. 228, image 23 of 153; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1065.

⁴ 1870 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Jefferson, William Wilson, p. 229A, image 23 of 52; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1292.

⁵ 1880 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Monongahela, William Wilson, p. 353D, image 23 of 153; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1021.

⁶ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S., Deaths 1870-1905, William W. Wilson, vol. 83, p. 605, image 196 of 704; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024).

⁷ Pennsylvania, U.S., County Marriage Records 1845-1963, Allegheny County, Elizabeth C. Wilson and George McEnney (8 December 1894), certificate 21915, vol. 31 (series B), p. 305, image 167 of 547; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024).

⁸ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S., Deaths 1870-1905, William W. Wilson (1896), vol. 83, p. 605, image 196 of 704; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024).

⁹ "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 February 2024), "Wilson120411" family tree by *rwilson7135*, profile for William Wilson (1827-1896).

4.1 William Wilson's Birth Year and Location

Across multiple records and record types, William's place and year of birth is inconsistently reported. For direct sources where it is expected that William provided the information himself, his birth years range from 1818 to 1827 and location of birth between Virginia and Pennsylvania (see Table 2).

Table 2 – Direct Records for William Wilson's Place and Year of Birth

Birth Year	Birth Location	Source
1827	Virginia	1860 U.S. Federal Census ¹⁰
1818	Pennsylvania	1870 U.S. Federal Census ¹¹
1823	Pennsylvania	1880 U.S. Federal Census ¹²

Indirect records, for which his birth information is expected to be given by someone other than himself, include the 1900 through 1930 census records for his children and the death records for himself and his children. (Note in 1880, all children were living with William and so information from the 1880 census is not relevant as indirect information.) For the census records found in Table 3, the reported birth locations for most of his children included either Pennsylvania, Virginia, or West Virginia. It is probable that West Virginia was recorded as Virginia on census records to be consistent with the supposed time and place of his birth in that West Virginia did not become a state until 1863.¹³ Only William's son, James, reports birth locations vastly different than Pennsylvania or Virginia / West Virginia, namely Tennessee and Louisiana.

¹⁰ 1860 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Elizabeth, William Wilson, p. 228, image 23 of 153; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1065.

¹¹ 1870 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Jefferson, William Wilson, p. 229A, image 23 of 52; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1292.

¹² 1880 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Monongahela, William Wilson, p. 353D, image 23 of 153; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1021.

¹³ Squires, J. Duane (1963), *West Virginia History*. West Virginia Archives and History, 24 (4). Retrieved 8 February 2024 from https://archive.wvculture.org/history/journal_wvh/wvh24-4.html.

Table 3 – Indirect Records for William Wilson’s Place and Year of Birth (Census)

Child	1900	1910	1920	1930
William T. ¹⁴	Pennsylvania	West Virginia	Virginia	
Frederick I. ¹⁵	Virginia	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania
James F. ¹⁶	Pennsylvania	Louisiana	Tennessee	Pennsylvania
Benjamin F. ¹⁷	Pennsylvania	West Virginia		
Edward C. ¹⁸	Pennsylvania	USA	Unknown	
Elizabeth C. ¹⁹	Pennsylvania	West Virginia		

¹⁴ 1900 U.S. census, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Uniontown, W T Wilson, p. 15, image 29 of 42; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1411. And 1910 U.S. census, Preston County, West Virginia, population schedule, Grant, William Wilson, p. 4B, image 8 of 21; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1695. And 1920 U.S. census, Garrett County, Maryland, population schedule, Friendsville, William T Wilson, p. 1B, image 2 of 9; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 673.

¹⁵ 1900 U.S. census, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Uniontown, F I Wilson, p. 19, image 38 of 42; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1411. And 1910 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania population schedule, West Brownsville, Frederick Wilson, p. 18A, image 35 of 41; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1427. And 1920 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Pike Run, Fred I Wilson, p. 32B, image 64 of 83; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1658. And 1930 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, East Pike Run, Fred I Wilson, p. 4B, image 8 of 79; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Family History Library microfilm 2341896.

¹⁶ 1900 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Monongahela, James F Wilson, p. 10, image 20 of 34; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1494. And 1910 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania population schedule, Monongahela Ward 2, James F Wilson, p. 5A, image 9 of 35; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1426. And 1920 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Monongahela Ward 2, James F Wilson, p. 5A, image 9 of 29; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1659. And 1930 U.S. census, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, South Brownsville, James F Nelson [Wilson], p. 1B, image 2 of 37; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Family History Library microfilm 2341774.

¹⁷ 1900 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Pittsburgh Ward 25, Benjman [Benjamin] Wilson, p. 1, image 2 of 36; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1363. And 1910 U.S. census, Potter County, Pennsylvania population schedule, Shinglehouse, Bell [Benj] F Wilson in George Mc Emrey [McEnney] household, p. 4A, image 7 of 33; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1415.

¹⁸ 1900 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Pittsburgh Ward 25, Edward Wilson, p. 15, image 30 of 34; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1363. And 1910 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania population schedule, Pittsburgh Ward 9, Charles Wilson, p. 8A, image 15 of 38; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1302. And 1920 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Pittsburgh Ward 9, Edw Charles Wilson, p. 11A, image 21 of 27; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1520.

¹⁹ 1900 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Pittsburgh Ward 25, Lizzie McEnney in George McEnny household, p. 9, image 18 of 34; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1363. And 1910 U.S. census, Potter County, Pennsylvania population schedule, Shinglehouse, Elizabeth C McEnney in George Mc Emrey [McEnney] household, p. 4A, image 7 of 33; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1415.

For the death records for himself and his children (see Table 4), William’s birth location again is either Pennsylvania or West Virginia. His death record and the record for his son, Frederick, are more specific indicating Wheeling, West Virginia.

Table 4 – Indirect Records for William Wilson’s Place and Year of Birth (Death Records)

Death Record	Relationship	Year Reported	Birth Location	Birth Year	Informant
William ²⁰	Self	1896	Wheeling, West Virginia	1811	Not stated
Benjamin F. ²¹	Son	1910	West Virginia	---	Elizabeth McEnney (daughter)
Elizabeth C. ²²	Daughter	1917	Pennsylvania	---	EJ Conn, undertaker
William T. ²³	Son	1930	Pennsylvania	---	Susan Wilson (decedent’s wife)
Frederick I. ²⁴	Son	1940	Wheeling, West Virginia	---	Fred Wilson (decedent’s son)
James F. ²⁵	Son	1944	Pennsylvania	---	JW (John William) Hankins of Uniontown, PA (relationship unknown)
Edward C. ²⁶	Son	1947	Unknown	---	Alice Schikele of Mayview, PA (registrar)

Across all records, Pennsylvania and West Virginia are the most frequently cited as his birth location. While the precise location cannot be determined, it is probable that Pennsylvania was frequently listed as his birth location because he resided in Pennsylvania during as an adult. It is possible that William may have been born in West Virginia or at least spent his formative years in the state given that several children and William himself (1860 census) indicated Virginia or West Virginia as his birth location. It is probable that William frequently moved around as a

²⁰ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S., Deaths 1870-1905, William W. Wilson (1896), vol. 83, p. 605, image 196 of 704; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024).

²¹ Pennsylvania, Death Certificates 1906-1963, B F Wilson (1910), Potter County, Shingletown, certificate 71240, image 4429 of 4622; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

²² Pennsylvania, Death Certificates 1906-1963, Mrs George McHenney [McEnney] (1917), Fayette County, Point Marion, certificate 13190, image of 3617; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

²³ Maryland Department of Health, William T. Wilson (1930), Garrett County, Friendsville, certificate 01720.

²⁴ Pennsylvania, Death Certificates 1906-1963, Fred I Wilson (1940), Washington County, East Pike Run, certificate 21341, image 1362 of 3517; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

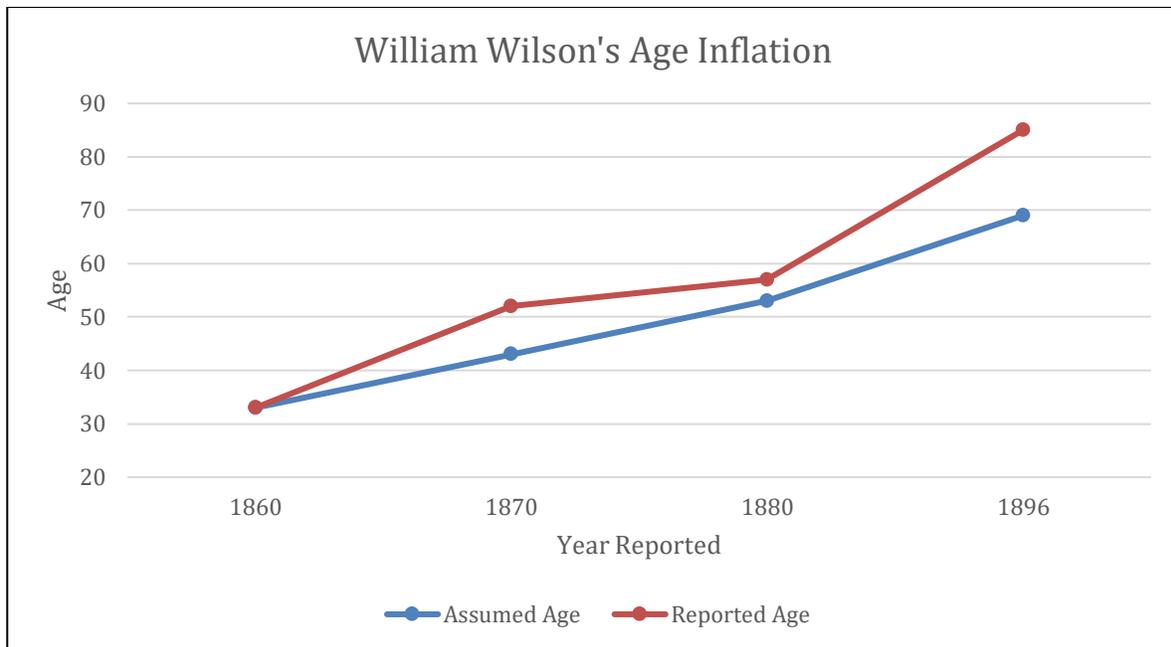
²⁵ Pennsylvania, Death Certificates 1906-1963, James F Wilson (1944), Fayette County, South Union, certificate 54397, image 258 of 4457; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

²⁶ Pennsylvania, Death Certificates 1906-1963, Charles Wilson (1947), Allegheny County, South Fayette, certificate 68830, image 2089 of 3754; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

child, and the area in which he lived as an adult is only about 50 miles from the West Virginia panhandle where Wheeling is located. In absence of any other records, it appears that William Wilson (1827-1896) was most likely born in West Virginia and perhaps near Wheeling.

With respect to William's birth year, there are no consistent records. The only generally consistent pattern is that as time progressed his age appears inflated. If we assume the earliest record is perhaps the most accurate, we can compare ages for that birth year over time compared to the reported birth year in later records (see Figure 1). It is possible that in later censuses his age may not have been reported by himself but rather by someone else in the family, and William may have looked older than his age. He was a coal miner by profession, which is known to promote premature aging.²⁷

Figure 1 – William Wilson's Age Inflation over Time



4.2 William Wilson's Middle Name

Table 5 list all records where a middle name or initial was given for William. Only one record indicates William's middle name might begin with a "T". This record is the death certificate for William's son, William T. On the record, the decedent's wife indicated her husband's father was similarly named William T. It is probable that she understood that her husband was named after his father and assumed that they shared the same middle name, too. This is likely erroneous.

²⁷ Curtis, Ben and Steven Thompson (2015), "This is the country of premature old men' Ageing and Aged Miners in the South Wales Coalfield, c.1880–1947," *Cultural and Social History*, 12(4), 587-606. Retrieved 8 February 2024 at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4841177/>.

Table 5 – Records for William Wilson’s Middle Name

Record Type	Record For	Relationship	Year Reported	Middle Name / Initial	Informant
Marriage	Elizabeth C. ²⁸	Daughter	1894	W.	William (father)
Death	William ²⁹	Self	1896	W.	Not stated
Death	Benjamin F. ³⁰	Son	1910	W.	Elizabeth McEnney (decedent’s sister)
Death	Elizabeth C. ³¹	Daughter	1917	W.	EJ Conn, undertaker
Death	William T. ³²	Son	1930	T.	Susan Wilson (decedent’s wife)

The remaining four records indicated William’s middle name began with a “W”. However, this must be interpreted with some caution as all these records have one person in common, namely his daughter, Elizabeth C. (Wilson) McEnney. For the marriage record, William gave his permission for his daughter to marry George McEnney in 1894 in Pittsburgh. While William may have verbally given his middle initial, he signed the document with his mark indicating that he could not read or write. It is not certain whether he or Elizabeth gave this information in the marriage record since he did not sign the document with his signature and probably could not fully read the document.

The next record is William’s death record in 1896, which similarly lists his middle initial as “W”. While no informant is listed on the record, it is probable that the informant was Elizabeth as she and William were both living in Pittsburg at this time. However, Elizabeth’s brother, Benjamin was also living in Pittsburgh at this time. In 1910, Elizabeth (Wilson) McEnney is the informant on the death record for her brother, Benjamin, and where Benjamin’s father’s information is captured. Here, William’s middle initial is again listed as “W”. Finally, on Elizabeth (Wilson) McEnney’s 1917 death record, William’s middle initial is similarly listed as “W”. The informant here is EJ Conn, who was the undertaker. It is possible that Conn took Elizabeth’s father’s information from Benjamin’s death record.

Although more records suggest William’s middle name might have begun with the letter “W”, because this information probably came from the same source (Elizabeth), it may be premature to definitively conclude that this was his middle initial. She might be the only one who accurately

²⁸ Pennsylvania, U.S., County Marriage Records 1845-1963, Allegheny County, Elizabeth C. Wilson and George McEnney (8 December 1894), certificate 21915, vol. 31 (series B), p. 305, image 167 of 547; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024).

²⁹ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S., Deaths 1870-1905, William W. Wilson (1896), vol. 83, p. 605, image 196 of 704; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024).

³⁰ Pennsylvania, Death Certificates 1906-1963, B F Wilson (1910), Potter County, Shingletown, certificate 71240, image 4429 of 4622; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

³¹ Pennsylvania, Death Certificates 1906-1963, Mrs George McHenney [McEnney] (1917), Fayette County, Point Marion, certificate 13190, image of 3617; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

³² Maryland Department of Health, William T. Wilson (1930), Garrett County, Friendsville, certificate 01720.

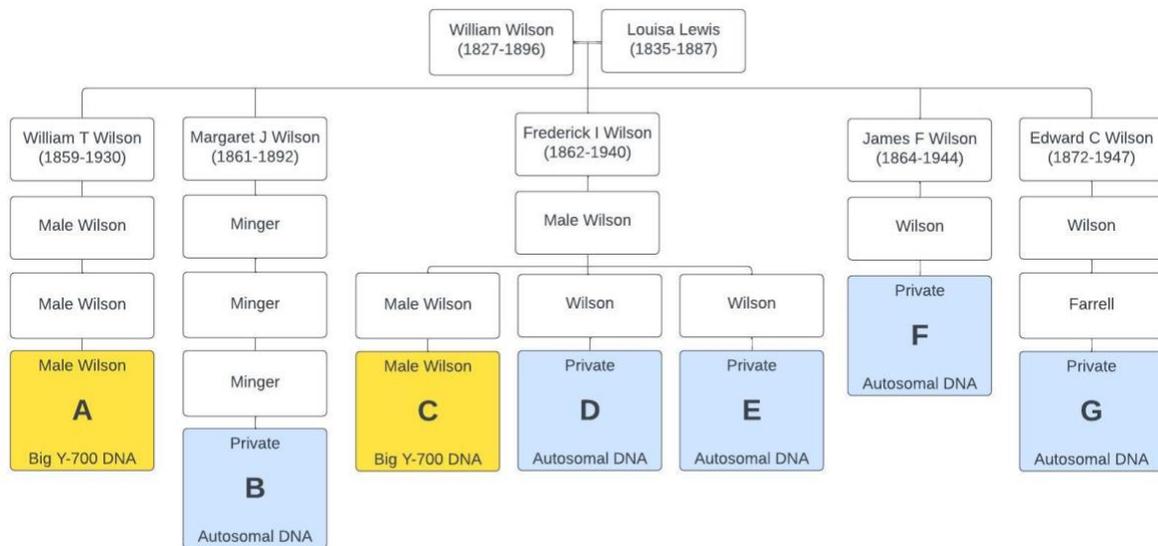
knew his middle name, or she may not have had accurate knowledge and perpetuated the error across several records.

5. Research Strategy

Because so few traditional records are found for William Wilson (1827-1896), including any documents listing his parents or other family members, Y-DNA and autosomal DNA were used as the principal forms of analysis. Potential candidates for William's father identified from the DNA analysis were then evaluated using documentary evidence and correlated with known information about William's life and his genetic ancestry to draw paternal conclusions.

Appreciably, several of William Wilson's descendants shared their list of autosomal DNA matches and their Y-DNA data with the report's author. To analyze the data, advanced DNA analysis tools including Gephi network charts and What are the Odds (WATO) were used. Figure 2 summarizes the participating descendants and DNA testing strategy used to identify the father of William Wilson. Data is partially privatized, and participants sharing autosomal DNA are marked in blue and those sharing Y-DNA in yellow. Test takers are anonymized using letters A through G.

Figure 2 – DNA Research Strategy



5.1 Y-DNA Analysis

5.1.1 Y-DNA Overview

Y-DNA testing assists in identifying direct paternal ancestry. Because Wilson is a common surname, Y-DNA can potentially help to qualify autosomal DNA matches with Wilson ancestry as being relevant or irrelevant in answering the research question, which aims to identify the father of William Wilson (1827-1896). The Y-DNA test used here is FamilyTreeDNA's Big Y-700.

The Big Y-700 tests 700 genetic markers, which are passed down from father to son. These markers rarely mutate. However, when they do, it enables scientists to trace the mutation backwards in time to potentially identify the common paternal ancestor among a group of matches. This is possible because mutations are similarly passed down from father to son.

Each mutation creates a separate branch on the paternal family tree. When two men share the same set of mutations across all tested markers, they are said to share the same paternal ancestor, which is represented in the paternal family tree as a haplogroup. Haplogroups are given a unique alphanumeric identifier.

Mutations are important because they permit scientists to predict how far back in time the haplogroup, or branch in the paternal family tree, was created. Mutation rates can assist in determining the time to the most recent common ancestor (TMRCA) between men who share the same haplogroup.

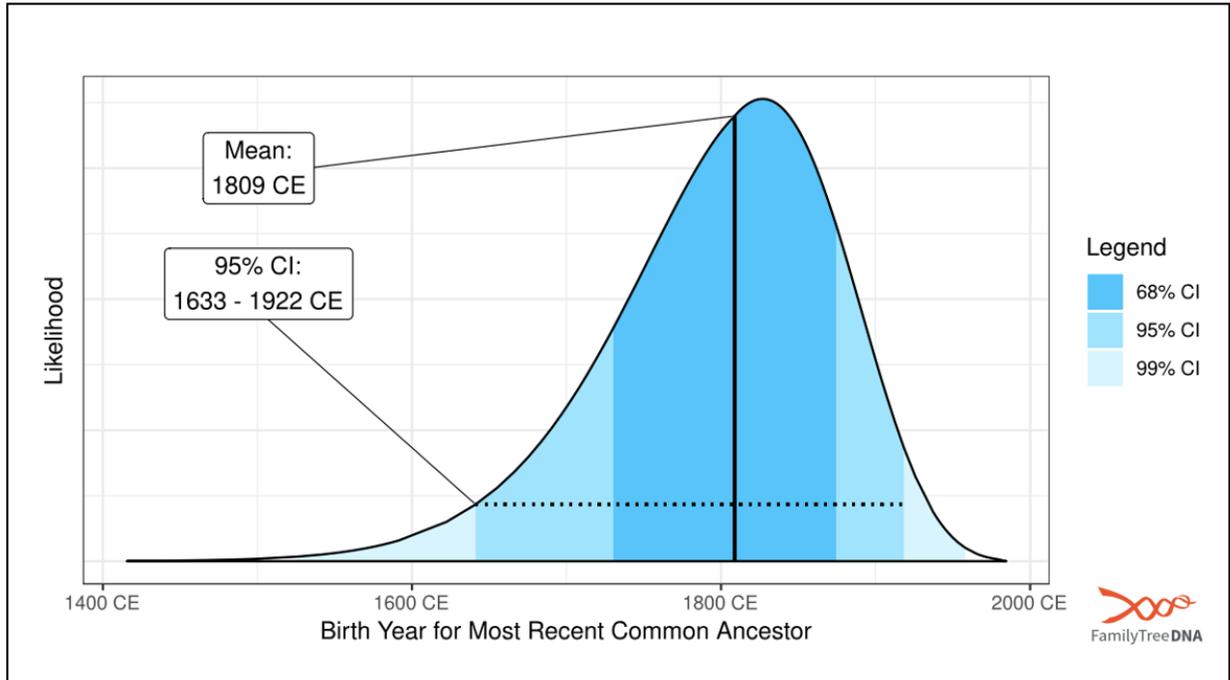
5.1.2 Big Y-700 Results

Two male descendants of William Wilson (1827-1896), who each have an unbroken paternal Wilson line back to William, volunteered to take the Big Y-700 DNA test. Each man descends through a different son of William as depicted in the earlier presented Figure 2. Two different male lines are desired to produce more robust results for the TMRCA calculations because the men only share William Wilson (1827-1896) as their common paternal ancestor.

As expected, results indicate that tester A and C are part of the same haplogroup, which is I-Y98226. Based on TMRCA calculations from FamilyTreeDNA, their common ancestor was likely born around 1809, but statistically their common ancestor could have been born anytime between 1633-1922 based on a 95% confidence interval as depicted below in Figure 3. However, according to FamilyTreeDNA, actual TMRCA results are probably more tightly clustered around the 1809 mean rather than to the extreme year endpoints.³³ While testers A and C's actual common ancestor, William Wilson, was born about 1827, the I-Y98226 haplogroup may be represented by an earlier born ancestor who was the first to have the mutation forming the I-Y98226 haplogroup as suggested by the 1809 TMRCA date.

³³ FamilyTreeDNA Blog (2023, Feb. 16), *Introducing the New FTDNATiP™ Report for Y-STRs*. Accessed 9 February 2024 at <https://blog.familytreedna.com/ftdnatip-report/>. And FamilyTreeDNA Blog (2022, Sept. 19), *Scientific Details: A Deeper Dive into Age Estimates*. Accessed 9 February 2024 at <https://blog.familytreedna.com/tmrca-age-estimates-scientific-details/>.

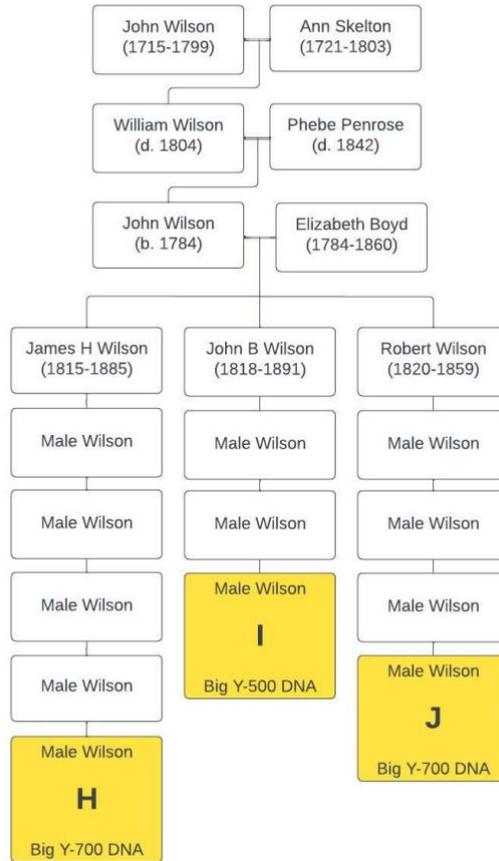
Figure 3 – Time to Most Recent Common Ancestor (TMRCA) for I-Y98226



Big Y results also identified three close matches, which are identified here as testers H, I, and J. Testers H, I, and J are members of the haplogroup I-Y106972, whose actual common ancestral couple is John Wilson (b. 1784) and Elizabeth Boyd (1784-1860). John Wilson was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and moved to Ohio in the 1820s dying in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.³⁴ FamilyTreeDNA estimates the I-Y106972 haplogroup was formed about 1743. The privatized paternal family trees for testers H, I, and J are detailed in Figure 4.

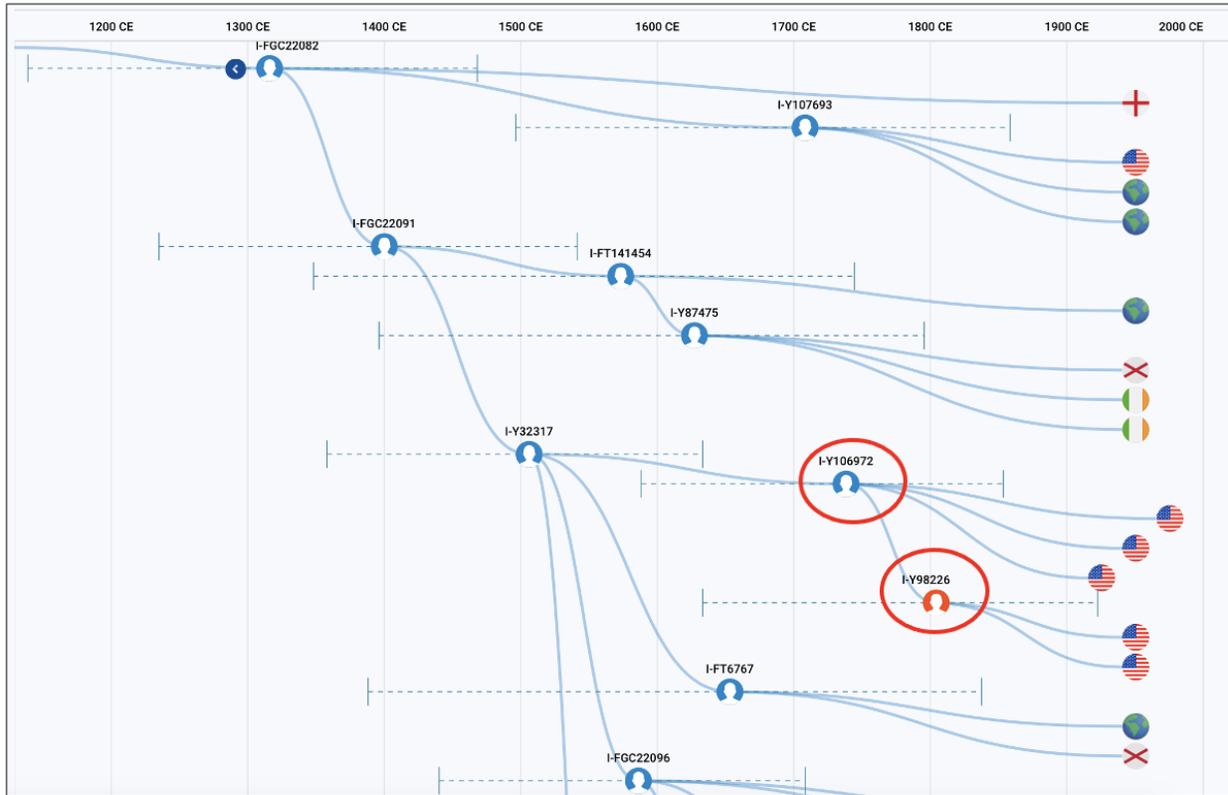
³⁴ Chester County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no. 11253, John Wilson (1848, Tuscarawas County, Ohio), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Chester County Wills and Administration Index (1714-1923). And "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 24 February 2024), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for John Wilson (b. 1784).

Figure 4 – Family Trees for I-Y106972 Testers



Testers A and C also share the same mutations as testers H, I, and J, which means that A and C are also members of I-Y106972. However, because A and C share an additional mutation that H, I, and J do not, their haplogroup (I-Y98226) is more recent than I-Y106972 making it a “child” of I-Y106972. This haplogroup relationship is depicted below in FamilyTreeDNA’s time tree (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 – Haplogroup Time Tree



5.1.3 Big Y-700 Discussion

It can be preliminary determined that William Wilson (1827-1896) is a descendant of the ancestor represented by I-Y106972. However, like the I-Y98226 haplogroup, it is unclear which of tester's H, I, and J common ancestors William Wilson (1827-1896) directly descends. As depicted in Figure 4, the common ancestor between testers A, C, H, I, and J could be John Wilson (b. 1784), William Wilson (d. 1804), or John Wilson (1715-1799).

However, it is probable that the common ancestor among all testers is probably more recent (e.g., John (b. 1784)) rather than further back in time (e.g., John (1715-1799)). This determination is made based on the number of additional mutations each tester has that are unique to themselves and not shared with the other testers in the group. The additional unique mutations are what FamilyTreeDNA calls private mutations. In other words, tester A and C share one mutation that formed I-Y98226, but tester A has a private mutation not shared by C. Similarly, tester J has two private mutations not shared by A, C, or H (see Table 6).³⁵

³⁵ Tester J is not depicted in Table 6 because tester J took a Big Y-500 test, which is not directly comparable for private mutations for those taking the Big Y-700 test.

Table 6 – Private Mutations for Y-DNA Testers

Haplogroup	I-Y98226		I-Y106972	
Tester	A	C	H	J
Private Mutations	1	0	1	2

The interpretation that the common ancestor is probably more recent is due to two observations. First, mutations are expected to happen about every 83 years.³⁶ Second, there are few private mutations within each haplogroup, and coupled with the 83-year average mutation rate, this suggests a more recent connection for their collective common ancestor.

5.2 Autosomal DNA Analysis

5.2.1 Autosomal DNA Overview

To narrow down who is the most recent common ancestor between William Wilson (1827-1896) and the paternal candidates identified in Figure 4, namely John Wilson (b. 1784), William Wilson (d. 1804), and John Wilson (1715-1799), the autosomal DNA matches for testers B, D, E, F, and G, as outlined in Figure 2, were analyzed.

For this analysis, Ancestry’s autosomal DNA test is used because it has the largest database of autosomal DNA test results, an easy-to-use interface to analyze matches, and a relatively higher share of matches who link their DNA results to their family tree, all of which makes analysis easier. Ancestry assigns confidence intervals for the likelihood of two DNA matches sharing a common ancestor. The intervals are based on the amount of shared DNA measured in centiMorgans (cM), which is a measure of genetic distance. Table 7 is useful when determining the likelihood that two matches share a common ancestor based on the amount of shared DNA.³⁷

Table 7 – Ancestry.com Confidence Intervals

Confidence Score	Approximate amount of shared centiMorgans	Likelihood of a single recent common ancestor
Extremely High	More than 60	Virtually 100%
Very High	45–60	About 99%
High	30–45	About 95%
Good	16–30	Above 50%
Moderate	6–16	15–50%

³⁶ University of Strathclyde Glasgow (n.d.), *Genetic Genealogy Research: SNP Dating*. Accessed 26 January 2024 at <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/geneticgenealogyresearch/snpsdating/>.

³⁷ Ancestry.com (n.d.), *What does the match confidence score mean?* Retrieved 23 July 2021 from <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/dna-help/matches/confidence>.

5.2.2 Autosomal DNA Match Results

The autosomal DNA matches for William Wilson's (1827-1896) descendants (testers B, D, E, F, and G) were reviewed for genetic connections to John Wilson (b. 1784), William Wilson (d. 1804), and John Wilson (1715-1799). To ensure confidence in the analysis, identified matches must share 30 cM or greater in total DNA (see Table 7) and be part of a genetic network of other shared matches descending from John Wilson (b. 1784), William Wilson (d. 1804), or John Wilson (1715-1799). Matches found at or above 30 cM for one tester were then checked to determine if the other testers similarly matched. If the other testers match, even if it is below 30 cM, it is reported in Table 8 on the next page. To protect privacy, matches are listed only by number, but their descendancy from John Wilson (1715-1799) forward for three more generations are similarly reported in Table 8. Under each tester, the amount of shared cM between the tester and the match is listed.

Tester F and G have the most matches at 30 cM and above. In fact, tester F has some of the largest matches (measured in cM), which is not unexpected because tester F has fewer generations between them and the most recent common ancestor. With each new generation, 50% of our ancestors' original DNA is lost because only half of a parent's genes are passed down to each child. So, it is expected that tester F would have more matches and more larger matches as well.

As observed in the coloration of the Wilson lineage column for the autosomal matches in Table 8 on the next page, 38 of the 41 matches (93%) descend through John Wilson (b. 1784), who is the son of William Wilson (d. 1804). Only three matches descend through another son of William Wilson (d. 1804), namely William Wilson (1793-1846). No other matches having 30 cM or greater were found for any other descendants of John Wilson (1715-1799) or William Wilson (d. 1804), although it must be noted that other matches were found below 30 cM for direct descendants of John Wilson (1715-1799), William Wilson (d. 1804), and John Wilson (b. 1784) inclusive of and in addition to those reported in Table 8. Indeed, tester E has no matches in Table 8, but they do have matches to descendants of John Wilson (b. 1784). However, these matches are all below 30 cM and none of these matches are similarly found for the other testers.

In absence of additional knowledge, it could be argued that more matches were found for descendants of John Wilson (b. 1784) because he might have the most descendants. Therefore, John may present a greater opportunity for matches to be found. To be sure this was not the case, a three-generational fertility analysis was undertaken. For William Wilson (d. 1804) and Phebe Penrose, their descendants were counted for three generations (fertility) and tallied under each of their respective children lines. Only three generations were counted because it becomes increasingly more difficult to accurately capture counts as generations approach present day due in part to the 72-year confidentiality rule preventing census information from being made public until 72 years after it was collected. Also, families have generally become smaller as time progressed and so capturing additional generations has a diminishing return.

Table 8 – High Confidence Autosomal DNA Matches

Match	Wilson Line John (1715-1799), William (d. 1804), John (b. 1784)	Tester B (cM)	Tester D (cM)	Tester E (cM)	Tester F (cM)	Tester G (cM)
1	John / William / John / Robert		10		62	48
2	John / William / John / Robert				59	36
3	John / William / John / Robert				58	36
4	John / William / John / Sarah				57	
5	John / William / John / Sarah				53	
6	John / William / John / James				50	
7	John / William / John / James				49	
8	John / William / John / Robert				49	36
9	John / William / John / John	48	14			18
10	John / William / John / Robert	11			46	22
11	John / William / John / Robert				46	44
12	John / William / John / James					44
13	John / William / John / James				44	14
14	John / William / John / Robert				43	
15	John / William / John / James				43	24
16	John / William / John / James				43	
17	John / William / John / James				40	42
18	John / William / John / John	32			42	27
19	John / William / John / James				28	42
20	John / William / William / Susan	40			31	
21	John / William / John / Robert				40	
22	John / William / John / James				39	
23	John / William / John / Robert				39	33
24	John / William / John / James				39	44
25	John / William / William / Susan	37			9	
26	John / William / William / Sarah				37	
27	John / William / John / Robert				36	
28	John / William / John / James				36	
29	John / William / John / Sarah				35	
30	John / William / John / Robert				35	18
31	John / William / John / James				34	
32	John / William / John / James				34	
33	John / William / John / James				34	
34	John / William / John / Sarah	8			33	
35	John / William / John / John				33	
36	John / William / John / Robert				33	
37	John / William / John / David	32			32	
38	John / William / John / Sarah	8	9		31	
39	John / William / John / Sarah				31	
40	John / William / John / James				30	
41	John / William / John / Sarah				30	

Table 9 presents the results of the three-generational fertility analysis. As mentioned previously, 93% of the high-confidence matches descend through John Wilson (b. 1784). However, John’s descendants only represent 22% of William’s (d. 1804) three-generational descendants. John’s descendants are overly represented. Indeed, William’s (d. 1804) son, William (1793-1846), has the highest fertility rate but far fewer matches. The fact that William’s (1793-1846) line has matches and the others have none (save John) is likely due to his greater fertility rate. Preliminarily, it seems that the father of William Wilson (1827-1896) likely descends through John Wilson (b. 1784).

Table 9 – Three-Generational Fertility Analysis

William Wilson (d. 1804) & Phebe Penrose (d. 1842)								
Generation 1 Fertility	John	Margaret	Martha	Jesse	William	Elizabeth	Ann	David
Generation 2 Fertility	6	1	8	0	11	4	4	3
Generation 3 Fertility	31	2	27	0	38	9	7	20
Proportion of 3-Gen. Fertility	22%	2%	20%	0%	29%	8%	6%	13%
Proportion of DNA Matches	93%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%

5.2.3 Autosomal DNA Match Visualization

The above analysis of DNA matches is dependent on the ability to locate DNA matches having the requisite Wilson ancestry of interest with the tester’s match’s family trees. The analysis cannot readily identify matches if the tester has not provided a public family tree and linked their results to themselves in their tree. However, another data analysis tool exists permitting relevant genetic networks to be identified without all matches having family trees.

Gephi is an open-source software program that reveals hidden patterns in data by creating network graphs grouping data points together having strong connections with neighboring data points. For autosomal DNA, the data points are the tester’s DNA matches. When a group of the tester’s matches all match one another, they are closely grouped together spatially in the network graph.³⁸ The cluster of matches are called a genetic network, and they all likely descend from the same common ancestor. In Ancestry and other testing websites, genetic networks are typically identified through a “shared matches” or “in-common-with” function.

To perform the genetic network visualization, tester F’s DNA matches are used because this tester has the fewest generations separating them and the most recent common ancestor. Tester F’s match data from Ancestry was downloaded using the DNAGedcom Client. Data was then inputted into Gephi. Tester F’s Wilson ancestor is on their paternal line, and so all maternal match data was removed prior to analysis using Ancestry’s SideView™ technology, which splits DNA results by parent and has a 95% accuracy.³⁹ Only paternal matches sharing between 15

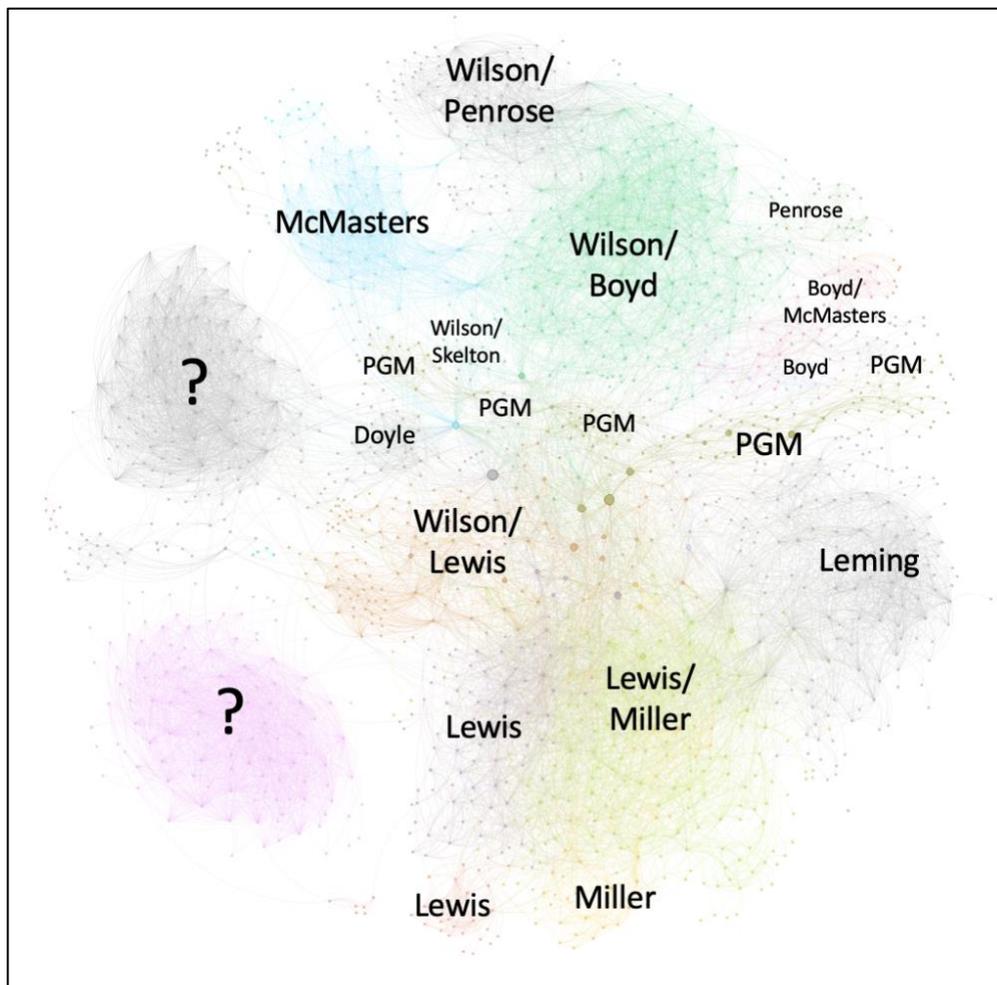
³⁸ Vance, J. David (2021), “Autosomal Match In-common-with Cluster Analysis with Network Visualization Tools: An Example Using the Gephi Open-source Tool,” *Journal of Genetic Genealogy*, 9(11), 1-21. Retrieved 17 February 2024 at <https://jogg.info/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/91.006-Article.pdf>.

³⁹ Ancestry.com (n.d.), *How SideView™ Technology Splits Your DNA Results by Parent*. Retrieved 17 February 2024 at https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/SideView-Technology?language=en_US.

cM and 400 cM were used for the visualization. Matches below 15 cM are more likely to be false matches,⁴⁰ and matches above 400 cM have too many connections to other matches thereby cluttering the visualization.

Figure 6 presents the visualization of tester F's paternal matches. Clusters, or genetic networks, are colorized for easier viewing. Each cluster represents a common ancestor or ancestral couple. Within each cluster, reviewing the family trees for those having trees identified the likely common ancestor and are labeled as such. To increase privacy for tester F, not all clusters are identified by common ancestral surname. Only clusters on tester F's paternal grandfather's line are labeled, which is their Wilson line. All of tester F's identified paternal grandmother's lines are simply labeled as "PGM".

Figure 6 – Network Diagram for Tester F's Paternal Autosomal DNA Matches



⁴⁰ Bettinger, Blaine (2017), *The Danger of Distant Matches*. Accessed 10 October 2023 at <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2017/01/06/the-danger-of-distant-matches/>. And Bettinger, Blaine (2022), *An In-Depth Analysis of the Use of Small Segments as Genealogical Evidence*. Accessed 10 October 2023 at <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2022/08/07/an-in-depth-analysis-of-the-use-of-small-segments-as-genealogical-evidence/>.

As previously presented in Figure 2, tester F's paternal grandparent is James F. Wilson (1864-1844) and the son of William Wilson (1827-1896) and Louisa Lewis (1835-1887). Not surprisingly, matches near the center of Figure 6 are those who are the immediate descendants of William and Louisa Wilson. Louisa is the daughter John Lewis (b. 1805) and Mary Miller (b. 1806), and those lines are clearly visible as clusters in the bottom center of the figure. John Lewis' mother's surname was Leming (or Liming or Leaming), and that cluster is visible, too.

In the top center is a large cluster of matches mostly descending from John Wilson (b. 1784) and Elizabeth Boyd (1784-1860), who was identified in the Y-DNA analysis. Nearby are clusters for John's parents, William Wilson (d. 1804) and Phebe Penrose (d. 1842), and a smaller cluster for those matches descending from Phebe Penrose's siblings (labeled "Penrose"). Another nearby cluster are descendants from William Wilson's (d. 1804) siblings, who are children of John Wilson (1715-1799) and Ann Skelton (1721-1803).

Elizabeth Boyd, wife of John Wilson, was the daughter of William Boyd (1753-1836) and Mary McMasters (1755-1832). A relatively large cluster of "McMasters" matches are to the left of the Wilson/Boyd cluster. A group of other descendants through Elizabeth's siblings are to the right of the Wilson/Boyd cluster and labeled as "Boyd/McMasters". A smaller "Boyd" cluster is below the Boyd/McMasters cluster, which represents matches who are believed to descend through William Boyd's (1753-1836) siblings.

While there is evidence of matches for all three potential Wilson candidates identified in the Y-DNA analysis – John Wilson (1715-1799), William Wilson (d. 1804), and John Wilson (b. 1784) – the McMasters and Boyd clusters appear to suggest John Wilson (b. 1784) is the better fit among the candidates because John's descendants should not only have Wilson ancestry, but also have evidence of his wife's ancestry, namely Boyd and McMasters.

It should be noted that Figure 6 also identified three unknown clusters for which traditional genealogy could not reliably identify the cluster's common ancestor despite building out these matches family trees. The **pink cluster** in the lower lefthand corner may be related to tester F's paternal grandmother's line, which are English and Welsh immigrants. The pink cluster appears to have a lot of matches with English ancestry who settled in the Southern U.S. Initial analysis of the **gray cluster** in the upper lefthand appears to suggest it may be distantly connected to either the Lewis and/or Leming lines, but this is not certain as the few connections observed are weak and inconclusive. The third unknown cluster appears to be associated with the **Doyle** surname as many of the matches descending from either James Doyle (b. 1790 Pennsylvania) or Patrick Doyle (b. 1823 Ireland). Based on the composition of the cluster and its connections to other clusters, it cannot yet be determined whether the Doyle cluster connects into tester F's paternal grandfather's or grandmother's line.

5.3 Genealogical Analysis

The analysis of Y-DNA and autosomal DNA appears to support William Wilson (1827-1896) being a descendant of John Wilson (b. 1784). Y-DNA analysis places William Wilson (1827-

1896) as a likely descendant of John Wilson (1715-1799) and probably a further descendant of John's son, William Wilson (d. 1804). Autosomal DNA further suggests that William Wilson (1827-1896) is probably a descendant of William Wilson's (d. 1804) son, John Wilson (b. 1784), rather than through any other son of William (d. 1804). The presence of genetic networks among tester F's autosomal DNA for Boyd and McMasters, which are John's (b. 1784) wife's lineage accentuates this point. However, these conclusions need to be compared with the known genealogies for all male Wilson descendants of John (1715-1799) in both time and place to be able to make a more definitive conclusion.

The male Wilson descendants of John Wilson (1715-1799) are summarized below. Only the immediate descendants of those born before 1815 are presented and discussed. Those born after 1815 are assumed to be ineligible to father William Wilson, who was born in 1827.

5.3.1 Male Wilson Descendants of John Wilson (1715-1799)

John Wilson had among other children, four sons. Their male Wilson descendants are summarized below.

1. William (d. 1804), which will be discussed in a separate section.
2. Henry (d. 1791)
3. John (d. 1833)
 - a. William (1799-1874)
 - i. John (1829-1892)
 - ii. William (1838-1905)
 - iii. Joseph (1845-1898)
 - iv. Seth (1847-1916)
4. Joseph (1760-1841)
 - a. Absalom (1796-1879)
 - i. Benjamin (b. 1820)
 - ii. Charles (b. 1841)
 - b. Septimus (1798-1859)

Henry died in 1791 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and his probate file only listed three daughters.⁴¹ Similarly, when John Wilson died in 1799, his will only list three daughters as heirs from his deceased son, Henry.⁴² William Wilson (1827-1896) is likely not a son of Henry.

John's son John died in 1833 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and the sale of his land after his death listed, among other children, only one son named William.⁴³ This particular William (1799-1874)⁴⁴ had four sons: John (1829-1892), William (1838-1905), Joseph (1845-

⁴¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 2317, Henry Wilson (1791), Recorder of Wills, Recorder of Wills, Doylestown.

⁴² Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no 7157, will (book 2, p. 86), John Wilson (1799), Franconia, Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, Norristown.

⁴³ Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Rachel Harris, William Wilson, and Eleanor Hendricks to Jacob Harley (1834), Book 587, p. 455-458, Recorder of Deeds, Norristown.

⁴⁴ *Find A Grave*, database with images (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 24 February 2024), memorial page for William Wilson (1799-1874) Find A Grave Memorial ID 97189131, maintained by Virginia Bergey (contributor 46624027); citing Gwynedd Friends Cemetery, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, USA.

1898), and Seth (1847-1916).⁴⁵ Because William already had a son named William (1838-1905),⁴⁶ William Wilson (1827-1896) likely does not descend through John's (1715-1799) son John.

John's final son, Joseph died in 1841 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania and listed one son named Absalom in his will.⁴⁷ In the will, Joseph also listed Absalom's four children with only one being male: Benjamin (b. 1820). According to Quaker records, Joseph had another son named Septimus Wilson (1798-1859),⁴⁸ but no other records have ever been found for him. While Septimus' whereabouts are unknown, it is not likely William Wilson (1827-1896) is a son of Septimus because there is no evidence that William (1827-1896) was a Quaker or was associated with anyone who was. Although Quakerism was not the only exclusion criteria, it is not likely that William descends through John's (1715-1799) son Joseph.

5.3.2 Male Wilson Descendants of William Wilson (d. 1804)

William Wilson died in 1804 in New London, Chester County, Pennsylvania.⁴⁹ In his probate file,⁵⁰ it indicated that four of his eight children were boys.

1. John (b. 1784), which will be discussed in a separate section.
2. Jesse (b. 1790)
3. William (1793-1846)
 - a. Oliver C. (1822-1874)
 - b. Elias H. (1828-1874)
 - c. Mark T. (b. 1828)
 - d. William T. (b. 1838)
4. David (b. 1796)

⁴⁵ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 24 February 2024), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for William Wilson (1799-1874). And Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, land deed, John Wilson, William Wilson, Joseph Wilson, Seth Wilson to Mary Wilson (1875), Book 223, p. 125-126, Recorder of Deeds, Norristown.

⁴⁶ *Find A Grave*, database with images (<https://findagrave.com>, accessed 24 February 2024), memorial page for William Wilson (1838-1905) Find A Grave Memorial ID 214268395, maintained by Crypt Tonight (contributor 48494116); citing North Cedar Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, USA.

⁴⁷ Pennsylvania, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993, Joseph Wilson (1841), vol. 8, p. 180-181, image 121 of 724; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024).

⁴⁸ U.S., Hinshaw Index to Selected Quaker Records 1680-1940, Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, Septimus Wilson (1798-1859), image 4736 of 4885; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 14 March 2022); William Wade Hinshaw's Index to Unpublished Quaker Records. Swarthmore, Pennsylvania: Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College.

⁴⁹ Pennsylvania, Wills and Probate Records 1683-1993, estate papers, case number 5101, William Wilson (1805), Chester County Register of Wills, image 56-66 of 912; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024).

⁵⁰ Pennsylvania, Wills and Probate Records 1683-1993, minors' estate papers 1717-1820, Jesse Wilson, David Wilson, William Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson, Martha Wilson, Margaret Wilson, and Ann Wilson, Chester County Orphans' Court, image 447-453 of 849; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024). And Chester County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no. 11253, John Wilson (1848, Tuscarawas County, Ohio), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Not much is known about Jesse's life, but he was living in Plumstead, Bucks County, Pennsylvania between 1831⁵¹ and 1848. Jesse purchased property in Plumstead in 1839 near his sister Elizabeth (Wilson) Jamison Shaw and sold it in 1848 along with his wife Maria (or Meglin).⁵² It is unclear if Jesse had a family, but he probably did not because he was never found in any federal censuses until 1850 when he resided in Gwynedd, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.⁵³ Because Jesse appears to have remained in and around the Philadelphia area, it is not likely that William Wilson (1827-1896) descends through Jesse as William was reported being born in Wheeling, Ohio County, West Virginia.⁵⁴

William's son William (1793-1846) resided his entire life in Chester and Bucks Counties, Pennsylvania.⁵⁵ He seemed to have battled poverty for a good portion of his life,⁵⁶ but he did have 11 children born between 1819 and 1838.⁵⁷ His last child was William T. Wilson (b. 1838), who resided in Philadelphia before moving to East Texas by 1880.⁵⁸ Because William (1793-

⁵¹ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records 1782-1860, Jesse Wilson (1831), Plumstead, image 23 of 26; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); The Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Title No. 102, Roll Number 17.

⁵² Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Jesse Wilson from Nicholas Swartz (1839), Book 64, p. 374-375, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 576 of 720, film 8084111. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, land deed, Jesse and Maria Wilson to Samuel W. Doughty (1848), Book 76, p. 509-510, Recorder of Deeds, Doylestown; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 263-264 of 394, film 8084116.

⁵³ 1850 U.S. census, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Gwynedd, Jesse Wilson in Lewis B. Shaw household, p. 75B, image 10 of 38; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 800.

⁵⁴ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S., Deaths 1870-1905, William W. Wilson (1896), vol. 83, p. 605, image 196 of 704; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024). And Pennsylvania, Death Certificates 1906-1963, Fred I Wilson (1940), Washington County, East Pike Run, certificate 21341, image 1362 of 3517; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); Pennsylvania Department of Health, Record Group 11, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

⁵⁵ 1820 U.S. census, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Richland, p. 51, image 2 of 5, William Wilson; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 22 April 2021); NARA microfilm publication M33. And 1830 U.S. census, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Richland, p. 221, image 11 of 20, William Wilson; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 22 April 2021); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 146. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, William Wilson (1842), Plumstead, image 25 of 28; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 22 April 2021); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, William Wilson (1843), Plumstead, image 53 of 63; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 22 April 2021); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania Tax Records, 1782-1860, William Wilson (1844), image 28 of 33; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 22 April 2021); citing Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records, 1782-1860, Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown. And U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, William Wilson, 2 January 1846, Richland Monthly Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, p. 10, image 7 of 28; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 5 Mar 2021), citing Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Quaker Meeting Records.

⁵⁶ Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor School Children Records, 1810-1842, Mark and Eliza Wilson (1837), East Vincent, p. 473 of 505; database with index, Chester County Archives (www.chesco.org, accessed 24 April 2021). And Chester County, Pennsylvania, Poor Outdoor Allowance Books, 1800-1856, William and Sarah Wilson (1837-1841), volume 2, p. 232, Chester County Archives, West Chester, Pennsylvania. And Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Board of County Commissioners Almshouse Register of Admissions and Discharges, 1843-1849, volume 1, p. 41 and 43, William Wilson (1843-1844), image 216 and 218 of 780, film 005547281; database with images, FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org, accessed 24 May 2021).

⁵⁷ Wilson, Rick T. (2021), *Sarah T. (Wilson) McKinstry Research Report*. Retrieved 24 February 2024 from www.MyFamilyPattern.com.

⁵⁸ 1870 U.S. census, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Philadelphia Ward 20 District 68, p. 23, dwelling 1903, image 88 of 224, William T Wilson; database with image, Ancestry (www.ancestry.com, accessed 10 Mar 2021); citing NARA microfilm M593, roll 1434. And 1880 U.S. census, Smith County, Texas, population

1846) had a son named William (b. 1838), William Wilson (1827-1896) likely does not descend through William Wilson (1793-1846).

William's son David died before 1840 most likely in Tuscarawas County, Ohio because his widow was enumerated there without him in 1840, and his estate, which was filed in Chester County, Pennsylvania, indicated he resided there.⁵⁹ David's estate was filed in Chester County despite living in Tuscarawas County because he was owed money from his deceased father's estate. In fact, when David's mother, Phebe (Penrose) Wilson died in 1842,⁶⁰ it permitted his father's estate to finally be settled. Phebe had a dowry from her deceased husband's estate, which had funds to be distributed upon her death.⁶¹ The estate file generated by Phebe's death for David indicated that David had only three daughters.⁶² Therefore, it is not likely that William Wilson (1827-1896) is a son of David especially because David resided in Massachusetts at least as early as 1828 where he married his wife.⁶³

5.3.3 Male Descendants of John Wilson (b. 1784)

It is probable that John Wilson (b. 1784) died about the same time and location as his brother David as similar records for John were created for him as were created for David.⁶⁴ John's probate was filed in Chester County, Pennsylvania but indicated he resided in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. John's widow was enumerated without him in 1840 in Harrison County, Ohio, which neighbored Tuscarawas.⁶⁵ She was living near her husband's cousins; in particular, Anne (Michener) Goodwin, whose husband would later provide testimony in John's (b. 1784) estate as to the names of John's children.⁶⁶ Jesse Goodwin indicated that John had one daughter and five sons, namely William B. (b. 1809), James H. (1815-1885), John B. (1818-1891), Robert (1820-1859), and David (b. 1825).⁶⁷

schedule, J.S. Ray [William Wilson], Precinct 3, p. 87A, dwelling 149, family 154, image 21 of 37; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); citing NARA microfilm T9, roll 1326.

⁵⁹ Chester County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no. 11252, David Wilson (1848, Tuscarawas County, Ohio), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Chester County Wills and Administration Index (1714-1923). And 1840 U.S. census, Tuscarawas County, Ohio, population schedule, Mill, Almeda Wilson, p. 323, image 1 of 11; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 430.

⁶⁰ U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, Phebe Wilson, 3 March 1842, Richland Monthly Meeting, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, p. 55, image 112 of 138; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024), citing Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, Quaker Meeting Records.

⁶¹ Chester County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no. 11252, David Wilson (1848, Tuscarawas County, Ohio), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Chester County Wills and Administration Index (1714-1923).

⁶² IBID.

⁶³ Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records 1620-1988, Berkshire County, David Wilson and Almida Rhodes (1828), Sheffield, p. 22, image 226 of 1470; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); Town and City Clerks of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Vital and Town Records.

⁶⁴ Chester County Wills and Administration Index (1714-1923), p. 362 of 414. And John's probate file.

⁶⁵ 1840 U.S. census, Harrison County, Ohio, population schedule, Shortcreek, Elizabeth Wilson, p. 217, image 16 of 21; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 402.

⁶⁶ Chester County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no. 11253, John Wilson (1848, Tuscarawas County, Ohio), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Chester County Wills and Administration Index (1714-1923).

⁶⁷ IBID.

The male descendants for John Wilson (b. 1784) are listed below:

1. William B. (b. 1809)
2. James H. (1815-1885)
 - a. William (b. 1838)
 - b. James B. (1845-1915)
 - c. John W. (1850-1936)
 - d. David (1854-1928)
 - e. Royal H. (1858-1931)
3. John B. (1818-1891)
 - a. John B. (1849-1850)
 - b. John H. (1864-1945)
4. Robert (1820-1859)
 - a. John R. (1856-1936)
5. David (b. 1825)
 - a. Charles A. (b. 1859)
 - b. Jasper W. (1861-1924)
 - c. Albert (b. 1863)
 - d. Thurston M. (1867-1900)

Assuming our research subject, William Wilson (1827-1896), was indeed born in 1827, it is not probable that William is a son of John's (b. 1784) youngest sons – John B., Robert, and David, who themselves were born in 1818, 1820, and 1825, respectively. It is also not likely that William (1827-1896) is a son of James H., as he already had a son named William, who was born in 1838.⁶⁸ Based on their respective years of birth, it is possible that William (1827-1896) could be the son of William B. (b. 1809), which is explored next.

5.3.4 Summary Evaluation of Genealogical Evidence

In the preceding section, the male Wilson lineage descending from John Wilson (1715-1799) was discussed and presented. Because the subject of this research report, William Wilson, was born about 1827, the lineage was brought forward to this time. Based on the presented genealogies, it seems there are three potential candidates to be the father of William Wilson (1827-1896):

1. **Septimus Wilson** (1798-1859), son of Joseph Wilson (1760-1841), and grandson of John Wilson (1715-1799).
2. **Jesse Wilson** (b. 1790), son of William Wilson (d. 1804), and grandson of John Wilson (1715-1799).
3. **William B. Wilson** (b. 1809), son of John Wilson (b. 1784), grandson of William Wilson (d. 1804), and great grandson of John Wilson (1715-1799).

The above three individuals are candidates in part because not much is known about them and whether they had families of their own. All other male Wilson descendants were ruled out

⁶⁸ 1850 U.S. census, Meigs County, Ohio, population schedule, Rutland, William Wilson in James Wilson household, p. 98B, image 20 of 42; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 710.

because they either already had a son named William Wilson that was separately accounted for in other records, or their estate records did not list a son named William.

To further evaluate the three candidates, the WATO (What Are the Odds) tool is used to evaluate the genetic feasibility of William Wilson (1827-1896) being their son. The WATO tool is hosted on the DNA Painter website but created by Jonny Perl, who is a web developer and family history enthusiast.⁶⁹ WATO permits users to hypothesize where someone might fit into someone's family tree by using the amount of shared autosomal DNA (in cM) someone has with their matches on a particular genetic line. WATO then evaluates each hypothesis and generates a score based on probabilities, which are derived from the expected amount of shared cM based on a hypothesized relationship between the tester and his or her match.

Tester F's autosomal DNA matches are again used in this analysis because they have the fewest generations between themselves and the ancestor of interest. Tester F also has the most and largest Wilson matches (see Table 8). Within WATO, all of tester F's identified matches descending from John Wilson (1715-1799) with at least 15 cM or greater were used. As discussed previously, matches below 15 cM have a greater chance of being a false match.⁷⁰ Care was taken to ensure included matches were part of a genetic network with others who descend from John Wilson (1715-1799) and were on tester F's paternal line according to Ancestry's SideView™ technology. A total of 58 matches with an average of 32 cM were entered into WATO (beta 2 version).⁷¹ Three hypotheses were entered representing tester F as a descendant of either Septimus, Jesse, or William B. Wilson. Results are presented below in Table 10.

Table 10 – Potential Candidates for the Father of William Wilson (1827-1896)

Potential Candidate	Probability Score
Septimus Wilson (1798-1859)	0.0
Jesse Wilson (b. 1790)	0.0
William B. Wilson (b. 1809)	1.0

Of the three hypothesized relationships, WATO indicates that only one of them is theoretically possible. William B. Wilson is identified as 1,000,000 times more likely to be the father of William Wilson (1827-1896) than the other two candidates. Based on the amount of shared cM

⁶⁹ DNA Painter (2024), *What Are the Odds*. Retrieved 19 February 2024 at <https://dnapainter.com/tools/probability>.

⁷⁰ Bettinger, Blaine (2017), *The Danger of Distant Matches*. Accessed 10 October 2023 at <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2017/01/06/the-danger-of-distant-matches/>. And Bettinger, Blaine (2022), *An In-Depth Analysis of the Use of Small Segments as Genealogical Evidence*. Accessed 10 October 2023 at <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2022/08/07/an-in-depth-analysis-of-the-use-of-small-segments-as-genealogical-evidence/>.

⁷¹ The beta 2 version of WATO has updated probabilities capable of analyzing potential hypotheses when the average cM among all included matches is below 40 cM. The first version of WATO required an average cM at 40 or higher. See, Larkin, Leah (2020, June 3), A Major Update to "What Are the Odds?". The DNA Geek. Accessed 19 February 2024 at <https://thednageek.com/a-major-update-to-what-are-the-odds/>.

tester F has with the 58 matches, WATO suggests that Septimus and Jesse Wilson could not be William's father. While William B. Wilson is suggested to be his father, he is only indicated to be because this is the son of John Wilson (b. 1784) that was identified as a possible candidate from the DNA and genealogical analysis. While not likely, any of John's sons could be the father.

To be sure William B. Wilson is the best candidate for William's father, further research is needed to place him near West Virginia at the time of William's birth. This is discussed in the next section.

5.4 Evaluation of Genealogical Records for William B. Wilson (b. 1809)

To effectively evaluate William B. Wilson (b. 1809) as the father of William Wilson (1827-1895), what is known about him is discussed first followed by what is speculated.

5.4.1 Confirmed Records for William B. Wilson (b. 1809)

Not much is known about William B. Wilson until his 1831 marriage to Sarah Hill in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.⁷² It's unclear how long William and Sarah remained in Tuscarawas County after their marriage, but he purchases 17 acres of land on 6 May 1835 in Center Township, Monroe County, Ohio near his wife's brother, William Hill Jr., and her Winland cousins lived.⁷³ They sold the land 7 December 1838.⁷⁴ While in Monroe County, two-year old Martin Eckleberry was indentured to William B. on 12 August 1835 to learn the art of farming until Martin arrives to the age of 21.⁷⁵ It's unclear why the indenture occurred or if Martin was in some manner related to either William B. or Sarah Wilson. Martin's mother Catherine Eckleberry signed the indenture, and she was probably related to George Eckleberry who farmed a plot of land next to William Hill Jr.

William B. Wilson next appears in local tax records in Tyler County, West Virginia in 1842⁷⁶ where he remained for the next decade. Over the next couple of years, William B.'s life appears

⁷² Ohio, County Marriages 1774-1993, Tuscarawas County, William Wilson and Sarah Hill (1831), number 1480, vol. 1,2,3,4, p. 185, image 94 of 580; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024).

⁷³ Monroe County, Ohio, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, William Wilson from John S. Balding (1835), Book D, p. 5; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 25 of 528, film 4022312.

⁷⁴ Monroe County, Ohio, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, William Wilson to John Vanander (1838), Book D, p. 154; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 104 of 528, film 4022312.

⁷⁵ Fedorchak, Catharine F. (1982), *Monroe County Ohio Genealogical Records, Vol. 2*. Fairmont, WV: Col. Morgan Morgan Chapter D.A.R., p. 29; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), film 7815129, image 213 of 962.

⁷⁶ Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, Wm B. Wilson (1842), p. 31; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 109 of 877, film 7833942. And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William Wilson (1843), p. 35; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 135 of 877, film 7833942. And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William Wilson (1844), p. 39; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 180 of 877, film 7833942. And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William B. Wilson (1845), p. 37; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 227 of 877, film 7833942. And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William B. Wilson (1846), p. 26; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 264 of 877, film 7833942. And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, Wm B. Wilson (1847), p. 27; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 302 of 877, film 7833942. And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William B. Wilson (1848), p. 27; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 336 of 877, film 7833942.

to have taken an unfortunate turn as he becomes indebted to several individuals, becomes involved in a couple of skirmishes, and ultimately is listed as a pauper.

- On 26 September 1843, William was indebted to John Kern for \$27.92, and used attorney Richard W. Lauck to negotiate six months additional time to make the payment.⁷⁷ If payment could not be made, William agreed to sell three horses, one cow, and one wagon to cover his debts. The outcome of the arrangement is not known, but he probably was successful in making the payment. On 7 February 1844, he was taxed for three horses and later in 1845, he still had two of the horses.⁷⁸
- In 1845, William is fined \$33 by the court for an 1844 assault and battery committed against William Husted.⁷⁹
- In 1850, William B. is shot by Samuel Wells during a confrontation about some “bonded property” of William B.’s that was held by Samuel Wells’ father, Peregrine Wells.⁸⁰ Apparently, William B., along with his business partner, Charles M. Twyman, had taken sheriff Thomas Weekly to confront Peregrine Wells. The situation escalated and Samuel Wells accidentally shot William B. and wounded him. While the circumstances became heated, the men must have been somewhat agreeable as Wells invited William B. into his home to tend his wounds.
- On 2 December 1850, William was indebted to Christian Engle for \$44 and was given six months to make payment.⁸¹ If payment was not made, William agreed to relinquish the 75 acres on Sancho Creek near Middle Island Creek, where he currently resided, to James W. Kramer. The outcome of the arrangement is not known, but no corresponding deed was found where William later sold the land to someone else. This suggests William probably forfeited his land to Kramer.
- On 20 August 1850, William is listed as a pauper on the 1850 census.⁸² He was enumerated with his wife, Sarah, and Martin Eckleberry.

It's unclear when William B. left Tyler because local tax records are unavailable after 1850. However, William B., Sarah, and Martin appear in Scipio Township, Meigs County, Ohio by 1853 where William B. buys two parcels of land.⁸³ Meigs County was where his four brothers

And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William B. Wilson (1849), p. 23; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 366 of 877, film 7833942. And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William B. Wilson (1850), p. 28; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 402 of 877, film 7833942.

⁷⁷ Tyler County, [West] Virginia, Recorder of Deeds, indenture, William Wilson to Richard W. Lauck (1843), vol. 9, p. 279; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 166 of 656, film 8590686.

⁷⁸ Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William Wilson (1843), p. 35; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 135 of 877, film 7833942. And Virginia, Commissioner of the Revenue, Tyler County, Personal Property Tax, William Wilson (1844), p. 39; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 180 of 877, film 7833942.

⁷⁹ West Virginia, Tyler County Court, Commonwealth vs. William Wilson (Spring term 1844).

⁸⁰ West Virginia, Tyler County Court, William Wilson vs. Samuel Wells (1850).

⁸¹ Tyler County, [West] Virginia, Recorder of Deeds, indenture, William Wilson to James W. Kramer (1850), vol. 11, p. 386-387; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 221 of 583, film 8219456.

⁸² 1850 U.S. census, Tyler County, [West] Virginia, population schedule, District 61, William Wilson, p. 355A, image 67 of 132; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 979.

⁸³ Meigs County, Ohio, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, William B. Wilson from Peter Alkire (1853), Book 16, p. 172-173; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 437-438 of 686, film 8585239. And Meigs County, Ohio,

(James H., John B., Robert, and David) and mother were living. It is probable that William B. was able to purchase the land at this time because in part William B. received \$13.43 from his deceased grandfather's estate in August 1850.⁸⁴ William B. and Sarah Wilson, as well as Martin Eckleberry and his new family, were enumerated in 1860 in Scipio.⁸⁵ William B. and Sarah sold their land in two transactions in 1860 and 1862.⁸⁶ William B. Wilson's whereabouts after 1862 are unknown. However, Martin Eckleberry as well as William's brother, David, and several of William's nephews and nieces removed to Wayne County, Illinois in several waves beginning in the early 1860s.

5.4.2 Speculative Records for William B. Wilson (b. 1809)

There are a couple of periods in William B. Wilson's (b. 1809) life which, if known, could provide evidence of whether he was the father of William Wilson (1827-1896). His whereabouts prior to 1831 are unknown as well as the period between his time in Monroe County, Ohio (1835-1838) and Tyler County, West Virginia (1842-1852), which includes the 1830 and 1840 censuses. The reason for the uncertainty of William B. in census records are due to two primary reasons. First, William Wilson is a common name making it difficult to identify him solely by name in records. Second, he and his family appeared to have moved quite extensively. Indeed, William B.'s parent's whereabouts are a mystery, too. His father, John Wilson (b. 1784), last appeared in tax records in 1812 in Richland Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania⁸⁷ but based on the birth of his last two children, they entered Ohio between 1820 and 1825.⁸⁸ The family appears to have arrived Tuscarawas County, Ohio by 1831 because this is when the family's older children began marrying with William B. marrying in 1831, Sarah Ann marrying in 1833, and James H. marrying in 1837.⁸⁹

Recorder of Deeds, land deed, William B. Wilson from Peter Alkire (1835), Book 16, p. 274-275; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 494-495 of 686, film 8585239.

⁸⁴ Chester County, Pennsylvania, estate file, no. 11253, John Wilson (1848, Tuscarawas County, Ohio), Recorder of Wills, Clerk of Orphans' Court, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Chester County Wills and Administration Index (1714-1923).

⁸⁵ 1860 U.S. census, Meigs County, Ohio, population schedule, Scipio, W Willson, p. 34, image 34 of 45; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1008. And 1860 U.S. census, Meigs County, Ohio, population schedule, Scipio, M Heickeburg, p. 33, image 33 of 45; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1008.

⁸⁶ Meigs County, Ohio, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, William B. Wilson to Charles J. Alkire (1860), Book 23, p. 120-121; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 73 of 703, film 8585243. And Meigs County, Ohio, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, William B. Wilson to Morton French (1862), Book 34, p. 411-412; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 565-566 of 686, film 8193208.

⁸⁷ Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Tax Records 1782-1860, John Wilson (1812), Richland, image 16 of 22; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); The Bucks County Historical Society, Doylestown, no. 102, roll 18.

⁸⁸ "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 February 2024), "Wilson120411" family tree by [rwilson7135](#), profile for Robert Wilson (1820-1859) and David Wilson (b. 1825).

⁸⁹ Ohio, County Marriages 1774-1993, Tuscarawas County, William Wilson and Sarah Hill (1831), number 1480, vol. 1,2,3,4, p. 185, image 94 of 580; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024). And Ohio, County Marriages 1774-1993, Tuscarawas County, Sarah Wilson and Samuel Burrison [Burnison] (1833), number 1702, vol. 1,2,3,4, p. 213, image 110 of 259; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024). And Ohio, County Marriages 1774-1993, Tuscarawas County, James Wilson and Susan Hill (1837), number 2500, vol. 1,2,3,4, p. 313, image 158 of 580; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024).

5.4.2.1 1830 Census for William B. Wilson (b. 1809)

If the subject of this report was born in 1827 and William B. was his father, then it would be reasonable to expect to find William B. in the 1830 census. There are some clues that might help establish his whereabouts, but they are speculative. In the 1860 census in Meigs County, living with William B. was F. Jewell (aged 15) and Mary Swearingen (aged 5). Mary Swearingen was the daughter of Henry Dawson Swearingen (1831-1892), who is believed to be the son of Henry Daniel Swearingen (1787-1850).⁹⁰ Mary was probably living with William B. because he may have needed assistance with basic chores because he had no children of his own, and Mary was perhaps from an unstable home environment because both her parents remarried between 1858 and 1859.⁹¹ Regardless, in 1830, Mary's supposed grandfather, Henry Daniel Swearingen, was living in Wells Township, Jefferson County, Ohio.⁹² Enumerated two individuals away was a William Wilson born between 1800-1810 with one male born between 1825-1830 and one female born between 1800-1810.⁹³ The ages for this William and the young male does fit with William B. Wilson's (b. 1809) and William Wilson's (1827-1896) respective ages.

5.4.2.2 1840 Census for William B. Wilson (b. 1809)

In 1840, William B. might have been living in Smithfield Township, Jefferson, Ohio.⁹⁴ The head of this household was born between 1800 and 1810. Enumerated eight individuals away was James Wilson, who was the appropriate age to be his brother and the young children associated with James are the appropriate ages for his known children at that time.⁹⁵ Indeed, neighboring Smithfield to the west is Shortcreek Township, Harrison County, Ohio where William B.'s mother and brother, John B., were residing.⁹⁶ The age ranges for the William Wilson in Smithfield match the ages for William B. and his wife, Sarah (Hill) Wilson. Two children are listed – one male and one female – both aged 5-10 years. The male child is the appropriate age for William B.'s indentured boy, Martin Eckleberry, and the female could be

⁹⁰ "Public Member Trees," database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 February 2024), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Mary Swearingen (1854-1941), Henry Dawson Swearingen (1831-1892), and Henry Daniel Swearingen (1787-1850).

⁹¹ Ohio, U.S., County Marriages 1774-1993, Henry D. Swearingen and Mary Kirkindall [Cochran] (1858), p. 294, image 378 of 470; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024). And Ohio, U.S., County Marriages 1774-1993, Matilda Riddle and Calvin Shumway (1859), p. 308, image 385 of 470; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024).

⁹² 1830 U.S. census, Jefferson County, Ohio, population schedule, Wells, Henry Swearingen, p. 173, image 11 of 16; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 134.

⁹³ 1830 U.S. census, Jefferson County, Ohio, population schedule, Wells, William Wilson, p. 173, image 11 of 16; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M19, roll 134.

⁹⁴ 1840 U.S. census, Jefferson County, Ohio, population schedule, Smithfield, William Wilson, p. 114, image 1 of 26; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 405.

⁹⁵ 1840 U.S. census, Jefferson County, Ohio, population schedule, Smithfield, James Wilson, p. 114, image 1 of 26; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 405.

⁹⁶ 1840 U.S. census, Harrison County, Ohio, population schedule, Shortcreek, Elizabeth Wilson and John Wilson, p. 217, image 16 of 21; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 25 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M704, roll 405.

domestic help like observed for William B. in the 1850 and 1860 censuses.⁹⁷ Two other observations are worth noting. There is no male aged 10-15, which would be the age of William Wilson (1827-1896), and there is another individual named John Wilson enumerated 11 individuals away from William. In the 1850 census, this John Wilson indicated he was born 1797 in Maryland. It's possible these Wilsons in Smithfield – William, James, and John – are not who they are speculated to be. However, it is noted that enumerated five individuals away from James Wilson in Smithfield is Marmaduke Reynard, whose sons later sold land to William B.'s brother, John B., in 1847 in Meigs County, Ohio.⁹⁸ So, it is possible that this is William B. in the 1840 census in Smithfield, that the John Wilson in Smithfield is unrelated, and William Wilson (1827-1896) is living elsewhere either in a neighboring household or with his maternal family. The latter point might explain how William (1827-1896) ended up in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania by 1860.⁹⁹

5.4.2.3 William B. Wilson (b. 1809) Residing in West Virginia circa 1827

A final point of speculation is whether William B. Wilson (b. 1809) can be placed in West Virginia, and probably near Wheeling, around the year 1827, which is the time and place where William (1827-1896) was presumed born. William B. would have been around 17 or 18 years old when William was conceived, so it is probable that William B. would have been living with his parents. Unfortunately, John Wilson's (b. 1784) whereabouts are unknown between 1812 and when he died before 1840. It is known that John likely moved into Ohio between 1820 and 1825 when his last two children were born. While John has not been identified in the 1820 or 1830 census records, there is some evidence that John and his family may have spent some time in West Virginia or what was then called Virginia.

⁹⁷ 1850 U.S. census, Tyler County, [West] Virginia, population schedule, District 61, William Wilson, p. 355A, image 67 of 132; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 979. And 1860 U.S. census, Meigs County, Ohio, population schedule, Scipio, W Willson, p. 34, image 34 of 45; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1008.

⁹⁸ Meigs County, Ohio, Recorder of Deeds, land deed, John B. Wilson from William Reynard (1847), Book 13, p. 134-135; database with an image (www.familysearch.org), image 80 of 682, film 8585238.

⁹⁹ 1860 U.S. census, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Elizabeth, William Wilson, p. 228, image 23 of 153; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 23 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1065.

John's (b. 1784) son Robert was born about 1820, and the 1850 census indicated that he was born in Ohio.¹⁰⁰ Robert died in 1859, and the mortality index indicated he was born in Pennsylvania.¹⁰¹ However, in subsequent census years, several of his children indicated that Robert was born either in Ohio or in Virginia (at that time West Virginia was Virginia).¹⁰² See table 11 below. Whether Robert was actually born in West Virginia is not the important take-away. Rather, Robert died young at 39 when his children were also young. Any information about Robert's birth likely came from other family living in the area, which included Robert's brothers and their children. Robert's children perhaps heard stories of the family living in or traveling through West Virginia around the time of Robert's birth and associated their father's birth location accordingly.

Table 11 – Reported Birth Locations for Robert Wilson (1820-1859)

Census	1880	1900	1910	1920	1930
Levonia S.	blank	Virginia	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
Sarah A.	Ohio	Virginia	Virginia	Ohio	Ohio
Martha P.	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
Damarius M.	Ohio	Virginia	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio
John R.	Ohio	*	*	*	Ohio
Eliza J.	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio	Ohio

Furthermore, if the previously mentioned 1830 census for William B. is correct, then it is important to realize that Wells Township in Jefferson County is on the Ohio River with Brooke County, West Virginia on the other side of the river and Wheeling right below Brooke County in Ohio County, West Virginia. Before moving to Jefferson County, the Swearingens were from Brooke County.¹⁰³ It is conceivable that the Wilsons resided for a time in the area. Indeed, John Wilson (b. 1784) had cousins in Shortcreek, Jefferson County, Ohio as well as Franklin Township in neighboring Columbiana County. See the map in Figure 7 on the next page.

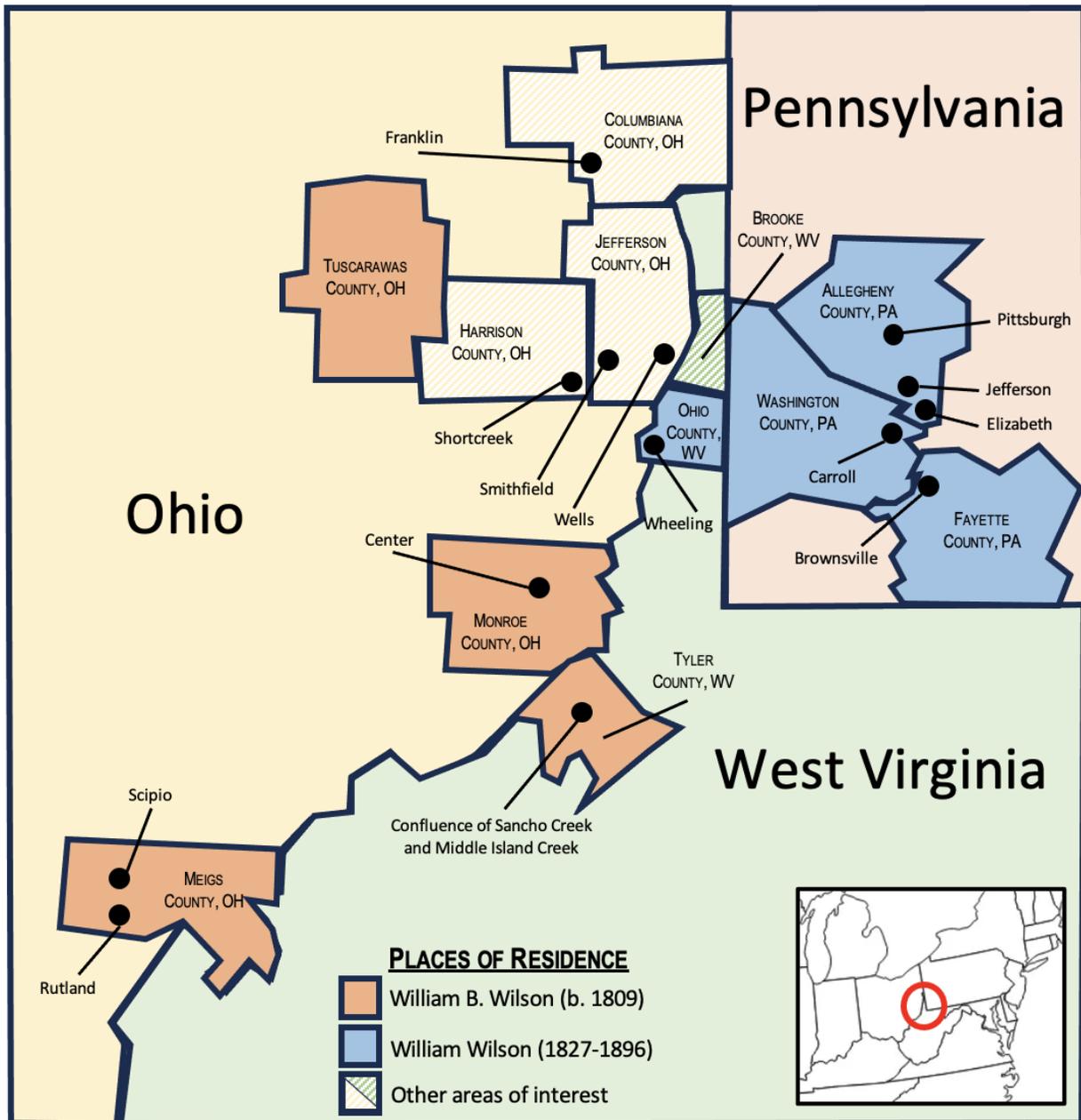
¹⁰⁰ 1850 U.S. census, Meigs County, Ohio, population schedule, Rutland, Robert Wilson, p. 89A, image 1 of 42; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 710.

¹⁰¹ U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules 1850-1885, Ohio, Meigs County, R Willson (1859), Rutland, p. 1, image 1 of 9; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication T1159, roll 30.

¹⁰² "Public Member Trees," database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 February 2024), "Wilson120411" family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Robert Wilson (1820-1859).

¹⁰³ Whyte, Karel L. (1997), *Swearingen/Vanswearingen and Related Families*. Aiken, SC: Self-published.

Figure 7 – Relevant Locations in the Tri-state Ohio River Valley Region



6. Conclusion

Based on the genealogical records and analysis of DNA, it seems very likely that William B. Wilson (b. 1809) is the father of William Wilson (1827-1896). Yet, some items remain unanswered. For the genealogical records, the identification of William B. in the 1830 and 1840 censuses plays an important role in telling William Wilson's (1827-1896) story. If the speculation for these censuses is correct, that William B. Wilson (b. 1809) is in Wells and Smithfield Townships in Jefferson County, respectively, then it creates the question of what transpired

early in William Wilson's (1827-1896) life that led him to Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, where in 1855 he marries Louisa Lewis.

One possibility is that William B.'s first wife and mother to William Wilson (1827-1896) died shortly after the 1830 census when William B. is found in Wells, Jefferson County, Ohio because William B. married Sarah Hill on 1 September 1831 in Tuscarawas County, Ohio.¹⁰⁴ However, no marriage record is found for the proposed first wife for William B. in Ohio or West Virginia despite marriages being recorded as early as 1803¹⁰⁵ and 1793,¹⁰⁶ respectively. If William B. married in Pennsylvania, marriage records were not widely recorded until 1885, but some counties were much earlier.¹⁰⁷ However, none were found in Pennsylvania, but it may not be possible to locate one in the state for this time period.

Another possibility is that William B. did not have a first wife before Sarah Hill. He may have had an illegitimate child with a woman not yet identified, and William (1827-1896) may have resided with her or her family, which may have been near Allegheny County, Pennsylvania either in West Virginia or Western Pennsylvania.

While either two scenarios are plausible, the identification of several genetic networks that included a great number of descendants of John and Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson as well as some descendants for Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson's ancestry, namely Boyd and McMasters, has generated new insights into an 1850 census record discovered for a William Boyd Wilson, who was born in Ohio in 1827.¹⁰⁸ See Figure 8 below. The year of birth for this William Boyd Wilson is the same as William Wilson (1827-1896), and this William Boyd Wilson was living in the same household (#166) as the family of William Boyd (b. 1825) in Carroll Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania, which borders Elizabeth Township, Allegheny County where William Wilson (1827-1896) resided in 1860. The William Boyd (b. 1825) was a cousin to William Wilson (b. 1809).

¹⁰⁴ Ohio, County Marriages 1774-1993, Tuscarawas County, William Wilson and Sarah Hill (1831), number 1480, vol. 1,2,3,4, p. 185, image 94 of 580; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024).

¹⁰⁵ FamilySearch Wiki (2024), *Ohio, United States Genealogy*. Accessed 22 February 2024 at https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ohio,_United_States_Genealogy.

¹⁰⁶ FamilySearch Wiki (2024), *West Virginia, United States Genealogy*. Accessed 22 February 2024 at https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/West_Virginia,_United_States_Genealogy.

¹⁰⁷ FamilySearch Wiki (2024), *Pennsylvania, United States Genealogy*. Accessed 22 February 2024 at https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Pennsylvania,_United_States_Genealogy.

¹⁰⁸ 1850 U.S. census, Washington County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Carroll, William Boyd Wilson, p. 239A, image 23 of 35; database with image, *Ancestry* (www.ancestry.com, accessed 24 February 2024); NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 833.

Figure 8 – 1850 Federal Census for William Boyd Wilson in Washington County, PA

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *Carroll Township* **in the County of** *Washington* **State**
of *Pennsylvania* **enumerated by me, on the** *28th* **day of** *August* **1850.** *Geo. M. Swan* **Ass't Marshal.**

1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Age	Sex	Color							
166	<i>Ira R. Butler</i>		57	M		<i>Farmer</i>	6,640					
	<i>Mary</i>		49	F								
	<i>Benjamin</i>		27	M		<i>Farmer</i>						
	<i>Lucie J.</i>		20	F								
	<i>Henry E.</i>		17	F								
	<i>Elizabeth</i>		14	F								
	<i>Emeline</i>		12	F								
	<i>Sarah</i>		10	F								
	<i>Ira</i>		6	M								
167	<i>William Boyd Wilson</i>		23	M		<i>Laborer</i>		<i>Ohio</i>				
	<i>William Boyd</i>		25	M		<i>Laborer</i>		<i>Pa.</i>				
	<i>Catharine</i>		21	F								
	<i>Robert J.</i>		4	M								

William Boyd (b. 1825) is the son of William Boyd (1790-1875) and brother to Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson making William Boyd (b. 1825) a cousin to William Wilson (1827-1896) if this is indeed William Wilson (1827-1896). Furthermore, enumerated just above William Boyd Wilson in household #165 is the family of Mary (Boyd) Butler, who is a younger sister to Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson (see Figure 8).¹⁰⁹

Mary (Boyd) Butler’s husband was named Ira Reese Butler, and one of William Wilson’s (1827-1896) sons was named Frederick Ira Wilson, who may have been named in part after Ira Reese Butler. Indeed, Ira Reese Butler’s obituary indicated he was a prominent citizen,¹¹⁰ and even Elizabeth (Boyd) Wilson’s brother, William Boyd (1790-1875) appears to have named a son after Ira Reese Butler, namely Ira Reese Boyd (1836-1913).¹¹¹ It seems reasonable then that William Wilson (1827-1896) moved to or resided in the Carroll Township area to be near William B.’s maternal family either after the death of his mother or later in life as he searched for employment.

¹⁰⁹ “Public Member Trees,” database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 February 2024), “Wilson120411” family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Mary Boyd (1801-1874).

¹¹⁰ *The Daily Republican* (1884, July 22), “Capt. Ira R. Butler,” p. 4, col. 1, Monongahela, PA; online database, <https://Newspapers.com>, accessed 14 March 2022.

¹¹¹ “Public Member Trees,” database, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>, accessed 23 February 2024), “Wilson120411” family tree by rwilson7135, profile for Ira Reese Butler (1792-1884).

If the 1850 census in Carroll Township is for William Wilson (1827-1896), which it seems very likely to be, then it presents two additional questions. First, was William's (1827-1896) middle name Boyd like the census suggests? Later in William's life, his middle initial was identified as "W", but all of these references come from records associated with only his daughter Elizabeth (Wilson) McEnney, which may or may not have been accurate (see Table 5 presented earlier). Perhaps his middle name was the same as his proposed father, William B. Wilson (b. 1809), although the "B" in William B. has never been more than a "B" in records. It is also important to note that William Boyd Wilson's last name in the 1850 census record appears to be smaller in size as if it was written in after the other names in the household were written. It is therefore possible that William Boyd was written down twice by the census taker to represent two adult males with the first one later adapted to accurately capture William Wilson's (1827-1896) presence in the household.

The second question the above 1850 census record generates is about William Wilson's birth location. Yet another birth location has been identified in addition to West Virginia and Pennsylvania (see Tables 2, 3, and 4 presented earlier). If William Wilson's (1827-1896) formative years were quite unstable living with multiple relatives as the speculative story suggests, then he may not have known where he was born. Ohio could come from his observation that his father, assuming William B. Wilson, resided in Ohio. It could also be that William (1827-1896) did not provide this information. Perhaps it was William or Catherine Boyd, and they only knew he spent time in Ohio prior to Carroll Township. If someone else did provide this information, this might also explain why "Wilson" appears to be added onto "William Boyd" seemingly after the fact as shown in Figure 8.

7. Future Research Suggestions

Although every effort was made to collect, present, and discuss all relevant evidence as to the father of William Wilson (1827-1896), a couple of items were found that by themselves are not likely to change the output of the report but could provide greater insight into the life of William Wilson. Future research should consider investigating the following items.

1. An observation is that the middle name "Finley" appears twice in the early generations for William Wilson (1827-1896) and twice in the early generations for William Boyd (1790-1875). In the 1850 census, William Wilson was living with William Boyd (b. 1825), son of William Boyd (1790-1875). William Boyd (b. 1825) was one of the individuals who named one of his sons Robert Finley Boyd (1849-1915). Could this pattern hint to family connections with the surname Finley through their shared Boyd line? Finley appears as a middle name with four members of the extended family:
 - a. James *Finley* Wilson (1864-1944), son of **William Wilson (1827-1896)**.
 - b. Clarence *Finley* Wilson (1896-1969), son of William T. Wilson (1859-1930), grandson of **William Wilson (1827-1896)**.
 - c. Robert *Finley* Boyd (1849-1915), son William Boyd (b. 1825), grandson of **William Boyd (1790-1875)**.
 - d. Samuel *Finley* Boyd (1849-1928), son of John Boyd (b. 1817), grandson of **William Boyd (1790-1875)**.

2. It was earlier suggested that Septimus Wilson, son of Joseph Wilson (1760-1841), was not likely a candidate as the father of William Wilson (1827-1896). However, not much is known about Septimus and so learning more about him might provide greater confirmation that he was not William's father. Since Septimus is believed to have been a Quaker, initiating a research project into the Quaker records held at Swarthmore College may prove helpful.
3. John Wilson (b. 1784) is most certainly a direct ancestor of William Wilson (1827-1896). DNA evidence supports this. As such, finding John's whereabouts in records between 1812 and his death, which was before 1840, might also help to better understand William's early life.
4. An interesting court case was discovered in Tyler County, West Virginia records. On 3 August 1843, William Wilson and William Wilson Jr., merchants doing business as William Wilson & Son, filed suit against Friend Cox and Robert W. Cox for non-payment of \$1,395.97.¹¹² It is unlikely that this reference is to William B. Wilson (b. 1809) and William Wilson (1827-1896), as William B. was a farmer and William (1827-1896) would most likely have been too young to be in business with his father in 1842 when the \$1,395.97 transaction was made. There were no other William Wilsons other than William B. found in Tyler County tax records for these years, and so it is probable that William Wilson & Son operated out of another county and delivered goods to Friend and Robert W. Cox, who resided on Fishing Creek. Identifying the proprietors of William Wilson & Son might help to provide greater confirmation that this reference is not to William B. Wilson (b. 1809) and William Wilson (1827-1896).

8. Table of Revisions

The following table records the changes made to the report since its initial publishing.

Version	Date	Change Description
1.0	03 / 01 / 2024	Initial publishing

¹¹² West Virginia, Tyler County Court, William Wilson & Son vs. Friend Cox and Robert W. Cox (1843).