

W. R. Whidden

W. R. Whidden of the firm of Whidden Bros., dealers in general merchandise, including dry goods, hats caps, clothing, furniture, flour, & feed, is the son of Gregor W. Whidden, a native of Nova Scotia, and was born in 1849. He was educated in the country of his birth, and was in business there fourteen years before coming to this country. He was married first to Miss Emily M. Angell of New York in 1876. His wife having died in 1878 he was married in 1880 to Miss Sadie E. Angell, a sister of his first wife. He had two children, but lost both by diphtheria in New York in Mar. 1884, while visiting their grand parents. Mr. Whidden came to Dakota in April 1883 and erected his buildings and established his business May 1, 1883. His brother John B. Whidden first went to California and remained eight years. At the end of that time he returned to Dakota, and became a member of the above firm Oct 29, 1883. He died at Cooperstown. Mr. Whidden carries a stock of \$5,000, and is insured for \$7,000, one of the largest stores in the town and county.

Bibl. Atlas of Dakota, 1884, p 242



Extract of a letter written by W.R.WHIDDEN  
to a friend in HALIFAX, N.S.

"ABOUT DAKOTA"

(Quoted from the "Cooperstown Courier" of January 25, 1884.)

-----"I would like to tell you about  
this particular locality-----about Cooperstown, scarce a year old, about  
her founders, Cooper Brothers, the Bonanza farmers, who the past season  
ran 50 self binders three weeks, to cut their immense crops-----about  
her \$22,000 Palace Hotel, her \$10,000 schoolhouse, the Union Hotel and  
restaurants, about her bank and its capital, her 50,000 bushel elevator,  
and grand railroad depot, about her four general stores and her business  
transacted in one season, about her land agents, lawyers and doctors-----  
her post-office, drug store and printing office---about her livery stables,  
butcher shops, and last but not least her church society and its work-not  
forgetting her Glee Club and social institutions. If time permitted I  
should like to tell you something about Griggs County with the Sheyenne  
River meandering south through its eastern half----well wooded and  
settled with an enterprising Norwegian population. Also about the  
beautiful lakes too numerous to mention or small to name, except as some  
settler may name from fancy. I might tell you of Lake Jessie and its  
scenery, of the picnics, boating, playing croquet there."-----



## Max Wild

Max Wild was born at LeRoy, Dodge county, Wisconsin, March 1, 1864. He went to the German school until he was fourteen. During the summer and winter he worked out and the same time went to school. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. Sebastian Wild and there were fourteen children in the family.

When Max heard of claims to be had in Dakota territory, he made up his mind he was going to get some land. In March 1886, with Rob Starr, John Eventler, Sam and Andrew Sperga, and Jake Westonhauser, in an immigration car, he started for Dakota territory. Max had with him some machinery, four horses, and a bull dog. When they came to LaCrosse, Wis., the conductor informed them they were going to be in LaCrosse for three-fourths of an hour, so the men went up town. They had just got up town when the whistle blew. By the time they got back, the train was gone. They bought a ticket to St. Paul and when they got to the switching yards in St. Paul they came near getting on the wrong train.

In three days they arrived in Cooperstown. Shortly after Max filed on Sec. 20, Kingsley township. Bill Martin, a neighbor, helped Max build over the shanty that was already on the land. Bill's oxen was always getting in the hay on Max's homestead. Mr. Martin was wondering if the dog of Max's was any good to get the oxen out of the hay. Max said, "You take chance on the oxen, and I'll take chance on the dog." They got on their horses and Max took a two-by-four along. After near killing the oxen, the bulldog chased them in the neighbor's barn. Max had to knock the dog over the head in order to make him quit. Soon all the people wanted this dog to chase away their cattle etc. Max wanted to get rid of this butcher dog because it was no dog to have around the farm for this purpose. John



Pierring heard of this dog and offered Max fifty bushels of oats for it. Max gladly took the oats. Mr. Pierring sent the dog on his own cattle. It killed a cow and sucked the blood out of it. That cured the owner from keeping the dog any longer, so he killed it.

The shanty 12' by 14' was made of lumber bought in Cooperstown. Max and Rob Starr helped each other break up their land as Rob's land was right next to Max's. While Rob did the breaking, Max cooked the meals, and the same time picked a few carloads of buffalo bones. He received about \$12 a ton for them. The two bachelors had a barrel of smoked ham in the cellar. Rob's father had sent it from Wisconsin. While Max was helping Rob break his land, someone had been in and taken the ham. When Max came to fix supper, he found the ham gone. When Rob came in he asked Max why he didn't fry the ham. He couldn't believe it when Max told him there was none. After searching the cellar, Rob was convinced.

The next year, 1887, Max batched alone. His bed was fixed on the wall and the large barrel of soda crackers he had fit right under. The mice made a hole through the floor and into the barrel and were eating the crackers from the bottom, while Max was eating from the top. Max was wondering why he was getting baldheaded. The mice had been using his hair to make a nest. This Max was unaware of until one rainy day he made up his mind to find out why he was getting bald. He pulled out the barrel and turned it up. Mice flow in all directions. Max saved the best crackers on top for company. After the women visitors had finished eating, Max told the mice story.

Mrs. Martin, a neighbor, came over to see how the bachelor was getting along. Max was out breaking at the time, so she made herself to home and looked all around to see how he kept things. Another time she found him burning all his girls' pictures. "I don't want them now; I'm going to get married." Max said.



1888 was a dry year. In the fall of the same year, Max went back to LeRoy, Wis. to see his folks. March 11, 1889 he married Katy Platzer. Max came back to Dakota with Jake Westenhauser, Watt Percy, and John Eventler, who had also married. He built another two room house and used the shanty for the barn. In April the wives came together to the new country to start in on their own. Mrs. Wild had never lived on a farm before, and all this was new to her; but it didn't take long before she knew a lot around the farm. The house was not yet finished inside when she came and there was also disking to be done. Mrs. Wild couldn't do the pasting of the felt paper on the walls and such other things that was to be done, so Max put her to work with the four horses to do the disking. She had never ridden a horse before in her life, but did the work fine. Max stayed in and fixed the house and barn. The day was dry and dusty. When Mrs. Wild came in, to her husband she looked more like a negro than his wife.

The window finishing and such was yet to be done in the house. It was a hot day in June, 1889 when Mrs. Martin came over to see Mrs. Wild. Her husband was out working and she knew a storm was coming and was afraid to be alone. Mr. Wild was not home either and Mrs. Wild had never known this kind of a day would bring a storm. It started to blow and rain. The women were worried and wished the men were out of the storm. The wind became worse and worse and it rained heavily. The rain came in through the cracks and stood many inches on the floor over Mrs. Wild's new rug. She had raised a nice bunch of chickens and knew they'd be lying dead all over. When it stopped raining, Mrs. Martin suggested Mrs. Wild get a tub and they'd go and pick up the chicks. They gathered up every chick and took them in the house. Mrs. Martin laid them in a flannel in the warm oven and soon the chicks were as spry as before. That same evening the storm had tipped over Watt Percy's house with his wife, Jake, and Watt in it. Mrs. Percy was the



only one injured.

October 4, 1890 their first child was born. She was named Ina.

There were no crops until 1891. They had expected a good crop this year. It was getting cold and there was fear of frost. It was claimed the farmers should haul manure all around the field and when it threatened to freeze, to light the manure. The farmers worked all night hauling manure. One evening it threatened to freeze. They went out and lit it. Smoke was all over the territory. The crop was saved. There weren't enough machings around the territory and lot of the grain had to go to waste. An addition was made to the house in the fall of 1891. In 1892 Mr. Wild sold his homestead in Kingsley township to Lewis Berg for \$800.

July 29, 1893 a son was born by the name of Clarence. That same year the Wilds bought 200 chickens from Christ Raud, a neighbor. They thought they would be able to make a living for groceries etc. from the chickens. Mr. Wild took a basketful of eggs to town one day and received six cents a dozen. Half of the eggs were broken. The amount received for the eggs was not enough to buy sugar. That settled Mr. Wild from raising so many chickens. He started to raise hogs and it went pretty good until hog cholera claimed all thirty-five.

In 1897 Mr. Wild had a quarter of a section in oats. He had hired a man to stack up the oats and to plow a fire break around the field. Towards evening it began to get smoky all around. Mrs. Wild was home alone and was afraid for the oats. After a long time Max came home and together they went to see how the oats were. When they came to the field, no breaking had been done and stacks of oats were on fire. The hired man had gone to town to celebrate instead of breaking the land. All of their oats were destroyed.

Around 1898 Mr. Wild rented some land across the creek. One night while Mr. Wild and his hired man were out working, it threatened to



to freeze. Mrs. Wild went to the barn for hay to cover up her vegetables in the garden. She had carried two forks of hay to the garden when she saw two skunks around the hen house. Instead of carrying anymore hay, she got a chair and climbed on top of the hen house, with the fork in her hands. There was a small hole leading into the chicken coop. She waited an hour before anything happened. Then a large skunk presented itself and started crawling in the hole. Mrs. Wild leaned over the hen house and jabbed the fork into the skunk. The skunk tried desperately to get away. It was hard to get the fork into the skunk. After fighting a long time, she got the fork through the body and into the ground; but the skunk wouldn't die. The skunk scent filled the air and about choked Mr. Wild. The scent woke up the children in the house. The children had been taught not to go out at night for the skunk would get them. When they saw their mother's bed empty and the skunk scent all around, they began crying frantically. Mrs. Wild hollered in for them to bring a chair out so she could get down from the side of the hen house. She left the fork in the skunk and put hay over it. When she went back to work covering her vegetables. The next night Max did the same thing but used the light hay fork. The fork wasn't good enough and the skunk got away. Now they knew where their chickens were disappearing and determined to end the lives of these skunks. They filled a dead chicken with strychnine and put it under the granary. They were never bothered with any more skunks.

Mr. and Mrs. Wild lived on Sec. 20 until the fall of 1899 when they moved to Jossie, and bought one-half section in Sec. 17, Tyrol township. 1890 was a perfectly dry year. Out of their now breaking land they got only 800 bushels of wheat. Mr. and Mrs. Wild became discouraged. They made their living from the five cows they had and sold eggs, the price at this time a little better, 18 and 19 cents



a dozen. Butter was about twenty cents a pound. They soon took up courage and put in a big crop the next year, 1901. Mr. Wild told his wife he was going to put everything in flax this year. He put flax on his old homestead and on his homestead in Jessie. He rented from Berg Bros. one-half section in Sec. 9, Tyrol township and put in twenty acres of wheat. The wheat yielded 22 bushels to the acre. They got \$1.36 a bushel for the flax. That year they had "barrels" of money. They had been living in a small house on the hill and thought they should spread out a little. A new house was built in the fall of 1901.

The last threshing was being finished up on Halloween. Mr. and Mrs. Wild were so busy they never thought of Halloween. The hired men were working hard and quit when night came. The dog barked all night. Mr. Wild had to get up early before daylight to haul the flax away from the machine while the men were working. When he came in the barn he couldn't find any harnesses. The whistle was blowing for him and he became more excited every minute. When he went back in the barn he found all the cows harnessed. When daylight came he found out why the dog was barking so furiously. Ploughs, buggys, sleighs, everything was on top of the barn. The men had certainly played a Halloween trick on Max. It was a windy morning. Due to some carelessness in watching the flax straw pile caught on fire. The threshing machine of Mr. Smith's was just saved in time.

In 1905 a big barn was built on Sec. 17, Tyrol township. In Nov., 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Wild with their two children went back east to visit. They came back on New Year's day. The train came as far as Cooperstown; it was blocked to Jessie. Mr. and Mrs. Wild got a ride home with a farmer. It took two weeks for the plow to work through from Cooperstown to Binford.

Five more children were born to this marriage. Eugene, May 17, 1896



married, 1925; Eva, April 7, 1899, died May 15, 1930; Edna, April 9, 1900, died 1930; Howard, April 21, 1908, died Dec. 11, 1909; Chester, March 2, 1913, married March, 1936. In 1908 their oldest daughter, Ina, married Sever A. Fritz and they moved to Jessie. Mr. Wild built a new house the same year for the newlyweds.

Mr. and Mrs. Wild stayed on the farm until 1914 when they moved into Jessie. Mr. Wild bought out the general store from Erick Erickson. The firm was known as Wild and Fritz. In 1915 he rented a farm from N.O. Haugen in Addie township, Sec. 10. In 1916 they went to Revere and rented a big farm. The first year in Revere, they were completely rusted out. The next year they were entirely haled out and made their living from chickens. There were many storms this year. The many chickens were kept in incubators with white strips of flannel hanging from the top of the incubators to keep them warm. Mrs. Wild didn't have enough white strips for one incubator so she put in red flannel strips. One day a storm came up; it rained heavily. In the morning one incubator was full of pink chicks.

The third year in Revere they had the most booming crop ever had in N. Dak. Wheat yielded as high as 38 bushels to the acre. That same year Mrs. Wild had the most wonderful flower garden in N. Dak. People driving by would stop and admire it. They also raised 500 chickens, 85 turkeys, 80 ducks, and 60 geese. Everything around the farm was white with poultry. It was in the spring of this year, 1918, when Mr. Wild's jet black horse became very sick. He phoned to Cooperstown for Doc Winslow, veterinary to come out. The doctor looked it over and said it had lung fever. The medicine he thought the horse should have cost more than the horse was worth. It would amount to about 45 of quinine. Mr. Wild didn't care how much it would cost if the horse



would get well. They went to Sutton to get the medicine and found the doctor not at home. While waiting for the doctor, Rob Starr came into the drug store. Max told him about the horse. Rob didn't believe in the veterinary business and told Max the best thing to make the horse well was to smear her up with lard, and blanket her up good, and run a quart of alcohol down the horse's neck. Mr. Wild had bought a keg of alcohol sometime before and Mrs. Wild had hid a quart in the barn for use in case of sickness. They took Mr. Starr's advice and the next morning the horse was just as spry as ever.

In the fall of 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Wild moved back to Jessie. Mr. Wild started draying, raising chickens, etc., and did what he could to make a living. In 1920 Mr. Wild put in 160 acres of flax. August 7 a hail storm came and destroyed every bit of it. The crop looked good enough to yield twenty bushels to the acre. The hail storm broke every window in their big house, and destroyed their garden.

March 1, 1925 they moved to Cooperstown and ran a rooming house and hospital. Around the latter part of August, 1933, the pioneer and his wife took in the World's Fair, and visited their son, Gene. They were there three days and then went to visit Mrs. Wild's sister in Milwaukee. They came back September 18.

Mr. Wild celebrated his 73rd birthday March 1, 1937. "I'm feeling so good, that I'm surely going to live two years longer to celebrate my golden wedding anniversary." He said.



Biography of Fred Wilke  
--Elmer Taxdahl

Mr. Fred Wilke was born in Berlin, Germany, February 10, 1854, and is still living at the age of 73 years. His parents names were Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Wilke. They are both dead.

He left Germany when he was twenty years old and went to Illinois where he worked three years. Then he came to North Dakota in 1877 and worked three years before he took homestead. He took homestead in 1880 in Griggs County in Bald Hill Township. He has two quarters of land. His first house was very small. It had only two rooms. His barn was very small, too. He had to go to Valley City for his food stuff because it was his nearest town. He went to St. Paul to get a horse and a mule. His mule died so he had only one horse. Then he went to New Salem and got two bronchos. He didn't have much machinery. He had a wooden McCormick binder and a walking plow. He didn't have money to pay for the binder so later they put judgment against him.

Some of his early crops were wheat and flax but it was so dry and so many gophers that he didn't get much yield.

He didn't have coal so he had to go to the Sheyenne river and get wood for his fuel.

When he was going to borrow money he had to pay twenty per cent interest.

He has never been married. He had his cousin, Albert, to cook for him. He is nearly as old as Fred and he is nearly blind. But now Fred is well fixed and has a nice big house and three barns, a horse barn, cow barn, and a hay barn. He has a grove of trees on the west side of the buildings. He has about twenty head of cattle and seven horses, and now he has lots of chickens and geese on which he mostly lives.

Two of his nearest neighbors are Herman Michaelis and Arnt Taxdal.



PIONEER BIOGRAPHY

Fred Wilke

died - Fall 1931

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## Fred Williams

Fred Williams was born Oct. 1861 in Blackman Twp., outside of Jackson City, Mich. When he was 5 years old, his family moved to Jackson City and lived there for two years. They then moved to Leona, Mich. for four years, south of Grass Lake, Mich. for two years., and then in the city of Grass Lake for two years. They then moved in the country on a small farm four miles north of Grass Lake for one year, and into Ingham County, Awuers, Mich. Here Mr. Williams lived with his parents till he was 20 years old. During this time he had got so he could work for the farmers a little and had intended to go and work on farms by the month. When he told his mother about this she said, "No, Fred, you know the two older boys are 21, and can leave any time. I'd like to have you stay at home. If you should leave I wouldn't have anybody to help with the chores. If you stay home and take care of the cows, provide the hay, you and I will own the cows together and we'll raise calves." Anything his mother requested was the way it went with Williams. After the first year here one cow was getting a little along in years. A fellow came with a Brud mare and asked if he had something to trade for it. Fred said he would trade for a cow. They went to look at the cow and the men traded. They raised a colt from her that year. The next year Fred was helping one of the neighbors plant corn (by hand). When they came up to dinner, this neighbor says, "Fred, I have a colt I want to sell you. It's half-brother to the colt you have already. You can raise two together and have a nice team some day." This sounded all right but he told him it was the money part that bothered him. The neighbor told him he could take the colt home that night and said he could pay for it by work through the summer at odd times. Fred took the colt and raised it till it was about three years old. At that time they had bought a new wagon and a new harness. They had raised many calves beside



buying a few and had cut all the hay with scythe that was needed for the stock. When they got the idea of coming to N. Dak., they had an auction sale and sold all they had accumulated which brought around \$1000. That was what brought the Williamses to N. Dak. in the spring of 1882.

Fred Williams, his brother, Johnny, and his brother-in-law came by train to Sanborn, March 16, 1882. Starting March 17, it snowed and blowed for four days. When it finally cleared up there were drifts of snow around Sanborn from 6 ft. to 10 ft. high. There came a large drift on the maintrack just in front of the depot. Their snow plows were rather crude in those days but some kind of instrument had to be used to clean off these large drifts. So the first train that came after the storm had sort of an old-fashioned snow plow on it. They had been notified of this drift before they got there and struck this drift at quite a high rate of speed. The results--there were no windows left on that side of the depot towards the track. The flying snow even swept the chimney off the roof.

Two months later, Fred's parents and the rest of the family came to Dakota. After buying clothes, transportation, and other articles their \$1000 was pretty well cleaned up. The country looked good. All were delighted with the prospect that was before them. All the boys got work on Cooper's ranch south of Cooperstown. Most anybody was able to get work at those times for \$25 a month and board. Where Fred came from the average price was from \$10 to \$12 on the farm. So \$25 naturally looked pretty large to them. Fred Williams hauled Cooper's first wheat crop to Sanborn. There were about 24 horse teams that were kept going all winter. About the middle of February the railroad was laid up as far as Dazey. They then hauled only to this side of the rail. Fred helped haul the first lumber to Cooperstown



for the first schoolhouse.

The town was surveyed out and plotted in the summer of 1882 so the schoolhouse was already located. He helped haul the first lumber for the Palace Hotel and other buildings besides building up a lumber yard.

From March 17 on came lots of snow. About the 5th of April it warmed up so that the snow was beginning to thaw. A big rain came and turned the snow into water almost over night. About that time some people came on their way to Cooper's ranch from Colorado. When they got to Bald Hill creek, the water started to raise so they didn't dare to cross. They unloaded their goods which was mostly boxed and went back to Sanborn after more goods. A heavy rain came; the water rose so fast it flooded the bottoms along Bald Hill creek and swept away all the goods with the exception of one box of clothing which happened to be in quite a large box. Mr. Cooper asked Fred one day to put a certain team on a little light wagon he had for running around. They put boats in the wagon and with sets of oars went to Bald Hill creek. They picked up enough lumber along the shore that had been flooded away and made a raft. They got the large box of clothing on the raft. This Cooper did by himself and he had hip rubber boots on. The two men took the clothing out, spread it on the grass and dried it, and then went home. The next day Cooper sent Fred to the creek with the same outfit and there were about 20 people waiting to get across. He brought them across safely, one person of whom was John Mills. He congratulated Fred on being such a good hand with the oars.

The Williams family all took homesteads separately in the spring of 1883. Mr. and Mrs. Williams took a homestead west of Cooperstown in Pleasantview twp. Fred built a claim shanty in the fall of '82. The next spring he bought a yoke of oxen and moved onto this claim, Sec. 2, Bald Hill Twp. The homestead consisted of 160 acres. The



shanty was 14 ft. by 16 ft. with three windows and one door. In 1884 he built an addition 10 ft. by 14 ft.

In the spring of 1885, Fred Williams was married to Elizabeth Fenner b the Justice of the Peace, Johnson of Cooperstown. In the fall of 1883 Fred's parents came to live with him. His mother died the next summer. Fred continued to farm with oxen for two years. He then changed from oxen to horses. Then began to get more land under cultivation, year by year doing a little bigger farming. A few years later he bought out Victor Gale's homestead that joined his and made  $\frac{1}{2}$  section altogether.

Their first seeding was done by hand; it wasn't so nice to sow wheat by hand when the wind blew; so he had to get up early in the morning and sow the grain by hand for two hours, then get breakfast and take the oxen and harrow it in.

Fred's brother, Charlie, and he built a schoolhouse in Bald Hill Twp., the west part of Sec. 12. The school was held for a period of six months a year.

In 1885 or '86 Bald Hill Twp. was organized. Fred was elected as Chairman of Twp. Board and held the office for about 35 years, perhaps longer than any one man held that office close up to the present time. The supervisors were Duncan Sinclair and John Mills; Archie Sinclair was the clerk.

Their first child Edward was born Jan. 1, 1886. The second child, Mabel, was born about a year and a half later. She died when 11 mo. and 10 days old. The sickness was whooping cough which turned into pneumonia.

Speaking of turkey raising; Mr. Brophy, (a man that ran the first elevator in Cooperstown) was sent a box of chickens from his father in Minn. In the box of chickens was one turkey hen. Fred was there with Mr. Brophy at the time it came. Mr. Brophy said he couldn't make any



use of it and asked Fred if he wanted it. Fred took the turkey home and purchased a gobbler from the neighbor and raised a nice bunch of turkeys that year. He has always been a turkey raiser from that time on. In the early years there wasn't much of a price on turkeys so they raised them mostly for home consumption. The first bunch of turkeys raised to amount to anything was in the year 1918. 1919 he raised around 170 turkeys. This was quite interesting for him. The Fargo Produce Co. heard that he had this bunch of turkeys so they called Fred up by long distance phone, and wanted to know about his turkeys. Fred told them how many he had. It was an extra nice bunch of turkeys. They told him they were paying 18¢ a lb. for dressed turkeys at that time. Fred had kept a little tab on prices of turkeys in the east and had an idea of what they should bring so he told them their 18¢ didn't interest him at all. The Produce Co. said they couldn't pay any more so Fred told them they better hang up, because they were losing money by holding the phone. A few days later they called up and wanted to know how he felt about the turkeys. Fred told them he felt the same as before when they talked to him. They said they had offered a pretty nice price for them. Fred told them they might as well hang up if that's all they had to offer. A few days later this Produce Co. called up for the third time. They explained they just about had to have those turkeys for thanksgiving. Fred told them if they felt that way about it, they knew what the answer would be. They asked him if he could get the turkeys into Fargo at a certain date. He told them if he agreed, he would. They whined a little and finally told him to send the turkeys along. Fred told him, "Just a minute now. There's a little more to this deal. I said 35¢ F.O.B. Cooperstown." They told him to ship them. Fred's check for that bunch of turkeys was \$952. He took that check to the photographers and had a reproduction made of it. It looked so real that a person could



just about had it cashed.

Mr. Williams' mind had run along inventions more or less since he has grown up. Up until 1891 grain drills hadn't been used. Around 1891 they began operating grain drills, they being, Fred considered, rather cumbersome. He very readily designed a shoe for a grain drill to be constructed out of two disk wheels. This shoe is known as the double disk grain shoe for drills. He constructed one of them and at that time didn't own a drill of his own so R.C. Cooper asked him to put it on one of his drills and they would experiment with it for him. It worked so well that they left it on the drill through the balance of the seeding season. That was the first double disk shoe that was ever placed on a grain drill.

At that time there was a law that made it legal so you could file a "caviot". The object of the caviot is to give you protection on your invention until completed. This caviot was supposed to run one year when you are to apply for a patent. During the life of this caviot there was a patent granted to other parties. That should have been considered contrary to law. The object of this caviot was to protect the inventor by infringers to give you the same protection that you would expect to have from a letters patent while you're completing the invention. As a matter of fact, Mr. Williams decided to drop the case even tho he had a prior right, rather than become involved in a law suit.

Mr. Williams invented a potato planter and received a patent on it. He also made one in his blacksmith shop on the farm and used it there for about fifteen years, during which time he often loaned it to the neighbors and gave very good satisfaction. This potato planter differed with ordinary potato planters in that it cut its own seed. All you needed was to sack up your potatoes, fill the hopper with whole potatoes



and then you were ready for planting. This machine planted one row at a time, but could easily have been made a two-row planter. As Fred was too busy engaged in farming this patent had to die by the wayside as thousands of people die a natural death.

Mr. Williams was one of the first ones around here to raise strawberries (around 1900). He first started with a few potato plants that his brother-in-law sent from Mich. They did so well that two years later he sent for a few Senator Dunlap strawberry plants. His small patch of strawberries became a little larger year by year until he finally had about a fourth of an acre. Mr. Williams and his wife picked 2200 qts. one year off that piece of ground. They sold readily for 17¢ a quart. They were such a novelty at that time, people would have been willing to pay most anything that he might have asked. They were such large berries and such fine flavor, that in the first pickings you could find strawberries that was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter. They continued to grow strawberries for their own use for a good many years with great success. Around 400 qts. were usually put up for their own use.

Eleven more children were born to this family. Mr. Williams cannot recall the date they were born: Mrs. Otto Hoffman, Marynet, Wis. Menley, Wilmet, Oregon, Mrs. R.E. Barr, Cascade, Mont., Freddie, Shelby, Mont., Dazey, died 1920, Mrs. R.W. Chronich, Seward, Alaska, Mrs. Yost, Mrs. Robert Scott, Plains, Mont, Kenneth, Cascade, Mont., Darry, Cascade, Mont., and Roland, Cascade, Mont.

Mr. Williams ran a threshing machine for 35 years. It was a large size steam rig. The main object of keeping this was: there was so much grain to thresh from the south besides his own. He always threshed his own first, and then his neighbors. The threshing machine made quite a considerable income for him as well as getting his own grain threshed in proper time.



Mr. Williams grandmother was a beekeeper for many years. Fred first started to keep bees when he was about 14 years old, when he found a swarm in the timber, cut the tree and put the bees into a hive. He had about 20 swarms when he came to Dakota. They were sold on sale. The next bees he got in Fargo around 1898. He brought these to Cooperstown and have kept bees practically ever since. Mr. Williams lived on the homestead till the spring of 1924. For a few years he had about 40 swarms of bees which began to produce quite a considerable quantity of honey. He found a ready sale for it, so in the spring of 1924 he moved to Cooperstown and started to build up his bees from 80 to 90 swarms. Up to 1932 the bee business was very good and produced good crops of honey. From that time on for a few years it dwindled off as there was so much dry weather.

In the summer of 1935 Fred decided to dispose of his bees due to ill health. About the middle of August, 1935 he had a stroke which put him in a coma for over 35 days. During that time, one of his neighbors took it on himself to dispose of his bees and were sold at a much lower price than Fred had expected to get out of them.



## Harrison Hilson

Harrison Hilson on Sec 4 - 141 - 58, was born in Franklin County New York on Sept 18, 1852, and on his father's side comes of old Revolutionary stock, his grandmother having had 2 brothers who fought for American independence, and were killed in the battle of Plattsburg, New York. He was also a direct descendant of the Hilson who came to this country in the Mayflower. His father Asa Hilson, a farmer, was born in Vermont, in 1800 and died on the in N.Y. at 75 years, while his mother - nee Saphrona Corey, was born in New Hampshire in 1805, and died in New York at 61 years.

Harrison was reared in much the usual manner of farm boys of his day, attending the local schools, and assisting in the farm work until 16 years old. He then traveled for a time in New Hamp., Mass., and Vermont after which he returned home and remained under the parental roof 2 years. Deciding to go West he went to Berlin Wisc., and later to Amboy, Ill., where he remained 6 months. He then made a trip to St Joseph Mich., and worked in a sawmill for ~~a short time~~ <sup>a short time</sup>. Later he returned to Berlin, Wisc., then to Linn Co Iowa, where he lived 3 years on a farm near Center Point.



2.

Harrison Hilson

His next home was in Cass county Iowa where he worked 2 summers, then to Linn Co, from which place he left for <sup>Wesley</sup> Minnesota with a drove of horses in 1879, where he lived about a year. In 1880 he went to Barnes Co Dak and took a pre-emption on Sec 4-141-58

At Morris, Clinton Co, New York, in 1886 he married Miss Ida M. Ney who was born there Oct 23, 1850, a daughter of Robert + Martha Ney.

They have one son Benjamin, born Oct 9, 1888,

Bibl, Condensed from Compend, of Hist + Bio, 1900, <sup>196-7</sup> page



## Howard Wilson

Howard Wilson, of Sec 6, Dover township, Griggs Co. was born on a farm in York County Canada, May 18, 1860, the 3rd child and eldest son in a family of 5 sons and 4 daughters. His father Samuel L. Wilson, born in York Co. married Jane Walks. He was a farmer and carpenter. He died in 1878.

At 18 years Howard Wilson began to work for others, and in 1883 went to Barnes County, and on June 8, 1883 filed on his homestead in Dover township. He now owns 9 quarters of land in Griggs and  $\frac{1}{4}$  section in Stutsman Co. He worked in the pineries of Minn. during the winters of 1883, 1884, & 1885 and in 1886 carried mail each Saturday, from Uxbridge, (now Leal) to Sanborn and returns and spent the balance of the week attending school in Leal.

When he went to live on his farm, he was alone for 3 years and then hired a house keeper for 3 years. His first wheat crop was from 10 acres, and after hauling it 5 miles to be threshed and put into a granary, it was destroyed by prairie fire.

Mr. Wilson was married in Cooperstown, June 19, 1893 to Miss Mary E. Hilborn who was born in York Co. Canada. She is daughter of Henry & Elizabeth Hilborn, farmers of Barnes Co. They had 3 children: Milton H.; Clifford H.; and Fred S. In point of residence he is oldest settler of Dover township.  
Bibliog - Condensed from Compend of Hist & Bio, 1900, p 357



## James H. Wilson

James H. Wilson, of Sec 4-144-62, was born in Ontario Canada, July 17, 1865. His father, Samuel Wilson, <sup>son of James Wilson</sup> was of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, a farmer and carpenter. He died in 1877.

His mother - maiden name Jane Halks, was born in England and came to America when she was a young girl.

Mr. Wilson was 5th of 9 children. He left home at 12 years and with his elder brother helped support the family for many years - At 21 he went to Staatsman Co - Sec 4-144-62. Here he built a 12x16 shanty. He worked at farm labor 4 years in Barnes and Griggs Counties. During 1889 he hired some breaking done, and in 1890 raised his first crop. In 1891 he rented the land at \$1<sup>00</sup> per acre, worked for others, and disposed of his team and effects. He moved into his shanty in 1892 and until the present. He has 780 Acres, machinery etc including a 22-horse-power threshing machine he bought in 1896. He has been threshing every year since.

Mr. Wilson married in November, 1892, to Martha Simonson, born in Norway <sup>+ came to U.S. 1885</sup> Mrs. Wilson's father, Simon Johnson, after <sup>ward</sup> settled in Dakota.

Mr. + Mrs. Wilson's children: Floyd, Glenn + Myra.  
Condensed from Compend. of Hist + Bio - 1900 - p 499.



JAMES ALFRED HOWELL WINSLOE, D.V.S.

*From Compendium N.D.*

Dr. James Alfred Howell Winsloe, engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery at Cooperstown, was born in Liverpool, England, June 22, 1874, a son of James Arnold and Rebecca (Howell) Winsloe. Among the ancestors of the family in England were several who became prominent representatives of the British navy including Sir Alfred Winsloe, now rear admiral in the British navy, his father having been the eldest brother of James Arnold Winsloe. The last named came to the United States in 1879 and purchased land in Maryland but afterward removed to Illinois and in 1881 became a resident of North Dakota. For a time he was employed in a bank at Buffalo, this state, and subsequently founded the American Exchange State Bank of Buffalo, which he conducted for a few years. He afterward went to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, where he superintended a large poultry ranch, but ultimately he returned to Maryland, his home being now at Pasadena, fourteen miles from Baltimore.

Dr. Winsloe, the eldest of a family of four children, began his education in his native city and continued his studies in London, England, New York city, New Haven, Illinois, and Buffalo, North Dakota as the family removed from point to point. Eventually he entered the Ontario Veterinary College at Toronto, Canada, and was there graduated on the 26th of March, 1897. After investigating various places in search of a favorable location he decided upon Cooperstown, where he has since successfully practiced. He has fine barns, furnishing ample accommodation for professional care and treatment, and he keeps in close touch with the latest discoveries of the profession and the latest appliances having to do with horse surgery, while his hospital is supplied with operating tables and every equipment to facilitate his work. In 1911 he extended the scope of his business to include the raising of Shetland ponies, of which he now has a large number of imported stock with Billy Puck, weight three hundred pounds, as leader. The ponies number altogether thirty-seven at the present time. These are to be found on his farm of twenty-five acres adjoining Cooperstown on the southwest.

Dr. Winsloe was married on the 23 rd of May, 1900 to Miss Anna Donesla, who was born in Austria, and they have two children, Edith and Olive both in school. Fraternally the Doctor is connected with the Masonic lodge, the Elks and the Knights of Pythias. He has ever taken an interest in the Griggs County Fair, of which he has been secretary for several years, and he has done much to further its interests. He holds membership in the North Dakota and American Veterinary Associations and ranks among the most progressive and successful members of his profession in the state.



Hold, Anders,

Ord. 1884, Conferent Sem, 1884-'90, United Ch. '90-

Born in Stange, Hedemarken, Hamar, July 28, 1851, son of Simon Holden and Helene (born —), attended Hamar Sem. '72-'74 (seminarist) private language studies, '74-'79. Emigrated 1880. Attended Red Wing Sem. '82-'83, Luther Sem. '83-'84, Augsburg Sem. '84 (C.T.)

Pastor, Fergus Falls, Minn. '84-'91, Christine, Richland Co N.D., '91-'96; Aneta N.D., '06-'09,; Tacoma, Wash., '09-'13; Aberdeen, Wash., '13 —, teacher, Red Wing Sem. '82-'83, trustee St Olaf's Coll. 6 years, visitor, '90 — Married to Constance Amanda Anderson, 1878 —

Transl. from Norse, by M.P.

Norse Luth Pastors in Amer, 1914 p 208 -