

Descendants of Alex Wilson's Half Sister Janet
and Her Husband Duncan Wright

Compiled by

Charles William Paige

Supplement to book:
Great-Great-Grandfather Duncan
Married...a Sister of Alexander Wilson
the Ornithologist of Philadelphia

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Foreword

The genealogical/historical book Great-Great-Grandfather Duncan Married... a Sister of Alexander Wilson the Ornithologist of Philadelphia had been printed for little more than a week when the Internet discovery was made that Mary, Margaret, Alexander, and Jean's half sister Janet Wilson had also immigrated to this country, following her husband Duncan Wright and bringing their children Peter, Alexander, and John. Had her family's story been discovered prior to book printing, the entire project would have been delayed at least a month and more pages added to the book's overall size. The addition would have been worth the time and effort, however, filled as it were with family history, splashes of adventure, diversion of fate, and significant contributions to the early American textile industry.

Charles W. Paige

October 28, 2007

The Wright Choice

Generation No. 1

1. JANET² WILSON (*ALEXANDER*¹) was born 2-25-1777 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, and died Aft. 1815 in Prob. MA. She married DUNCAN WRIGHT 9-17-1796 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland, son of PETER WRIGHT and AGNES FERGUSON. He was born 1776 in Dellanny, Argyleshire, Scotland, and died 1-26-1836 in Tewksbury, Middlesex Co., MA.

Notes for DUNCAN WRIGHT:

Duncan was born at [Dellanny | Delleny | Delanny | Delmarkly], Argyleshire, Scotland. He lived in [Arklestone | Arkelstine], near Paisley, Scotland.

He learned textile chemical bleaching and was one of the first to pursue that trade in America.

On October 20, 1811, Alexander Wilson, Jr. wrote from Philadelphia a letter to his brother-in-law Duncan Wright, the husband of Wilson's half sister Janet. Wilson commiserated with Duncan on the political oppression and deplorable economic conditions then afflicting Scotland and told of the almost limitless opportunities to be had in American. He was careful to assure Duncan that he was not trying to "convince" Duncan to make the journey; just that he wanted Duncan to know of potential opportunity where little seemed to be available in Scotland. Wilson mistakenly states: "There is little chance of following the employment of bleaching here; but there is an infinite number of employments besides to which your own judgement & activity may direct you." [From "The Life and Letters of Alexander Wilson," p. 390.]

Determining there was a need of skilled bleachers in Philadelphia, Duncan left Scotland for America in 1812, temporarily leaving his family behind and expecting to make Philadelphia his home. Coincidentally war was being waged between Great Britain and the United States, and due to the new country not having a navy to speak of, privateers were loosed with American governmental approval to wreak havoc on the enemy. As a result Duncan's ship was captured by the "Yankee," a privateer ship under the command of Captain James DeWolfe. Captain DeWolfe also happened to be a part owner of the Arkwright Mill cotton factory at Dighton, Bristol County, Massachusetts. Upon learning that Duncan was a skilled bleacher, he persuaded Duncan to seek employment at his factory. DeWolfe wrote a letter of introduction to the manager of the factory, who then hired the Scotsman to work in the bleachery as superintendent of bleaching.

Duncan retired to a farm in Tewksbury, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, near Lowell, where he spent his last years.

Marriage Notes for JANET WILSON and DUNCAN WRIGHT:

The war over, Duncan Wright sent for his wife and three sons. In September, 1815, they left for America on the ship, "General Knox." After arriving in Boston they joined Duncan in Dighton. From there the family soon moved to Smithfield, Providence County, Rhode Island. Duncan worked as a chemical bleacher in the local cotton mill.

After two years they settled at Waltham, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, where Duncan established a bleachery of his own on the Charles River near the Waltham cotton factory. The family remained in Waltham for three years until 1820, when the Boston Manufacturing Company bought the business. After that Duncan established another bleachery, this one at Medway, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. The family lived in the Amos Fisher house located on Paul's Hill.

The family remained at Medway five years. Then Duncan had a bleachery in Milk Row, Boston, Suffolk County. Next he took his family to Fall River, Bristol County, Massachusetts, where he, his elder brother Daniel, and two others conducted that city's first calico printing.

More About DUNCAN WRIGHT and JANET WILSON:

Marriage: 9-17-1796, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Children of JANET WILSON and DUNCAN WRIGHT are:

2. i. Peter³ Wright, b. 3-30-1798, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland.
3. ii. Alexander Wright, b. 5-3-1800, Arklestone, Renfrewshire, Scotland; d. 6-7-1852, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.
4. iii. John Wright, b. 3-7-1802, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Generation No. 2

2. PETER³ WRIGHT (*JANET² WILSON, ALEXANDER¹*) was born 3-30-1798 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He married MARIBAH CHACE 5-30-1826 in Fall River, Bristol Co., MA. She was born Abt. 1807 in MA.

Notes for PETER WRIGHT:

Peter was christened April 1, 1798, in Abbey Parish, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Peter was employed in the Lowell Carpet Company factory until 1857, and then removed to Westminster, Worcester County, Mass., where he was still residing in 1882 at the age of eighty-four years.

Marriage Notes for PETER WRIGHT and MARIBAH CHACE:

From 1880 Federal census of Westminster, Worcester, Massachusetts:

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
Peter WRIGHT	Self	M	Male	W	82	SCOT Dyer	SCOT	SCOT	
Meribah WRIGHT	Wife	M	Female	W	73	MA	Keeping House	MA	MA
Margarett M. WRIGHT	Dau	S	Female	W	50	MA	At Home	SCOT	MA
Ellen M. WRIGHT	Dau	S	Female	W	30	ME	At Home	SCOT	MA
Lucy R. WRIGHT	Dau	S	Female	W	40	ME	At Home	SCOT	MA
Maud W. BROOKS	GDau	S	Female	W	11	IL	At School	MA	ME
Robert W. BROOKS	GSon	S	Male	W	7	IL	At School	MA	ME
Henry W. BROOKS	GSon	S	Male	W	2	IL	MA	ME	

More About PETER WRIGHT and MARIBAH CHACE:

Marriage: 5-30-1826, Fall River, Bristol Co., MA

Children of PETER WRIGHT and MARIBAH CHACE are:

- i. Margaret M.⁴ Wright, b. Abt. 1830, MA.
- ii. Lucy Reed Wright, b. 10-26-1845, ME.
5. iii. Jeannette Wilson Wright, b. Abt. 1847, ME; d. 12-20-1877, Chicago, Cook Co., IL.
- iv. Ellen M. Wright, b. Abt. 1850, ME.

3. ALEXANDER³ WRIGHT (*JANET² WILSON, ALEXANDER¹*) was born 5-3-1800 in Arklestone, Renfrewshire, Scotland, and died 6-7-1852 in Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA. He married SABRA WISWALL CLAFLIN 10-13-1828 in Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA, daughter of WILLIAM CLAFLIN and ANNA UNDERWOOD. She was born 7-16-1807 in Holliston, Middlesex Co., MA, and died 10-10-1881 in Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.

Notes for ALEXANDER WRIGHT:

Arkleston is near Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Alexander was christened May 4, 1800, in Abbey Parish, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Alexander came to America on the ship "General Knox," arriving in Boston with mother Janet and brothers Peter and John in September 1815. Their father had been working as a bleacher in Dighton. On arrival the family, reunited with the father Duncan Wright, moved to Smithfield, Providence County, Rhode Island, where Duncan was employed as a chemical bleacher in the local cotton mill, and where they remained two years. From there the family settled for three years at Waltham, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, where Duncan established a bleachery of his own on the Charles River near the Waltham cotton factory.

The Boston Manufacturing Company bought the Waltham site, after which Duncan established a bleachery at

Medway, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, to where the family moved in 1820.

Alexander learned the art of chemical bleacher and worked with his father at Waltham and Medway but went his own way in 1820, becoming one of the pioneers “in establishing textile mills at the falls of the Merrimack, now Lowell, Massachusetts....” Pursuing his own career he was initially involved with the manufacturer of coach lace and, later, carpets.

When he found that he wanted to pursue the carpet manufacturing business, he discovered there was only one other such business in America, and that was in Philadelphia. However, in order to preserve their interests the Philadelphia-based company refused to impart any of their industrial secrets to Alexander. His only other alternative was to return to Scotland and learn the business from relatives in that country. He sailed to Scotland in 1825 and returned in 1826, bringing carpet looms and two relatives, Claude and William Wilson. Their ship, the Rival, was virtually shipwrecked off the coast of Scituate, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, though the badly damaged vessel succeeded in reaching port.

Alexander initially set up his carpet manufacturing business at Medway until he sold it to a Mr. Burdett, who subsequently sold it to Frederick Cabot and Patrick T. Jackson. All the while Alexander continued as superintendent of the manufacturing company. Cabot and Jackson secured a charter for the Lowell Manufacturing Company from the Massachusetts Legislature in 1828, and in March of that year the company began building the new plant in Lowell, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. After the plant was habitable, and the equipment moved to the new facility in Lowell, Alexander continued as superintendent.

Alexander, in politics, was a Whig. He was elected a member of Lowell’s first board of aldermen when the city adopted its charter, representing his district in the general court in 1836, and represented Lowell in the Massachusetts Legislature in 1838. Though often urged, he positively declined to accept the office of mayor of the city. He was a warm friend of the cause of education, and gave hearty support to all movements for improving education or industrial conditions. In religion he supported the Unitarian faith, his daughters in Lowell all being members of that church.

A suggestion by Alexander in 1839 is said to have enhanced the steam-powered loom invented by Erastus Brigham Bigelow (1814-1879) in 1840 and put into service by the Lowell Manufacturing Company in 1843, revolutionizing the carpet manufacturing industry.

Marriage Notes for ALEXANDER WRIGHT and SABRA CLAFLIN:
From 1880 Federal census of Lowell, Middlesex, Massachusetts:

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
Sabra WRIGHT	Self	W	Female	W	74	MA	Keeping House	MA	MA
Sabra WRIGHT	Dau	S	Female	W	50	MA	At Home	MA	MA
Catherine J. DARRICOTT	Dau	W	Female	W	48	MA	Teacher Of Dancing	MA	MA
Helen W. WRIGHT	Dau	S	Female	W	40	MA	Teacher Of Dancing	MA	MA
Rosa FARLEY	Other	S	Female	W	28	IRE	Servant	IRE	IRE

More About ALEXANDER WRIGHT and SABRA CLAFLIN:
Marriage: 10-13-1828, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA

Children of ALEXANDER WRIGHT and SABRA CLAFLIN are:

- i. Sabra⁴ Wright, b. 3-7-1830, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; d. 4-19-1924, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.

Notes for Sabra Wright:

Sabra never married and resided with sisters in the old homestead on Pawtucket Street, Lowell.

Sabra's date of death is from Lowell REPORT OF DEATHS 1924, Compiled from The City Clerk's Reports, <http://library.uml.edu/clh/Dea1924/DeW1924.Html>. She was listed as 94 years old at time of death.

- ii. Catherine Janet Wright, b. 10-28-1831, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; d. 1906, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; m. James R. Darracott, 4-22-1851.

Notes for James R. Darracott:

Descendants of Alex Wilson's Half Sister Janet and Her Husband Duncan Wright

Catherine later resided with sisters in the old homestead on Pawtucket Street, Lowell.

More About James Darracott and Catherine Wright:
Marriage: 4-22-1851

- iii. Lois Ripley Wright, b. 12-4-1833, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; d. 1900, Milton, Norfolk Co., MA; m. Frederick Frothingham, 9-4-1872, Greenfield, Franklin Co., MA; b. 4-9-1825, Montreal, PQ Canada; d. 3-19-1891, Milton, Norfolk Co., MA.

Notes for Frederick Frothingham:
Frederick was a Unitarian minister from Ile De Montreal, Quebec, whom his wife survived.

Life Event(s)
Grammar School: Montreal
High School: Montreal
College: Harvard College
Profession: Minister
Graduate School: Harvard Divinity
Baptism: Church of the Messiah, Montreal

Wrote "Significance Of The Struggle Between Liberty & Slavery.." [n|1857]

"An Historico-Critical Introduction to the Canonical Books of the New Testament." Translated from the 5th edition by Frederick Frothingham. Boston, 1858.

The Buffalo Courier
March 20 1891

Location: Buffalo, NY
Source: New York State Library Microfilm

Description: Various news including nine obituaries, sailor shoots himself, police court, court matters, real estate transfers, etc?

The Rev. Frederick Frothingham.

A telegram has been received from Milton, Mass., stating that the Rev. Frederick Frothingham, former pastor of the Church of Our Father, died of pneumonia there yesterday morning. The remains will be incinerated in Buffalo on Sunday afternoon.

From the: Afro-American Encyclopaedia; Or, the Thoughts, Doings, and Sayings of the Race, Embracing Lectures, Biographical Sketches, Sermons, Poems, Names of Universities, Colleges, Seminaries, Newspapers, Books, and a History of the Denominations, Giving the Numerical Strength of Each. In Fact, it Teaches Every Subject of Interest to the Colored People, as Discussed by More Than One Hundred of Their Wisest and Best Men and Women: Electronic Edition. James T. Haley

To the Trustees of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute:

A few years ago Rev. Frederick Frothingham, of Milton, Mass., who has been interested in this Institution almost from its beginning, left by will \$20,000 to the American Unitarian Association, of Boston, the income of which was to be used for all time to promote education among the colored people. The American Unitarian Association, at a meeting last fall, voted unanimously to give the income from the Frothingham Fund to this Institution; \$10,000 left the Institution some time ago by the bequest of Mr. Horace Smith, of Springfield, Mass., was paid by the executors during the month of March.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON,
Principal.
May 30, 1894.

From HISTORICAL REGISTER OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY 1636-1936

CAMBRIDGE HARVARD UNIVERSITY 1937

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FROTHINGHAM PROFESSORSHIP OF THE HISTORY OF RELIGION

Endowed in
1892 under the will of Frederick Frothingham (A.B.

i and established in

Descendants of Alex Wilson's Half Sister Janet and Her Husband Duncan Wright

1904 by the President and Fellows.
1904-1928 George Foot Moore
1930- Arthur Darby Nock

Marriage Notes for Lois Wright and Frederick Frothingham:
From 1880 Federal census of Milton, Norfolk, Massachusetts:

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
Fredrick FROTHINGHAM	Self	M	Male	W	56	CAN	Unitarian Minister	ME	MA
Louis R. FROTHINGHAM	Wife	M	Female	W	52	MA	Keeps House	SCOT	MA
Maggie PEYDEN	Other	S	Female	W	23	IRE	Servant	IRE	IRE

More About Frederick Frothingham and Lois Wright:
Marriage: 9-4-1872, Greenfield, Franklin Co., MA

- iv. Emeline Wright, b. 10-13-1836, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; d. 11-29-1837, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.
- v. Mary Montgomery Wright, b. 6-19-1838, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; m. David Henry Bradt; b. 2-18-1841, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.

Notes for Mary Montgomery Wright:
Mary later resided with sisters in the old homestead on Pawtucket Street, Lowell.

Notes for David Henry Bradt:
David received his education in Lowell and learned the trade of baker.

Marriage Notes for Mary Wright and David Bradt:
From 1880 Federal census of Lowell, Middlesex, Massachusetts:

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
Henry D. BRADT	Self	M	Male	W	38	MA	Baker	---	---
Mary BRADT	Wife	M	Female	W	36	MA	Keeps House	---	---
Sarah CAMERON	Other	S	Female	W	30	NOVA SCOTIA	Servant	SCOT	SCOT

- vi. Helen Waugh Wright, b. 8-20-1840, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.

Notes for Helen Waugh Wright:
Helen resided with sisters in the old homestead on Pawtucket Street, Lowell.

- vii. Duncan Wright, b. 2-16-1843, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; d. 3-7-1843, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.
6. viii. Alexander Wright, b. 7-22-1846, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.
7. ix. William Spenser Wright, b. 2-12-1850, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; d. 8-22-1880, CA.

4. JOHN³ WRIGHT (*JANET² WILSON, ALEXANDER¹*) was born 3-7-1802 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He married JANET WILSON 12-25-1831 in Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA.

More About JOHN WRIGHT and JANET WILSON:
Marriage: 12-25-1831, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA

Child of JOHN WRIGHT and JANET WILSON is:

- i. John Gordon⁴ Wright, b. 7-29-1842, Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA; d. 1-31-1912, Brookline, Norfolk Co., MA.

Notes for John Gordon Wright:
John was involved in the carpet manufacturing industry and wool imports.

He was a member of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, of which he was a director, and the Exchange, Commercial and Boston Art Clubs. He was a trustee of the Episcopal Theological School of Cambridge, to which he gave a new library building that bore his name, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Home Savings Bank.

He left his business, which was known after its incorporation November 1, 1912, as John G. Wright & Co., Inc., to nephew John Gordon Wright and to Howard Atwood.

Generation No. 3

5. JEANNETTE WILSON⁴ WRIGHT (*PETER³, JANET² WILSON, ALEXANDER¹*) was born Abt. 1847 in ME, and died 12-20-1877 in Chicago, Cook Co., IL. She married HENRY WINSLOW BROOKS 6-11-1868. He was born 5-17-1845

in Ashby, Middlesex Co., MA.

Marriage Notes for JEANNETTE WRIGHT and HENRY BROOKS:
The family settled in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

More About HENRY BROOKS and JEANNETTE WRIGHT:
Marriage: 6-11-1868

Children of JEANNETTE WRIGHT and HENRY BROOKS are:

- i. Maude Wright⁵ Brooks, b. 4-10-1869, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. 2-1896.

Notes for Maude Wright Brooks:

Maude was living with her Wright grandparents in Westminster, Worcester Co., MA at the time of the 1880 Federal census.

- ii. Robert Montgomery Brooks, b. 11-6-1872, Chicago, Cook Co., IL; d. 1-27-1897.

Notes for Robert Montgomery Brooks:

Robert was living with his Wright grandparents in Westminster, Worcester Co., MA at the time of the 1880 Federal census.

- iii. Henry Winslow Brooks, b. 12-20-1877, Chicago, Cook Co., IL.

Notes for Henry Winslow Brooks:

Henry, Jr. was living with his Wright grandparents in Westminster, Worcester Co., MA at the time of the 1880 Federal census.

6. ALEXANDER⁴ WRIGHT (*ALEXANDER³, JANET² WILSON, ALEXANDER¹*) was born 7-22-1846 in Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA. He married KATHERINE MARGARET BREMERMAN 7-3-1889.

Notes for ALEXANDER WRIGHT:

Alexander was an orange grower of Southern California.

From 1880 Federal census of Anaheim, Los Angeles, California:
(NOTE: Anaheim is now part of Orange County, California.)

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
Alexander WRIGHT	Self	S	Male	W	34	MA	Stock Raiser	MA	SCO

Marriage Notes for ALEXANDER WRIGHT and KATHERINE BREMERMAN:
The family lived in Southern California, presumably in or near Anaheim.

More About ALEXANDER WRIGHT and KATHERINE BREMERMAN:
Marriage: 7-3-1889

Children of ALEXANDER WRIGHT and KATHERINE BREMERMAN are:

- i. Alexander G.⁵ Wright, b. CA.
- ii. Donald Wright, b. CA.
- iii. Henry B. Wright, b. CA.

7. WILLIAM SPENSER⁴ WRIGHT (*ALEXANDER³, JANET² WILSON, ALEXANDER¹*) was born 2-12-1850 in Lowell, Middlesex Co., MA, and died 8-22-1880 in CA. He married ANNA L. BREMERMAN 1-6-1870. She was born Abt. 1855 in CA.

Marriage Notes for WILLIAM WRIGHT and ANNA BREMERMAN:
The family lived in Southern California, presumably remaining in or near Anaheim.

From 1880 Federal census of Anaheim, Los Angeles, California:
(NOTE: Anaheim is now part of Orange County, California.)

Name	Relation	Marital Status	Gender	Race	Age	Birthplace	Occupation	Father's Birthplace	Mother's Birthplace
William S. WRIGHT	Self	M	Male	W	30	MA	Stock Raiser	SCO	MA

Descendants of Alex Wilson's Half Sister Janet and Her Husband Duncan Wright

Anna L. WRIGHT Wife M Female W 25 CA Keeping House BREMEN OLDENBERG
Lois M. WRIGHT Dau S Female W 2 CA MA CA
Anna WRIGHT Dau S Female W 5M CA MA CA

More About WILLIAM WRIGHT and ANNA BREMERMAN:

Marriage: 1-6-1870

Children of WILLIAM WRIGHT and ANNA BREMERMAN are:

- i. Lois F.⁵ Wright, b. Abt. 1878, CA.
- ii. Anna B. Wright, b. Abt. 1880, CA; m. George F. Granshaw.

Marriage Notes for Anna Wright and George Granshaw:

The family resided at Glencoe, Cook County, Illinois.

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