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| **RD-015-00** | Tracing the Wilson Family Lineage |

**Change History**

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| **Version** | **Date** | **Changes** |
| RD-015.00 | 03-Mar-2024 | * Original document
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Notes: The newest version is in **blue font,** and the changes made to the document are also denoted in **blue font i**n the document below.

In my system, an “RD-###” document is a “Research Document” that is used before I transfer information to an “FT-###” document, which is a “Family Tree” document. The Family Tree documents are more statements of the various facts of that particular family, while the Research documents are more investigative, intuitive, and sometimes just plain guessing. If you see something named “Source ###”, that is my numbering system for the various sources that back up the conclusions in the FT and RD documents. Sources, FT documents, and RD documents are all numbered sequentially as I create them.

**Introduction**

James Edward “Bud” Wilson was my maternal grandfather. I know that his siblings were Benjamin, Charles Robert, John Allen, Julie Mae, Audrey, Leroy, Wallace, and Arthur “Tootsie” Lavel. Let’s start from there and see where we can go.

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| **Item # 1** | **James Edward “Bud” Wilson’s parents** | **027 - Federal Census\_1940\_John W Wilson - Mattie Lou Pike Family** | **Results** |

In this Census document, the head of the household is John W. who is listed as being 61 years old (implied birth year of 1879), and Mattie is listed as 55 years old (implied birth year of 1885). Children living at home are Leroy 21, Wallace 16, and Lavel 13. They lived in the same house as they did on April 1, 1935. This tells me that this is the right Wilson family, as the children are correct.

The census shows that everyone was born in Mississippi. This may or may not be true for John W. and Mattie, as often the census takers are quite sloppy about this data.

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| **Item # 2** | **James Edward “Bud” Wilson’s parents** | **026 - Federal Census\_1930\_John W Wilson - Mattie Lou Pike Family** | **Results** |

In this Census document, John F. and Mattie are still living in Philadelphia, MS but in District 0006 (I am not sure if they have moved, or if the Neshoba County districts have been redrawn). John’s age is now listed as 49 and Mattie’s as 45, putting their birth years at 1881 and 1885, respectively. A new data point has been added, which says John was 18 and Mattie was 15 when they got married. Children living at home are (Charles) Robert 23, John Allan 21, LeRoy 11, Walter (Wallace?) 9, Lavell at 4 years and 6 months. Julie would have been 16 and Audie 14 at this time, so I am not sure where they are. Possibly they were married and off with their husbands?

This census also says that John’s father was born in Indiana and his mother in Alabama. Both of Mattie’s parents are listed as born in Mississippi. I am thinking that John’s parents’ information may be true, as these birth states were handwritten in a long line of “born in Mississippi” etc. So the Census taker had to stop his or her normal entries to write “Indiana” and “Alabama” into the document. So it seems like someone gave him or her this specific information and they wrote it down correctly.

Funny that it’s John F., not John W. now. But the children’s names are all right, so this is the right family.

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| **Item # 3** | **James Edward “Bud” Wilson’s parents** | **025 - Federal Census\_1920\_John W Wilson - Mattie Lou Pike Family** | **Results** |

At the time of the 1920 US Federal Census, James (my grandfaterh) is still living with his parents – John W. Wilson (43) and Mattie (38) in Philadelphia, MS. This puts their birth years at 1877 or 1876, and 1882 or 1883, respectively. This is much closer to the birth date on Mattie’s gravestone, but now we are giving John a birth year that is 3 to 4 years older than his gravestone says. It looks like John W. cannot read or write. Also, whereas before everyone and their parents were born in MS, now there are a lot of “born in the United States” entries. I am not sure if this was just laziness on the part of the enumerator or what.

The children’s names are all correct, so this is still the right family – my great grandparents.

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| **Item # 4** | **James Edward “Bud” Wilson’s parents** | **024 - Federal Census\_1910\_John W Wilson - Mattie Lou Pike Family** | **Results** |

At the time of the 1910 US Federal Census, James Edward Wilson (my grandfather) is living with his parents – J. W. Wilson and Mattie in Madison County, MS (Beat 5 which stretches to east of Canton, almost to Ofahoma. So it’s not like they lived in close to the Jackson metro area). They have been married for 9 years, implying a marriage year of 1901. John’s age is listed as 26 (implying he was born in 1884) and Mattie’s age is listed as 23 (implying she was born in 1887). These dates are WAY off what is on their gravestones. They have had 4 children and all 4 are alive. Everyone and their parents were born in MS. J. W. is a self-employed farmer, has a mortgage on his farm, and can read and write. Mattie is working on the farm with J. W. and she can read and write.

This is the right family, as all of the children’s names are correct

In this document, everyone in the family, and indeed, everyone on the page is listed as being born in Mississippi. I think this is just laziness on the part of the census taker.

My grandfather (James Edward “Bud” Wilson) was born in 1902, so there will not be a 1900 Federal Census with him listed. But we can look for a John W., or a John F. Wilson and see if we can make any sense of that.

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| **Item # 5** | **James Edward “Bud” Wilson’s parents** | **669a - John Wesley Wilson Draft Card\_12-Sep-1918\_page 1** **and** **669b - John Wesley Wilson Draft Card\_12-Sep-1918\_page 2** | **Results** |

I am not sure this is my great grandfather’s draft card. This card is dated September 12, 1918 and my great grandparents lived in Madison, MS in 1910, and in Philadelphia, MS in 1920. Why would they be in Falls City, Winston County, Alabama in late 1918? It doesn’t make any sense. Also the wife is named “Mattie V. Wilson” not “Mattie Lou Wilson”. It’s a slight difference, but it points against this being the right John Wilson.

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| **Item # 6** | **James Edward “Bud” Wilson’s parents** | **121 - Email regarding Pike and Torrance families\_25-Sep-2002** | **Results** |

This is an email from one of my mother’s (Mattie Lou Wilson – named after John W. Wilson’s wife) from a friend named Dianne. In this email, Dianne lists John W. Wilson’s name as “John William Wilson” and his siblings as: Delia, Emma, Robert, Charlie, and John William. John William’s parents are John Wilson and Rebecka Green. John is 27 years older than Rebecka.

Mattie Lou’s mother was Amanda Parker Pike, who died in 1939. Her father was Edward Pike. For some old tales, Edward left the area, and Amanda (or Mandy) remarried John R. Crapps (who was known as “Pappy Crapps” to my mother when she was growing up) on December 26, 1889. Mandy’s mother was Rosy Torrance.

So I guess we are looking for a John Wilson married to a Rebecka Green with children named Delia, Emma, Robert, Charlie, and John William. But in 1900, maybe just a John Wilson married to a Rebecka Wilson with a son named John Wilson.

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| **Item # 7** | **John W. Wilson’s Parents** | **151 - Federal Census\_1880\_John Wilson-Rebecka Green Family** | **Results** |

I didn’t find anything in the 1900 US Federal Census, but at that time John Wilson and Rebecka Green would not be married yet. The 1890 Federal Census was almost completely lost in a fire, so 1800 is the next Census document to look into. In Source 151, we find a matching family:

John Wilson (58 – implied birth year of 1822) and Rebecka (31 – implied birth year of 1849) in the 1880 Federal Census. John is listed as being born in AL, his father in SC, and his mother in AL (maybe – could also be VA as the writing is very faded). Rebecka is listed as born in AL, along with both of her parents. Their children are listed as:

* Delia (10), born in MS
* Emma (7), born in MS
* Robert (5), born in MS
* Charlie (3), born in MS
* John W. (11 months), born in MS in July 1879

As this Census data was taken on June 5th, 1880, putting John W.’s birth date somewhere in July 1879. This differs from the date on John W.’s tombstone of June 19th, 1880 (after the date of the Census). The names of the children (siblings of John W.) match those listed in Dianne’s email to Mom (Source 121). John and Rebecka were living in Deasonville, Yazoo County, MS. It’s probable that John W. was born in Yazoo County, MS.

This seems to match the information in Dianne’s email (Source 121), so it seems that we have the right family. As the oldest child – Delia at 10 years old – was listed as born in MS, we will look in the 1870 Federal Census for a matching family.

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| **Item # 8** | **John W. Wilson’s Parents** | **673 - Federal Census\_1860\_J M Wilson - Hannah Unknown Family\_Neshoba County** | **Results** |

I am now looking for John Wilsons who were born in AL in about 1822 in the 1860 US Federal Census. Here is one that was living in Neshoba County, MS in 1860:

J. M. Wilson (39) married to Hannah unknown (38). Living with them are:

* John M., son, 10
* Andrew J., son, 6
* Mary A. J., daughter, 4
* Anderson Watkins, assisting on farm, male, 16

J. M. Wilson has $800 worth of real estate and $1174 worth of personal estate (so maybe some slaves). J. M. was born in AL, Hannah in SC, and all the children in MS including Anderson.

Living next door to J. M. Wilson is Jennet Wilson (69) who was born in SC. She keeps house and has $200 worth of real estate and $5210 of personal estate (definitely some slaves!). Living with Jennet are:

* A. J. Wilson (33), male, farmer, $960 of real estate, $1660 of personal estate, born in AL
* Jane Nelson (22), female, assistant house keeper, born in MS

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| **Item # 9** | **John W. Wilson’s Parents** | **674 - Federal Census\_1860\_John Wilson - L J Unknown Family\_Chickasaw County** | **Results** |

John Wilson (41) married to L. J. Unknown (32). John has $600 of real estate and $700 of personal estate. He was born in AL and L. J. was born in GA. Living with them are:

* W. C., male, 16 years old, born in AL
* J. A., male, 12 years old, born in AL
* S. F., female, 5 years old, born in MS
* M. C., female, 2 years old, born in MS

Living next door to John Wilson is Alexander Wilson (68), with $250 of real estate (Source 675). Alexander was born in GA. Living with Alexander is Elizabeth Wilson (30), also born in GA.

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| **Item # 10** | **John W. Wilson’s Parents** | **676a - Federal Census\_1860\_John Wilson - Laura Unknown Family\_Tishomingo County\_Page 1****And****676b - Federal Census\_1860\_John Wilson - Laura Unknown Family\_Tishomingo County\_Page 2** | **Results** |

John Wilson (43) is married to Laura Unknown (39) and living in Tishomingo County, MS. John is a farmer with $1000 of real estate and $500 of personal estate. He was born in AL and Laura in TN. Living with them are:

* Francis M., Unknown male or female, 17 years old, farming, born in AL
* James M., male, 15 years old, farming, born in AL
* Andrew J., male, 13 years old, born in AL
* Mary C., female, 11 years old, born in AL
* Martha, female, 9 years old, born in MS
* Geo W., male, 7 years old, born in MS
* John C., male, 5 years old, born in MS
* Sarah H., female, 2 years old, born in MS

No other Wilsons live near this family.

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| **Item # 11** | **John W. Wilson’s Parents** | **677 - Federal Census\_1860\_John Wilson - Lucinda Unknown Family\_Tishomingo County** | **Results** |

There is another John Wilson in the 1860 US Federal Census in Tishomingo County, MS. This John (43) is a farmer with $3000 of personal estate (slaves, probably), born in AL. His wife – Lucinda – is 45 years old and born in SC. Living with them are:

* Samuel, male, 17 years old, farming, born in AL
* Francis, female, 15 years old, born in AL

Living nearby is a James Wilson (75) and his wife Hannah (75). James was born in TN and Hannah in SC. James is a farmer with $800 of real estate and $2000 of personal estate. No other people live with them.

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| **Summary of Information researched** |

This is proving to be a very frustrating search. The problem is that I can’t find any census data for John Wilson in 1870, and lots of things happened between 1860 and 1880. In that 20 years, John’s wife must have died, he remarried, and all his children from his first marriage probably moved out of the house. Alternatively, John was never married in the first place before he married Rebecca Green.

The children are the real problem. By the time of the 1880 census, all children in the family are from the marriage between John Wilson and Rebecca Green. So I don’t have anything to “link” from 1880 back to 1860.

I have found a John Wilson in the 1870 Federal Census that may be the right one (Source 678), but I can’t find an 1860 Federal Census document that matches this one. And at any rate, I could not match the 1870 Census document with the 1880 Census document. RATS! I think the Wilson line just hits a brick wall right here.