Mr. J. P. Brown

Dear Sir:

I am glad that the sketch of my grandfather William A. Wilson was of any use to you. Thank you for returning it so promptly.

We know William A. Wilson was at Union, but not from any printed evidence, except his name in the General Catalogue, which I have before.
(1840)

me. There his name is put William H. Wilson. I am sure the "H. is a mistake. Clermont was, and is, a very small place, and I think there as now had no Wilsons but those of our family.

William H. Wilson's brother, Robert H. Wilson, was a lawyer in New York. See 1812. He probably have his diploma among his papers. That came to my grandfathers after Robert H. Wilson's death.

Also see Alexander Wilson, Clermont, Class 1801.

William H. Wilson's older brother was Alexander. Hopping that these are the facts you wished.

Very sincerely,

Harold Wilson, Jr.
Clermont, N.Y. June 19th.
GRADUATE COUNCIL
UNION COLLEGE
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

June 20, 1932.

Dear Mr. Schenckham:

Will you please copy that part of the sketch of William Henry Wilson, Class of 1810, which has to do with his service in the War of 1812? I forgot to make a copy of it. I am in too hurry for this.

I have just heard from Harold Wilson, Jr., the grandson, that the correct name is Wm. Henry Wilson and not Wm. Wm. Wilson as on our catalogue have it. Also that Alexander Wilson, 1801 and Robert T. Wilson, 1812, if we have no records, were brothers of Wm. Henry Wilson and I hope to get them now.

Sincerely,

J.B. Brown
Wilson, William W.
From: Clermont, N.Y.
Last residence: Clermont, N.Y.

Records show one
William W. Wilson (also borne as Wm. M.)
Pvt. in Capt. John H. Gregoary's Co.,
(Farrington's Regt.) N.Y. Militia.

Commencement of service: Sept 8, 1814
Expiration of service: Dec. 8, 1814
1810 William H. Wilson

in registration book spelled

Willson

Register 1810-1848
UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD

RETURN TO: GRADUATE COUNCIL
UNION COLLEGE
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.

1. NAME IN FULL: William Henry Wilson

2. SON OF (A) FATHER: William Wilson
   (B) MOTHER: Mary Henry

3. BORN: February 3rd, 1791 AT Clermont, New York

4. DIED: March 7th, 1854 AT Clermont, New York

5. MARRIED: Anne Holme ON March 18th, 1829
   (A) WIFE WAS BORN: August 8th, 1799 AT in Lancashire, England
   (B) WIFE DIED: October 19th, 1851 AT Clermont, New York

6. CHILDREN: NAME DATE OF BIRTH DATE OF DEATH
   Elizabeth Holme March 19th, 1829 May 1st, 1904
   Thomas Holme March 5th, 1834 March 28th, 1836
   Harold January 7th, 1836 December 8th, 1919

7. PREPARED FOR COLLEGE AT

8. COLLEGE LIFE: (A) FRATERNITY MEMBERSHIP
   (B) LITERARY OR SOCIAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP
   (C) CLASS OFFICES
   (D) COLLEGE PRIZES AND HONORS

9. OTHER COLLEGES ATTENDED

10. DEGREES

11. PROFESSION: Physician

12. BUSINESS

13. MILITARY HISTORY AND TITLES: Surgeon in War of 1812
14. **Public offices held, with dates.**

Judge of Columbia County (1822 - 

for five years.

15. **Member of professional, literary, scientific, societies.**

16. **Literary productions, date and publisher.**

17. **Religious denomination.**

18. **Political preference.** Democratic

19. **Brothers and sisters.** Henry, Henry, Alexander, Frances, Mary Ann, Robert, Emma, Stephen, Bishop, Elizabeth, Margaret, Alicia, Annie.

20. **Relatives of self or wife at Union.**

21. **Additional information. (Use this space for any other biographical data or to supplement any of the above answers.)**

22. **Information supplied by.** Harold Wilson Jr.

**Street Address.**

City: Bloomfield, New York. **Date.** June 3rd, 1932.
WILLIAM HENRY WILSON

William Henry Wilson, M. D., was born at Clermont, in the County of Columbia the 3rd day of February, 1791. His father was the Hon. William Wilson, M. D., an eminent and successful practitioner of medicine in the southern part of Columbia County. He was a talented, educated and learned man - was at one time President of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and for many years in the early history of the County presiding Judge of the County Courts. William Henry Wilson, the subject of this sketch, his second son, was educated a physician. He studied with Dr. Woodruff in Albany and was among the early graduates of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of the City of New York. The college was then under the supervision of Nicholas Romeyn, its founder and First President.

Among the eminent men who were Professors of the College were Samuel L. Mitchell, the celebrated scientist, and a prominent political character of New York, having represented the State for one term of six years in the Senate of the United States; and William James McNevin, M. D., a highly talented and accomplished gentleman, the friend and associate of the Emmets, and a co-exile of Thomas Addis Emmet. He was in the Irish Rebellion of 1798, President of the Irish National Convention.

Mr. Wilson, a young man, was fortunate in gaining the friendship and attention of these eminent men, their houses were always open to him and he was invited to their social gatherings. In advanced life he often recurred with pride and satisfaction to the advantage and pleasures acquired by the fireside associations of these gentlemen and their families.

Mr. Wilson, having finished his professional education and attained his majority at the time the Country was preparing for War with Great Britain in 1812, applied for an appointment in the Medical Department of the Army, and in May, 1812 was appointed Hospital Surgeon's mate in the Army of the United States, with orders to report for duty at Greenbush, the Headquarters of the Northern Army under command of Major General Dearborn. His first services were as assistant to Dr. Mann, Surgeon-in-chief of the Northern Army. He continued in this position till the following October when Gen. Dearborn, having removed his headquarters to Plattsburgh with the intention of commencing military operations on the Canadian frontier, Dr. Wilson was directed by Dr. Mann to proceed to that place, there to establish and take charge of a general Hospital and to remain till further orders. He performed the duties to the satisfaction of all concerned. Dr. Mann in his Medical History of the Campaigns of the Northern Army makes repeated mention with approbation of the services of Dr. Wilson in this connection. He remained in this situation till the following Spring when Gen. Hampton, having assumed the command of the Northern Army, fixed his Headquarters at Burlington, Vt., to the Hospital at which place Dr. Wilson was transferred. He followed Gen. Hampton in all his movements, particularly in that ill-advised and ill-fated expedition down the Chateaugay River.
At the end of that campaign Dr. Wilson returned with the remnant of the Army to Burlington, when in Dec. 1813, on the recommendation of Dr. Mann, he was promoted to a Surgeoncy being probably the youngest man in that position at that time in the Army, and was assigned by the War Department as Surgeon of the 45th Regiment of Infantry of the United States Army. He continued to do duty with this regiment in the field on the Northern frontier till the conclusion of the war and the final disbandment of the Army in June, 1815, at which time he returned to his paternal home in Clermont and assisted his father in his extensive agricultural employments; at which place he has remained with few intervals of absence ever since.

Two incidents connected with Dr. Wilson’s service in the War, of no importance otherwise than as showing the estimation in which he was held by his brother officers, may be here related. While he was on duty in the vicinity of Lake Champlain he formed the acquaintance of Com. McDonough, this acquaintance ripened into friendship and intimacy. Commodore McDonough seldom put his armament afloat without asking Dr. Wilson to accompany him, both as a friend and in his medical capacity. These invitations he accepted always with the consent of his commander-military, and considered a high compliment and great advantage. He enjoyed many a pleasant excursion and many an exciting chase of the enemy without ever coming in contact with him. Dr. Wilson being ordered on distant service called on the Commodore to make his adieux. On parting the Commodore pulled from his fob the plain gold watch he had always worn and to which was attached a gold chain seal and key after the fashion of the time, Dr. Wilson having a similar one the Commodore proposed to exchange watches with him as a memento of their friendship and laughingly added, "Now, Dr., let us each swear we will never part with this watch, keep it as long as we live and transmit it to our descendants as an heirloom." The offer was gladly accepted though the oath was never taken.

The other incident occurred in the Army at Plattsburgh in the summer of 1814. Dr. Wilson was temporarily attached as Medical Officer to a Corps of Artillerists under the command of Lieut. Col. Brooks doing duty with Gen. Izzard’s division of the Northern Army. When his services here ended he called at the tent of Col. Brooks to say farewell. Col. Brooks after hearing the purport of his visit, rose from his seat and unbuckled from his waist an embroidered sword belt, to which was attached a gilt mounted dress sword. Affixing the belt to the person of Dr. Wilson said, "Dr. you and I have had very pleasant times together. I do not want you to forget me, so wear this in remembrance of me." They never met again. Col. Brooks was retained on the Peace establishment of the Army and some years afterwards was drowned by falling from a steamboat on the Mississippi River. He was an educated, intellectual man, and every way an exceptional character. His father was one of the eminent men of Massachusetts, having been for six consecutive terms elected Governor of that State.
These pledges of friendship and esteem, which were held sacred by the Dr. were lost by the burning of the Hotel where he boarded at Sackett’s Harbor in April, 1815. He lost by this fire every article he possessed, Medical diplomas, Military Commissions and Military equipment, most regretted at all the watch of McDonough and the sword of Brooks. Losing every article of clothing he saved his life by jumping in his night clothes from a second story window.

In 1832 Dr. Wilson was appointed (on the recommendation of Ambrose L. Jordan, subsequently Attorney General of the State) by Gov. Yates one of the Judges of Columbia County. Though not a lawyer, and but little acquainted with legal proceedings, he yet discharged the duties of the office creditably and satisfactorily for the term of five years for which he was appointed. At the expiration of this term he was re-appointed but declined; the increasing age and infirmities of his father making his undivided attention on his farm necessary.

Unsolicited and unexpectedly on his part, in 1844 he was nominated by a Democratic Convention at Albany, composed of delegates representing the Senatorial District comprising one-eighth of the State as then divided, on a ticket with Amasa J. Parker of Albany and Henry W. Strong of Troy. The election was close and strongly contested, the struggle was mainly between Judge Wilson, who was highest on the Democratic ticket and Gen. Root of Delaware, the lowest on the opposition ticket. The election was finally decided in favor of Gen. Root by the State Canvassers by a majority of one, in a vote of upwards of 100,000.

The only other time Judge Wilson was a candidate before the public was in 18___, when he was nominated on a ticket with Judge Henry Hogeboom for the State Constitutional Convention. The Whigs having then a decided majority no effort was made, and consequently he was not elected. He was afterwards often solicited to suffer his name to be used as candidate for Member of Assembly for this District, and at one time was urged to take the nomination for Member of Congress when a nomination was equivalent to an election...He declined all. The only other office he ever held was as Supervisor for five consecutive years, one term of which the Democrats were in the majority he was Chairman of the Board. His tastes were for the peaceful quiet occupation of his farms in preference to the turmoil of public life.

In 1829 he was married to Miss Hulme, a lady ten years his junior, the daughter of a gentleman of wealth and position in Philadelphia. She has been to him for fifty years a gentle, loving and beloved companion, counsellor and guide. She survives him, and though enfeebled in body is still bright in intellect, cheerful and animated, enjoying the visits of her neighbors and friends, interested in family affairs and in all passing events, the pride, joy and ornament of a large circle of friends and relatives by whom she is surrounded.
Judge Wilson is now in his 89th year, sound in mind and memory with the usual share of health and activity of body allotted to persons of his years. He, with his revered partner, are now living in a serene old age in the love and respect of their neighbors, enjoying all the comforts and convenience of life, and in a moderate way many of the refinements, receiving from their children and grandchildren all the delicate and gentle services and attentions that filial affection can bestow, that are so necessary to the comfort and happiness of the aged, and to smoothe and soften the passage to the grave, when they sink to rest it will be with all their family's wishes blest.

This little imperfect sketch is to them inscribed, to be transmitted to their grandchildren as examples and incentives to their conduct through life by their dutiful and most affectionate daughters.

Bessie and Mary.

Clermont, March 18th, 1879.
CLASS OF 1810

WILLIAM HENRY WILSON.

Of Clermont, N. Y.
Born 1791
Died 1884.
Married 1829, Ann Hulme,
Graduate Union College,
M. D. New York College,
Served in the War of 1812.
Son of Dr. William Wilson.

Child: Harold Wilson, of Clermont, who married
Mary Elizaebth L. Sanders.
