

Hezekiah Kidwell (1828-1886) **His wife, Cecelia Derry Kidwell (1830-1899)**

There are at least 12 members of the Kidwell family buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery. The patriarch of this family is Hezekiah Kidwell, who moved to Berlin with his family in the 1870's. This is the story of his family.

Hezekiah Kidwell (1828-1886) was born in Shenandoah County (now Warren County), VA, and his wife Cecelia Derry (1830-1899) was born in nearby Loudoun County. They were married in 1848, and they eventually became the parents of 9 children, some of whom died in childhood.

In 1860, the family was living in Harpers Ferry and he was working as a laborer. The Civil War broke out the following year, and when Hezekiah registered with the draft in the summer of 1863, he was listed as living in Frederick.

In the 1870 census, Hezekiah was found in Rochester, IL, where he was living with the family of Lewis Gaver, a shoemaker who had moved there earlier from the Petersville District of Frederick County. Hezekiah's wife and their children were not listed with him.

In 1873, lot 60 in the village of Berlin was purchased in the name of Cecelia and Wilford (then 5 years old) Kidwell for \$285. Lot 60 was located on the south side of the railroad tracks, between 2nd St (Virginia Ave) and 3rd St (Maryland Ave).

In 1880, Hezekiah (52) and Celia (49) Kidwell were living in Berlin with their 2 sons Wilford (11) and William (6), and granddaughter Mary Shafer (8). There were 49 families living in Berlin at that time. Hezekiah was one of 9 men living in Berlin who were working on the railroad.

Hezekiah died six years later, in 1886. He was buried in a central location in the Old Berlin Cemetery.

In 1890, the year the B&O Railroad moved their operations from Martinsburg to Berlin, Cecelia, W.D. [*her son Wilford D.*], and Martha [*Wilford's wife*] sold lot 60 to Louis Brentz. We have no census for that year to tell where they moved to, although they most likely stayed in Brunswick.

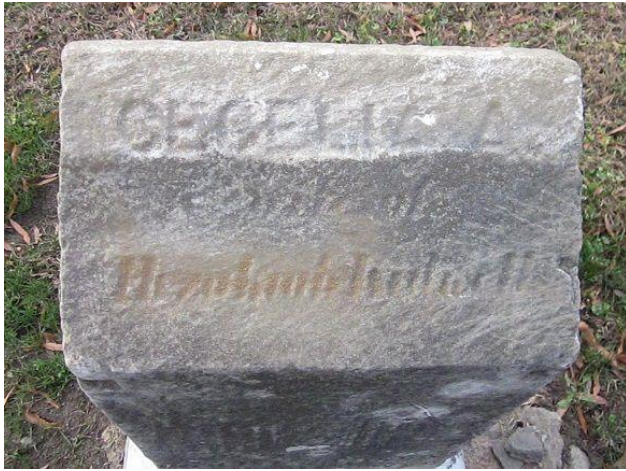
On Feb 14, 1899, Mrs. C.A. Kidwell, widow of Hezekiah, died at the home of her oldest [living] son Wilford D. Kidwell on Brunswick Street, "after a long and painful illness." Aged 68yr 2m, & 20d. She was buried beside her husband.

Other family members, including three of their children -- **Wilford D. Kidwell**, **William Hilleary Kidwell**, and **Emma Kidwell Hutts** – are also buried in the OBC and their stories can be found under their names.

Cecelia Kidwell's tombstone:

"Cecelia A. wife of Hezekiah Kidwell"

“Died Feb 14, 1899, aged 68yrs 2mos 20days. Resting in hope of a glorious resurrection.”



Hezekiah's tombstone:

