

William Hilleary Kidwell (1874-1931)
First Wife: Mary Agnes Kidwell (1867-1908)
Second Wife: Lillian G. Kidwell (1876-1946)

William Hilleary Kidwell was born in 1874 in Berlin, the youngest of 9 children born to **Hezekiah** and **Cecelia Kidwell** (see their story elsewhere in this collection). Several of his siblings did not live to adulthood. He and his brother **Wilford** had a close relationship: They both worked on the B&O Railroad, and their families lived near each other on Brunswick Street. William, Wilford, and their sister **Emma Hutts** are all buried in the OBC, as are their parents.

In 1893, at the age of 19, William married Mary Agnes Phillips. At the time, he was working as a night clerk at the B.P. Crampton & Co., the local mill. Mary Agnes was the oldest child (born 1867) of William and Isa Phillips, farmers living in Sandy Hook.

In 1900, William and Mary Agnes were living in Brunswick. He was working as a clerk. By then, they had 3 children: William Edgar (1893), Rena (1896), and Blanche M. (1898). They were followed by Ida (1903) and Ruby (1906).

Mary died in 1908, leaving William with 5 young children to raise. The following year, William married Lillian Gertrude Devine Painter. Gertrude, as she was known, was born in Loudoun County, VA in 1876, the youngest of 4 children. She married her first husband Dallas Painter (1878-1940), from Jefferson Co., WV, in 1895. They had one child, Marjorie Lorena Painter (1896-1981), but then divorced. (Dallas, a blacksmith, remarried in 1899 and eventually moved out of the area).

In 1910, William and Gertrude were living in Brunswick on Front Street [today: West B Street] with 5 children (from William's 1st marriage). He was a salesman for the Grand Union Tea Co., a forerunner of today's supermarkets. [*"In 1912 Grand Union was a 200-outlet chain store with operations across the country. In addition to its business establishments, the company supported a small army of 5,000 door-to-door salesmen and delivered goods in horse-drawn wagons".*]

Typical Grand Union delivery truck. (Note: This is NOT William Kidwell or Brunswick.)



In 1912, Gertrude gave birth to Wilson Theodore Kidwell.

In 1918, when William registered for the WWI draft, he was noted to be missing his left leg. At that time, he was working as a janitor at J.E. Sunstrom in Brunswick.

In 1920, William and Gertrude were still living in Brunswick with their two youngest children Elva (14) and Wilson (7). William was still working as Janitor, now at "Railroad rest houses."

In 1930, William ("Hillary W.") was living with his son William and his family in Sandy Hook. No occupation was listed. He was listed as being "single." Gertrude was not listed in the same household.

William died in 1931 at the age of 57.

In 1940, Gertrude (64, "widowed") was living in Knoxville with her son Wilson & his family. She died in 1946 "at her son William's home in Gapland after a lingering illness."

William, Mary, and Lillian are buried in the Kidwell family plot in the Old Berlin Cemetery along with William's brother Wilford and his family.

William with his first wife Mary Agnes:



William's second wife Lillian Gertrude (beside his tombstone):

