

John Wrightstone (1830 – 1905)

John Wrightstone was born September 19th 1830¹ to John Wrightstone and Margaret Hart in Fairview Township, York County Pennsylvania. On September 23rd 1850 John lived with Elizabeth Hart in Fairview Township York County Pennsylvania. Elizabeth is most likely John's Aunt.²

John married Elizabeth Ann Wire on October 2nd 1856³ in York, York County, by Reverend Zeigler.⁴ Elizabeth was born on September 18th 1834.⁵ Elizabeth is the sister of John F. Wire, who is the husband of John's sister, Barbara Wrightstone.⁶

John stood 5' 5 ½ inches tall, and weighed about 148 pounds, and worked as farm laborer and carpenter in the northern York County townships, and Upper Allen Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania.

After his 21 year old brother,⁷ Samuel Wrightstone,⁸ enlisted September 10th 1862 into Company E of the 18th Regiment, Pennsylvania Cavalry (163rd Volunteers), John and his other brother Michael enlisted November 8th 1862 for a nine month duty into Company G of the 166th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment. John and Michael both mustered out of the 166th on July 28th 1863 at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.⁹

John then reenlisted on August 25th 1864 in Company I, 200th Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, and on August 29th 1864 his brother Samuel died of dysentery while a prisoner at the Andersonville Prison.¹⁰ John was discharged from the 200th Regiment on May 30th 1865.

By 1876 John and Elizabeth were living in the Siddonsburg area of Monaghan Township York County, where John was working for a lime kiln in Fairview Township. John's brother Michael also lived east of Siddonsburg in Monaghan Township, where he was working for a nursery.¹¹

By 1880 John and Elizabeth were living with their grand-daughter, Mary J. Lehman, who is the daughter of Margaret Ellen and her 1st husband.¹² In 1900 Mary and her husband Samuel Neff lived next door to John and Elizabeth in Upper Allen Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. Mary also made out an affidavit in John's Civil War pension file, as did a Charles Neff. John Wrightstone sold land in Monaghan Township to Peter Heiges, recorded May 5th 1881¹³

The 1900 census indicated that Elizabeth had 12 children and 3 were still living. This is verified by John's Civil War Pension record, dated September 25th 1897, where John listed 3 children living; Margaret Ellen, George Benson, and Jonathan K.

John died August 29th 1905; age 74, 11 months, 8 days,¹⁴ and Elizabeth died April 23rd 1909. They were both laid to rest at the Filey's Church and Cemetery located in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania.¹⁵ John was laid to rest alongside of his wife, son, and his daughter at Filey's Church and Cemetery located in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania

John and Elizabeth Wrightstone had twelve children, and nine had died prior to 1897 when John identified his children still living in his Civil War pension affidavits. ¹⁶

- i. Sarah Jane Wrightstone was born September 1857 to John Wrightstone and Elizabeth Wire in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania. Her christening was January 31st 1859. ¹⁷ Sarah is buried next to her parents Filey's Church and Cemetery located in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania. Sarah cannot be found in 1870, and she died prior to 1897. ¹⁸
- ii. Margaret Ellen Wrightstone was also referred to as Maggie, Ella, and Ellen. Margaret was born on July 13th 1858 ¹⁹ to John Wrightstone and Elizabeth Wire in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania.
- iii. Lydia Wrightstone was born February 1860 to John Wrightstone and Elizabeth Wire in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania. Lydia cannot be found in 1870.
- iv. George Benson Wrightstone was born July 8th 1864 John Wrightstone and Elizabeth Ann Wire. George married Mary (Minnie) L. McQuate. ²⁰
- v. Jonathan Kline Wrightstone was born March 7th 1868 to John Wrightstone and Elizabeth Ann Wire in the Siddonsburg area of Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania. ²¹ Jonathan married Sarah Ellen Fortney, age 18, on October 17th 1889 in Mechanicsburg by Reverend Stewart. ²²
- vi. Peter Wrightstone was born April 1870 died prior to 1897
- vii. Emmet Wrightstone was born in 1873 died prior to 1897

Bibliography

1. John Wrightstone Civil War Pension Record: November 9th 1883 Invalid Application Number: 499.533 and Certification Number: 961.165; Widow Application Number: 834.887 and Certificate Number: 620.660; Department of Interior, Bureau Application for Accrued Pensions and Declaration for Invalid Pension, Neighbors Affidavits, Physicians Affidavits, General Affidavits, The National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001
2. 1850 John Wrightstone Census: Fairview, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: M432_840; Page: 382B; Image: 541; 1850 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
3. 1850 Elizabeth Weir Census: Census Place: Conewago, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: M432_840; Page: 304B; Image: 390; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. 1860 John Wrightstone Census: Monaghan, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: M653_1201; Page: 583; Image: 126; Family History Library Film: 805201; 1860 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
5. 1870 John Wrightstone Census: Monaghan, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1469; Page: 90A; Image: 181; Family History Library Film: 552968; 1870 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.; Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
6. 1880 John Wrightstone Census: Monaghan, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1205; Family History Film: 1255205; Page: 207B; Enumeration District: 2; 1880 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
7. 1880 Ella Wrightstone Census: Upper Allen, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: M593_1333; Page: 533A; Image: 402; Family History Library Film: 552832; 1870 U.S. census, population schedules. NARA microfilm publication M593, 1,761 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.; Minnesota census schedules for 1870. NARA microfilm publication T132, 13 rolls; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.
8. 1890 John Wrightstone Veteran Schedule: Upper Allen, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 86; Enumeration District: 115; 1890 Veterans Schedules, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Special Schedules of the Eleventh Census (1890) Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M123, 118 rolls); Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

9. 1900 John Wrightstone Census: Upper Allen, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: T623_1401; Page: 9B; Enumeration District: 29; 1900 United States Federal Census, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.
10. John Wrightstone Burial Card: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania Veterans Burial Cards, 1929-1990; Archive Collection Number: Series 1-13; Folder Number: 548; Veterans Burial Cards, 1777-1999, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Pennsylvania Veterans Burial Cards, 1929–1990. Digital Images, 3–5. Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau of Archives and History. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
11. 1900 Ellen Shuff Census: Riverton, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1400; Page: 12A; Enumeration District: 0013; FHL microfilm: 1241400; : United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

End Notes

¹ John Wrightstone Birth Date: The date was determined using a birth date calculator and the inscription of John's headstone; on August 29th 1905; age 74, 11 months, 8 days. ¹ John was laid to rest alongside of his wife, son, and his daughter at Filey's Church and Cemetery located in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania.

² John Wrightstone 1850 Residence: Elizabeth Hart and the others living with her are most likely relatives, which I believe are aunt and cousin. John's mother, Elizabeth Hart's, brother's wife: Elizabeth Hart, age 50, her son John M., age 27, her daughter Elizabeth N, age 12, (born circa 1838) and John Wrightstone, age 19, a laborer.

³ John and Elizabeth Marriage Date: The Civil War Pension record cited 1861 as a married date; other affidavits listed 1856 as the date. Their 1st child, Sarah Jane Wrightstone, was born September 1857, so 1861 must be an error.

⁴ Reverend Zeigler: Reverend Dinniger and Reverend Zeigler are both cited in various affidavits, but Reverend Zeigler is cited by John Wrightstone on his Pension application.

⁵ Elizabeth Ann Wire Birth Date: This date came from her headstone at Filey's Church and Cemetery located in Monaghan Township York County Pennsylvania.

⁶ Elizabeth Wire Brother, John: On November 28th 1905 her brother John F. Wire made an affidavit for John Wrightstone's Civil War pension claim. John Wire indicated Elizabeth was his sister, and that he then lived in Lisburn, Cumberland County Pennsylvania. John Wire was 65 years old when he made his statement, making his birth date circa 1840.

- Another affidavit was made on behalf of John Wrightstone. It was made by James Kline of Bowmansdale, age 54 born circa 1843, also made a statement that John worked for him. John's brother, Michael, married Eliza Jane Kline. There may be a relationship between James and Eliza.

⁷ Samuel Wrightstone: This brother relationship came from exhaustive research, Samuel Wrightstone (1841-1864), Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372.

⁸ Samuel Wrightstone Name: Samuel Wrightstone's last name was spelled as Rightstone, Righstone, and Ritson, Ritston, Ritzston and Ritzson in the Civil War records for the 18th Pennsylvania Calvary; Samuel Wrightstone (1841-1864), Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania, 17372.

⁹ John Wrightstone 166th and 200th Pennsylvania Civil War Duty: John Wrightstone Muster Roll Call Cards, 22323123, 22323201, 22323303, 22323405, 22323506, 22323584, 22323663; The National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs Pennsylvania 17372.

¹⁰ Samuel Ritzson-Ritston (Wrightstone) Andersonville Prison, Prisoner, and Date, Cause of Death and Burial: Code ID: 17245; Plot: Section: E, Row: 7245, Andersonville Prisoners of War , Andersonville, Georgia; Andersonville Prisoner of War Database. Andersonville, GA, USA: National Park Service, Andersonville National Historic Site; Union prisoners interned at Andersonville Prison, Sultana, and Cahaba Prison; <http://www.civilwarprisoners.com/search.php?database=andersonville>.

¹¹ John and Michael Wrightstone Residences: The brothers would always live close to one another. The Siddonsburg area of Monaghan Township York County is one mile east of John's 1900 Bowmansdale residence, and 3 miles east of Michael's 1900 Shepherdstown residence. Both residences are in the Upper Allen Township area of Cumberland County Pennsylvania.

¹² Mary J. Lehman and Margaret Ellen Wrightstone: The relationship came from Mary's marriage application with Samuel Neff. In the application Mary identified her mother as Ella Shuff. In Linwood Shuff marriage application, Linwood identified his mother as Margaret E. Wrightstone.

- Mary J. Lehman Marriage: Reference ID: 107; GS Film Number: 21008; Digital Folder Number: 004811550; Image Number: 00386; Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950, index and images, FamilySearch, <https://familysearch.org>; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372
- Linwood G. Shuff Marriage: Reference ID: Pg 680 No 107251; GS Film Number: 20657; Digital Folder Number: 004811543; Image Number: 00416; Pennsylvania, County Marriages, 1885-1950, index and images, FamilySearch ; <https://familysearch.org>; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road York Springs Pennsylvania 17372

¹³ John Wrightstone Sold Land to Peter Heiges: York County Deeds, Book 6S, Page 460, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA.

¹⁴ John Wrightstone Death and Burial: The dates were taken from John's headstone at Filey's Church and Cemetery, Monaghan Township York Co PA.

¹⁵ John and Elizabeth Date of Death: The dates were taken from Elizabeth's headstone at Filey's Church and Cemetery, Monaghan Township York Co PA.

¹⁶ John and Elizabeth Wrightstone Children: John Wrightstone's pension applications made September 25th 1897, identified three children, and their birth dates, who were still living . The June 1900 Federal census, Elizabeth indicated she had 12 children, and 3 were still living; The 1880 Federal Census listed Emmit Wrightstone, age 7, born 1873, and the 1870 July Federal Census listed Peter, age 4 months, born March 1870.

¹⁷ Sarah Jane Wrightstone Christening: Calendar of Vital Records of the Counties of York and Adams, Source 590, York County Heritage Trust Library and Archives, 250 East Market Street, York, PA.

¹⁸ Sarah Possible Marriage: In the 1880 Federal Census there is a Mary J. Lehman, granddaughter living with John and Elizabeth Wrightstone in Monaghan Township York County.

¹⁹ Margaret Ellen Wrightstone Birth Date: John Wrightstone's pension applications made September 25th 1897 identified three children and their birth dates, and that they were still living.

²⁰ George B. Wrightstone Family: George B. Wrightstone (1864-1953), Taylor ~ Graham Family Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

²¹ Jonathan K. Wrightstone Family: Jonathan K. Wrightstone (1868-1943)), Taylor ~ Graham Family Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

²² Jonathan Wrightstone Marriage: York County Court House Marriage, Application #-2987, License Book H Page 227, York County Archives, 150 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402