

## **JOSEPH WILSON ALTHOUSE (WILSON P. ALTHOUSE) (5)**

Joseph Wilson Althouse was born December 12, 1861. He married Eliza G. Ebling from near Strausstown. Eliza was born April 16, 1865.

He farmed for several years in the Bethel-Strausstown area. His first wife, Eliza died August 20, 1887, leaving three living children. Wilson, as he was called, married Mary H. DeTurk from Strausstown. While living in Rehersburg, a daughter, six year old Katie, was bitten by a dog that had rabies. She had the good fortune to live in a time when the Pasteur treatment was available. Wilson took her to New York City, where she received treatment for three weeks and made a complete recovery.

The family then moved to a farm at Myerstown and later to the Fredericksburg area. In 1912, the family moved to Avon, where his second wife, Mary, died in 1919.

Wilson was a rugged man who could shuck corn or chop wood with the best. He was dedicated to God and his country, even though he hardly ever professed his dedication to either outright. He would never talk of himself or his past life unless engaged by someone else. He believed in always doing a full day's work and the last fifteen years of his life, he walked humpbacked with his hands on his back. This was probably a sign of overwork in his earlier years.

Wilson never used profane language and lacked desire for monetary wealth. He took great interest in world affairs and could provide an intelligent discussion on a variety of subjects.

He died of pneumonia at the home of his son, Milton, at Dauberville on November 22, 1926. He is buried at the Strausstown Cemetery.

Joseph Althouse (4), father of Joseph Wilson Althouse (5), was born November 17, 1832, on a farm in Tilden Township. He was married to Sarah Ann Phillips, born November 28, 1835 and died on January 28, 1920. Joseph died on February 8, 1907.

The family lived on a farm in Tilden Township where Joseph (5) was born the fourth child of a family of ten children.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

You will note that Wilson P. Althouse will sometimes be referred to as Joseph Wilson Althouse. This is because he was baptized Joseph Wilson Althouse, but during his married life he used the name Wilson P. Althouse. A satisfactory explanation for this has been sought without success.

### **ELIZA E. EBLING**

Eliza Ebling was the first wife of Wilson Althouse. Eliza, daughter of Jacob and Eliza Ebling, was raised on a beautiful 200 acre farm about 1 mile southwest of Strausstown.

Eliza was born April 16, 1865, and died August 20, 1887; she passed away at the age of 22 in the prime of her life. She was survived by her husband, Wilson, and three small children, Howard, Ellie and Adam, and an infant born August 1887.

She is buried in the Strausstown Cemetery.

### **MARY NETTIE DETURK**

Mary was the second wife of Wilson P. Althouse. She was born and raised on a modest size farm about 2 miles south of Strausstown. Her parents, Abraham and Mary Ann Balthaser De Turk, had the distinction of being good farmers.

Mary Hettie was born on this farm on November 8, 1871. She passed away December 11, 1919. She was 48 years, 1 month and 3 days old. She is buried at Strausstown Cemetery. Her parents Abraham U. and Mary Ann Balthaser DeTurk are also buried there.

### **THE DETURK FAMILY**

From a letter written in German and the coat of Arms of the DeTurk family in the possession of Mrs. Ella Baer, Kutztown, Pa., is found the following data of the family, their origin, and

dispersion, which according to the letter is from the records in the libraries of Versailles and Paris.

The letter reads as follows: the DeTurk family is of Oriental origin. The progenitor of this family was brought to France by Count Kaimund of Toulouse from Palestine, where he was taken prisoner in the year 1105 A.D. He was a Turkish Emir, that is a prince and his name was Hayraddin Silodin. In France he assumed the name of Arnulph LeTurk. He was knighted and admitted into the nobility. He bore on his shield, as well as on his helmet, a lion holding the sun, the sun signifying the deity of the Turks, the lion, valor of strength. The name LeTurk was later changed to DeTurk.

The baptism and marriage records of the churches of France and Germany served as an excellent trace of the DeTurk family.

John Calvin (born 1509), leader of the reform movements in France and during the middle of the Sixteenth century, had a great following. This sect of Calvinists was now called Huguenots. King Henry and his wife, Catherine De Medici, became fearful of the rapid growth of the Huguenots. Persecutions were begun so terrible that the history of religion has few parallels. John Calvin fled to Italy and the DeTurk family fled to Palatinate and other parts of Germany. It is estimated that those who were killed, or executed, or died as galley slaves, numbered 200,000 (among these was the name of DeTurk), while more than one million fled to neighboring countries.

It is interesting to note that some of the first residents of Pennsylvania were Huguenots. G. Henry Baird in his work, Huguenot (migration to America says, "There were no immigrants who William Penn desired more for his plantations than the persecuted Huguenots."

It was from this religious persecution that some of the inhabitants of the Palatinate and surrounding territories extricated themselves and through the good grace of Queen Anne of England and the people of England and Holland in particular, found ways to emigrate to America.

Among these immigrants was Isaac DeTurk, who settled in the Oley Valley in 1711. The homestead is a short distance from the village of Oley.

## **CHILDREN OF THE FIRST MARRIAGE**

### **HOWARD WILSON ALTHOUSE (6)**

Howard was born March 24, 1883 in Berks County. He served with The Hamburg Gas & Electric Co. and The Topton Electric Light & Power Co. as line foreman and operated an electric appliance store in Topton. He worked as a machinist until his retirement. He passed away at the home of his son in California on August 2, 1969, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in California. He was married to Annie M. Blatt, who died February 1, 1939. His second wife was Nellie Streeker, who died January 18, 1965. Howard had four children.

### **ELLIE ELIZA (ALTHOUSE) MERKEY (6)**

Ellie was born July 19, 1884 in Berks County. She married Calvin Merkey, a farmer from Bethel Twp. They farmed his family's farm during their life, except for a few years during which they lived in Avon. Calvin died on March 25, 1952, and Ellie died November 20, 1948. A characteristic of Ellie was that she used to smoke a pipe and cigars. They are buried in Strausstown Cemetery, Berks Co., Pa. They were the parents of two children.

### **ADAM JOSEPH ALTHOUSE (6)**

Adam was born December 24, 1885 in Berks Co. and lived a great deal of his youth with his grandparents, Jacob and Eliza Ebling. He graduated from Strausstown High School in 1902 and taught school in the Strausstown area for 3 years. He worked for Blue Mountain Electric Co., Birdsboro Electric Co. In 1911, he took employment with the Hamburg Gas & Electric Co. He was employed for 13 years when the Metropolitan Edison Co. acquired Hamburg Gas & Electric Co. Adam moved to Reading in 1924, where he worked for Metropolitan Edison Co. until his retirement. At Metropolitan Edison Co. he held various positions, including a promotion to Vice

President of Metropolitan Edison Co., in which he served for at least 10 years. He also served as President of Pa. Electric Assoc. for about the same length of time. He and his wife, Minnie Burkey Althouse, and daughter Herma, reside in Greenfield, a suburb of Reading. They are the parents of two children. The son Ernest lives in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. and worked for Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp. in various capacities and retired in 1976 as president of the company. He is married to Elizabeth Righter Plank.

## **CHILDREN OF THE SECOND MARRIAGE**

### **MARY ALTHOUSE REIGLE (6)**

Mary was born October 3, 1890 in Bethel Twp., Berks Co., PA. Her personality was very pleasing but she had a wander-lust, and had an optimistic view of life. She lived in various homes in Lebanon Co. & Berks Co. Her first marriage was to Irvin Reigle, who was born March 19, 1888, and died September 27, 1932. Her second husband was George Derr, who was born June 29, 1892 and died November 23, 1971. Mary died April 10, 1964. She was fortunate in having two fine husbands, especially Irvin Reigle. She had two children

### **MILTON A. ALTHOUSE (6)**

Milton was born January 29, 1892, in Berks Co. He was married to Lottie Batdorf and had 7 children. Lottie died October 4, 1933. His second marriage was to Bertha Bordner, who died July 15, 1964. Milton had a small farm close to Host Hotel. He was a good farmer and loved hunting. For many years a good part of his livelihood was by hunting and trapping. Some years he had as high as 400 live skunks housed on his farm. These he would hold until their pelts were in their prime for selling the furs. He later farmed on the Ebersole farm at Dauberville, where his father Wilson passed away. He farmed for several years near Kindt's Corner. He passed away, after living in retirement near Shartlesville, on July 23, 1960. Milton and his wives are buried at Zion's Cemetery, Strausstown.

### **CARRIE MABEL ALTHOUSE (6)**

Carrie was born December 7, 1893, in Berks Co. She lived at home and worked in a garment factory for a short time. She had a weak ailing heart and passed away in the flower of her youth on March 5, 1912. She was eighteen years of age. Carrie was of pleasing personality and was missed much by her family and betrothed. She is buried at Strausstown Cemetery.

### **JERRY S. ALTHOUSE (6)**

Jerry was born October 25, 1896, in Berks Co. Jerry was married to Amy E. Burkey on May 10, 1913. They had no children. After having had different occupations, he went into his own automobile repair business in a small shop at his home on Cumberland Street in Avon. Several years later he and his wife built a garage with home attached close to Avon Inn. Here he sold and serviced Overland and Willys Knight automobiles. Jerry had unusual knowledge of the automobile business, while Amy had unusual diplomacy. Both had good business instincts, and this served to make their business successful. Fate, however, took a hand for Jerry and he passed away at 35 years of age in the prime of his life. Jerry died November 21, 1931, and is buried at the Strausstown Cemetery.

### **WILLIAM M. ALTHOUSE (6)**

William was born April 15, 1898, in Bethel Twp. William enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 18. He served in Saddle Co. D. 109th Machine Gun Battalion. He was engaged in bat-

tles of Marne, Meuse, Argonne, and Theaucourt Sector, until Armistice Day November 11, 1918. He held the rank of corporal during his enlistment and was discharged honorably on May 5, 1919.

Upon returning to private life he married Edna Hoover on November 26, 1919, and they were the parents of 8 children. William operated a shoe repair business for several years and also worked at Lebanon Valley Iron Co. He became a brick layer and was excellent at laying bricks and made his life vocation as a brick layer.

William was also an outstanding card player, but never played for money no matter what the inducement. He was dedicated to God and his Country.

His wife Edna passed away on June 18, 1953. His second marriage was to Amy Althouse. He passed away June 1, 1958, and is buried at Wolfs' Union Cemetery.

### **JACOB ALTHOUSE (6)**

Jacob was born January 8, 1900, in Bethel Twp. He enlisted in the United States Army during World War 1. He served in the 109th Machine Gun Battalion and was engaged in the same battles as William. He was discharged from the Army in May 1919, with an honorable discharge.

He married Stella Fetter on April 10, 1922, and they were the parents of 5 children. He resided in Avon and worked as a garage mechanic for his brother, Jerry. When Jerry died he built his home and garage in Avon an Prescott Roab. He was in business at this place until his retirement, when he moved to Greble. Jacob passed away on March 23, 1968, and is buried in Grand View Memorial Park, Annville, Pa.

### **GEORGE ALTHOUSE, SR. (6)**

George was born March 24, 1901, in Bethel Twp. He enlisted in the United States Army the same time Jacob enlisted during World War 1. He served in the 109th Machine Gun Battalion with Jacob and William and was engaged in the same battles. He had the misfortune of being gassed in one of the battles. He received his honorable discharge in May 1919.

He married Ida Clauser from Lebanon and they had 10 children. For a number of years he worked at the coal washery owned by John Ebersole, Sr. Later he was employed by Beryllium Corp. until his retirement. George passed away on March 28, 1959, and Ida died July 16, 1954. They are buried at Hinnershitz Cemetery (Good Shepherd) Tuckerton, Pa.

### **KATIE (ALTHOUSE) WITMER (6)**

Katie was born December 4, 1903, in Bethel Twp. She lived before her marriage on Avon Heights on the Horst Farm with her sister, Mary. Katie worked in the garment factories in Lebanon and Meyerstown until her retirement.

She married Jacob Witmer from Reistville in Lebanon Co. and they had one child. They acquired a home at Avon, where they resided until his death in 1961. Upon Jacob's death she moved into a trailer at West Myerstown. She died in Reistville at the home of a friend on October 23, 1971, and is buried in Schaefferstown Cemetery, Schaefferstown, Lebanon Co., Pa.

### **CLARENCE R. ALTHOUSE, SR. (6)**

Clarence was born March 18, 1905, in Bethel Twp. When he was seven years old he started working with the local farmers. He then went to his Uncle Jeremia S. DeTurk's farm near Bernville. He lived with his Uncle until he was 16 years old. He then lived with his sister, Mary and brother Jacob, while working in the A. S. Kreider Shoe Factory and later at Lebanon Valley Iron Co. in Lebanon. At 18, he worked at Wyomissing Industries, where he treated steel for 16 years. It was during this time in 1922, that he married Sarah L. Lerch. In 1936, he purchased a farm in Bern Twp. In 1949, this farm was purchased by the Pa. Dept. of Forests and Waters. He moved his family to a farm near Fleetwood. Clarence served 2 years as Director and President of Berks Co. Soil Conservation District. He served on the Berks Co. Cooperative Ass. Board for 26 years, and Tri-Co. Egg Auction Board for 30 years. He also served 10 years as director and 2 as president of the Eastern Division of the National Farmers Union.

Due to failing health and capability they sold the farm in 1975, and now live in a home on Crystal Cave Road near Kutztown. They are the parents of five children.

### **WALTER M. ALTHOUSE (6)**

Walter was born March 9, 1907, in Bethel Twp. For several years Walter worked on Paul Anthony's dairy (arm at Strausstown. He married Leah Troutman from Rehersburg. They acquired and lived in a home at Sinking Springs while both worked at Berkshire Knitting Mills. They lived here for about ten years and then sold their home and purchased a home with some land at Jacksonville. Here they retailed gasoline and kept 3000 laying birds. They then purchased a small farm nearby on which his son, Wilson, lived. After several years of farming and operating the poultry farm, they decided to sell farm stock. Walter then attended to his poultry business and after several years was stricken with a heart attack. He passed away in the prime of life and is buried in Host Cemetery.

Whatever short comings Walter experienced in book learning in school they were compensated by his unusual ability to assess correctly and solve problems in real life.

### **RALPH M. ALTHOUSE (6)**

Ralph was born August 19, 1909 in Rehersburg. As a boy he worked on various farms in the area. Ralph enlisted in the Army on December 12, 1925. After basic training he was shipped to Hawaii, where he was stationed until 1927, when he left the service. He was in the 44th Motor Transportation Co., Territory of Hawaii. He married Bertha S. Moyer on January 21, 1929 in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, where they lived for several years and he worked for the City Water Works.

Ralph was employed at various jobs such as the coal washery, foundry, truck driver, mechanic, and farming. In 1950, he built in Albany Twp., at the crossroads of Rte. 143 & Hawk Mt. Road a garage with a residence attached. He operated the garage business until 1963 when he decided to expand the business. He formed the R. & B. Althouse, Inc. excavating business which he ran until Bertha died. In 1973, Ralph and Bertha sold the garage business to their daughter Barbara and her husband James and they still operate the business under the name of Althouse Garage.

Bertha died September 5, 1974, and is buried in the Jacobs' Union Cemetery, Jacksonville, Lehigh Co. Ralph retired from the business and is presently keeping himself busy, working part time as Township Supervisor for Albany Twp.

### **PAUL HENRY ALTHOUSE (6)**

Paul was born June 27, 1912. When he was quite young he worked on a farm near Strausstown. While still in his teens he worked for several people in the Lebanon area. He married Meda Krieger from Schaefferstown. Paul served in the Navy in World War II. He was in the service until 1950. He was in the grocery business for several years. He studied Electronics in Los Angeles and worked as a radio broadcast transmitter engineer, mostly in Savannah, Georgia, until 1956. He then joined RCA Service Co. Government Service Department a (Cherry Hill, N. J., installing military communications equipment in various foreign counties until 1962.

He worked for two years with Page Consulting Radio Engineers, Washington, D. C. He was contracted to the Army Signal Corps on Okinawa, designing communication installations for the Far East from 1964 to 1974, Paul worked on overhauling and modernizing submarine missile launching equipment. In 1974, Paul retired, but is working part time for South Carolina Education Television Commission as Transmitter Engineer and Station Operator.

### **CALVIN AND ALVIN ALTHOUSE (TWINS) (6)**

Calvin and Alvin were born August 3, 1916, in Avon. Calvin died from medicinal (accidental) poisoning at 2 years, 3 months of age. He is buried at Strausstown Cemetery. When Alvin was

three years of age, his mother Mary Hettie DeTurk Althouse, passed away. Alvin was raised by his brother Jerry, and his wife Amy.

Upon completion of school Alvin opened an automobile paint shop at Avon. He became quite adept at this work and painted cars for 16 years, when the paint affected his health and he was obliged to leave this business. He then operated Avon Inn, catering to local and traveling people. Alvin had married Myrle Heagy in his earlier life and Myrle and Amy were good help to Alvin in the hotel business, which lasted for 16 years. During this course of time his wife, Myrle passed away on December 6, 1966. She is buried at Grandview Cemetery, Annville, Pa. Alvin later married Isabella Elliatt. Alvin retired from the hotel business and took employment at the Mt. Zion Fire Co. Social Quarters.

**ERNEST E. ALTHOUSE (7) Grandson of Joseph Wilson (5), son of Adam (6)**

Ernest Althouse graduated an Electrical Engineer from Lehigh University in 1926. He was employed by Duquesne Light Co. for two years. He then joined Central Hudson Gas & Electric Co. in 1928, where he rose to the office of President by successive promotions. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1975. Ernest is married to Elizabeth Righter Plank from Gallupville, N.Y. They have a beautiful home in a residential section of Poughkeepsie along the Hudson River of New York.

[Althouse History Committee; "*Family History of Joseph Wilson Althouse*"; June 1976]