TUSCANIA

Wilis, Robert Maxwell 1893 VA – 1966 VA

R. M. Willis Dies at Age 73

Robert Maxwell Willis, a wholesale grocer and community leader, died yesterday at his home here. A Culpeper County native and lifelong resident, he was 73.

He was secretary-treasurer and manager of Merchants Grocery Co. Inc., a director of the Second National Bank, and a member of the local Masonic Lodge. He was a former chairman of the Culpeper Baptist Church Board of Deacons, a former member of the Culpeper County School Board and Culpeper Town Council, former president of the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce, Culpeper Rotary Club and Plee-Zing Wholesalers.

A graduate of Lignum School, he attended the University of Richmond, He saw overseas duty in World War I.

A son of the late Edgar O. and Sallie Gordon Willis, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary McNeil Willis; one daughter, Mrs. John Holden, of Peters-



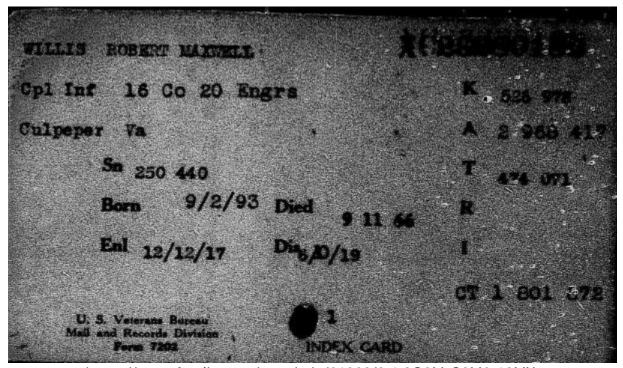
WILLIS

A funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. today, Monday, at the Culpeper Baptist Church, Burial will be in Culpeper Masonic Cemetery. burg, by a former marriage to
the late Mrs. Bertha Peifer
Willis; three sisters, Mrs.
Floyd H. White, of Culpeper,
Mrs. H. B. Winfrey, of Sperryville, and Mrs. Dillard Glean,
of Morattico; one brother,
Edgar O. Willis Jr., of Culpeper; four grandchildren, and
his step-mother, Mrs. E. O.
Willis Sr.

Active pallbearers will be
A. Gordon Willis Jr., E.O.
Willis III, Eugene Tinsley,
W. T. Bareford, Dr. Andrew
Robeson, Gny Eavers, Alan Hiner, Thomas L. Cline Jr. and
David Partington.

The family requests no flowers. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Culpeper Memorial Hospital.

Obituary of Robert Maxwell Willis - "Culpeper (VA) Star-Exponent" Monday 12 Sep 1966 p 1



https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3M8-13MX-B?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AW7NM-6R2M

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Life:

LIGNUM HIGH SCHOOL

Commencement Exercises-Address By Prof. Chandler-Large Crowd Present.

A large crowd gathered to witness the closing exercises of Lignum High School, given by the graduating class, on Tuesday afternoon, June 13th, at 3 o'clock in Lael Baptist church.

The church was beautifully decorated with various evergreens and the altar was banked with potted plants.

The entire school marched from the school building to the church, and while Miss Florence Willis very skillfully rendered the march they entered the church and took their seats on the front benches, which were reserved for them. After a chorus by the school, the graduatating class were seated in a semi circle on the platform.

The following program was rendered:

Chorus, school. Prayer, Rev. G. W. Hurt. Salutatory, Harry G. Duval.

Quartette, Elizabeth Billingsley Isabel Willis, Lavie Hale, Lee Mastin

Historian, Clodius H. Willis.

Solo, Miss Lucile Willis.

Valedictory, Lena Humphries.

Duet, Elizabeth Billingsley, Isabel Willis.

Address, Prof. A B. Chandler, Jr. Talk, Supt. Jas. Beckham. -

Award of promotions, O. S. Chaplain.

Award of diplomas, O. S. Chap-

Following were promoted:

1st to 2nd grade Barton Hale, Sallie Gordon Willis.

2nd to 3rd grade Casey Curtis, Wilson Gibson, Isabel Lacy, Haywood Brawn.

3rd to th grade - Britian Green, Leroim Brown, Sarah Cole, Edna Smith.

4th to 5th grade-Hurbert Myers, Elmore Myers, Ella Smith. 5th to 6th grade-Mary Hart Willis, Harry Willis, Jr., Aubrey Vaughn, Leola Curtis, Lockey Owens, Elizabeth Hale. 6th to 7th grade Ruth Green, Pearl Green, Ruth Jones, Anna Lee Willis, Fleety Vaughn. 7th to 8th grade Gordon Billingsley, Lawler Dorsey, Bertha Jones, Maxley Hudson, Edgar Willis. In High School: 1st to 2nd year-Olive Story, Ruth Woodville. 2nd to 3rd year-Mamie Dowdy. Landon Dowdy, Lucy Duval, Marie Hansborough, Grethel Harrison, Nae thaniel Stone. 3rd to 4th year-Roberta Walker, e Lavie Hale, Turpin Willis, Alexang der Stone, Lee Mastin, The graduates were: Elizabeth , Lindsay Billingsley, Isabel Virginia . Willis, Lena Maud Humphries, Cloe dius Harris Willis, Harry Gordon n Duval, Robert Maxwell Willis. d.

Graduate of Lignum High School 1911 – sister Florence played the piano – brother Edgar graduated o 8th grade "Fredericksburg (VA) Daily Star" Wednesday 14 Jun 1911 p 2

Virginians On Ship

Washington, D. C., Feb. 7.—According to the passenger list made publie by the War Department tonight the following Virginians are given among those on board the Tuscania:

First Lieutenant Francis B. Hutton, medical corps, Abingdon; Jesse E. Vitch private in medical corps, Ballston.

Private W. S. Miller, Urbana; Private Walter L. Brown, Pera; Private Mat Latham, Heflin; Sergeant G. K. Clover, Hopewell; Private H. L. Vesta, Buena Vista; Private R. M. Willis, Lignum; Corporal H. D. Willis, Rapidan; Private William D. Hammer, Knoll; Private W. A. Hartsook, Rapidan; Private J. W. Holland, Wilmington; Private Charles E. Drep, Mouth of Wilson, and Private Edward Hagar, Spulockville, West Va., all of Twentieth Engineers' Corps.

"Virginian-Pilot" (Norfolk News VA) Friday 8 Feb 1918 p 1

RIKING NEAR H of This Section on Torpedoed Transport. HAVE RELATIONS HERE The realization that war is really at our door has been brought forcibly to us in the sinking of the transport, Tuscania. On this steamer were Maxwell Willis, a son of Mr. E. O. Willis, of Lignum; H. D. Willis, son of Mr. J. S. Willis, of Rapidan, both of whom are relatives of the Willis families of this city. Mat Latham, of Heflin Stafford Co., and W. S. Miller, of Urbanna, were among the other Virginians. The fate of these boys is anxiously awaited by their friends and relatives.

"Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star" Saturday 9 Feb 1918 p 3

AMONG THOSE SAVED

R. M. Willis, H. D. Willis, W. S. Miller, Reported as Survivors of Tuscania.

The list of those saved from the Tuscania contains the names of a number of Virginians, among whom are R. Maxwell Willis, of Lignum, and Howe D. Willis, of Rapidan; William S. Mil-

ler, of Urbanna. Other Virginians reported saved

Frank H. Carroll, Norfolk, Va. Harvey P. Holland, Wakefield, Va. Jesse E. Veitch, Ballston, Va. Houston L. Vest, Buena Vista, Va. William D. Hammer, Knoll, Va. Charles E. Delpmouth, Wilson, Va. John W. Holland, Wilmington, Va. Henry T. Mills, Gorde, Va. S. K. Clover, Hopewell, Va. D. R. Tullingston, Phoebus, Va. Among those who so far have not Among those who so far have not I been reported as being among those

saved are, Mat. Latham, of Stafford, and Winston A. Hartsook, Ravidan.

"Fredericksburg (VA) Daily Star" Monday 11 Feb 1918 p 3

RECEIVES CABLEGRAM

Mr. E. O. Willis, of Lignum, has received a cablegram from his son, R. Maxwell Willis, who was on the Tuscania, saying that he is safe. This welcome news was anxiously awaited by the relatives of Mr. Willis in this city.

"Fredericksburg (VA) Daily Star" Tuesday 12 Feb 1918 p 3

Virginia Boys On Tuscania,

Fredericksburg, Va., Feb. 13.—E. O. Willis, Lignum, Culpeper county, received a cablegram from his son, R. M. Willis, who was on the Tuscania when torpedoed. Howe D. Willis, of Rapidan, son of J. S. Willis, was also among those rescued. The fate of Mac Latham, of Stafford county, who was also on the vessel, is unknown.

"Baltimore Sun" Thursday 14 Feb 1918 p 8

AMERICAN LEGION POST ORGANIZED

Branch at Culpeper Completed— State Now Has Ninety-Seven Branches.

Richmond, July 26.—An American Legion post has been organized at Culpeper, Va., was announced at local headquarters of the department of Virginia. The Culpeper post makes the ninety-seventh American Legion post in Virginia, it was stated.

The charter will be delivered to the newly organized post about Aug. 6, when Bill Crush, former department adjutant, will go to Culpeper for the purpose of installing the officers.

The new post expects to gain a membership of around 150 members, and P. W. Fore was elected post commander at the organization meeting. Other officers of the post who will be installed by Mr. Crush are: R. Maxwell Willis, vice-president: J. Herbert Vaughan, post adjutant: T. W. Hooper, chaplain; F. W. White, finance officer; H. H. Colvin, sergeant-at-arms.

"Roanoke (VA) Times" Monday 27 Jul 1925 p 3

MRS. A. G. WILLIS DIED FRIDAY

Celebrated Her 90th Birthday Last November; Funeral Held Sunday.

Mrs. Sarah Gordon Willis, widow of the late Absolom G. Willis, of Lignum, died Friday, January 4th, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John M. Garnett, near Rapidan, following a brief illness of pneumonia and complications.

Mrs. Willis had celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary on November 2, the occasion being marked by a home-coming for all the family and a large reception at the Garnett home for the relatives and friends, in which she took the keenest interest, and dispensed hospitality in her usual gracious manner.

She is survived by a son, E. O. Willis, of Culpeper, and the following daughters, Mrs. F. P. Robertson, Salem, Va.; Mrs. T. B. Norris, Omaha, Nebraska; Mrs. J. T. Norman, Stevensburg; Mrs. J. M. Garnett, Rapidan; Mrs. H. T. Willis, Hyattsville, Md., and Mrs. George T. Harris, of Madison Heights, also about forty grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Sunday at 11:30 a. m., in the Lael Baptist Chuch, Lignum, conducted by Rev. G. W. Hurt, assisted by Rev. Mr. Keefe, and burial was made in the family section of the historic cemetery surrounding the church. Six grandsons, who gently bore her body to its resting place, were: A. Gordon Willis, R. Maxwell Willis, F. W. Robertson, Edwin Norman, Alfred Garnett and Marion Garnett.

Honorary pallbearers were: J. F. Billingsley, John A. Gordon, G. G. Harris, H. B. Winfrey, James Norman, Luther Brown, John A. Payne and T. B. Jones.

In the large concourse that more than filled the church, representing relatives from Orange, Culpeper and Spotsylvania counties, the following members of the family from a distance were present: Mrs. F. P. Robertson and son, Howard, of Salem; Dr. and Mrs. H. T. Willis and Miss Virginia Willis, of Hyattsville, Md.; Mrs. George T. Harris and Miss Genevieve Harris, of Madison Heights; F. W. Robertson, Huntington; Alfred Garnett, Madison, W. Va.; Marion Garnett, of Oreenwood, and A. W. Robertson, Lexington.—Virginia Star, Culpeper.

Robert is pallbearer for his paternal grandmother – "Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star" Friday 11 Jan 1929 p 1

Officers of Virginia Rotary Presidents and secretaries of the 49 Rotary clubs in the Virginia district are as follows: Abingdon-President, J. Coleman Motley; secretary, J. Gilmore Penn. Alexandria - President, Taylor Burke; secretary, H. E. Cross. Bedford-President, W. P. Phelps; secretary, Joel L. Borden. Blackstone-President, R. Wrigglesworth; secretary, J. R. Jones. Buena Vista-President, Frank L. Thurman; secretary, J. Frank Key. Cape Charles-President, I. J. Burbage; secretary, F. Emmett Topping. Charlottesville - President, Alonzo Rinehart; secretary, Edwin G. Lee. Christiansburg-President, A. M. Showalter; secretary, L. B. Williamson. Covington-Hot Springs-President, Paul Lacy; secretary, T. A. Sterrett, Jr. Culpepper-President, R. Maxwell Willis; secretary, Verne Healy.

"Portsmouth (VA) Star" Sunday 5 May 1929 p 14

Chamber of Commerce At Culpeper Elects

CULPEPER—R. Maxwell Willis, manager of the Merchants Grocery Company and county chairman of the Democratic Party, was chosen president of the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce at the annual meeting held for election of officers. Charles Neal Goldsborough, retiring head of the chamber, was appointed national councilor for the body. Other officers for the coming year are Giles H. Miller Jr. and John S. Thornton, vice-presidents; J. Wayman Johnson, secretary, and Dr. W. Russell Colvin, treasurer. The above, with C. E. Griffith, J. William Swan and Fitz L. White, will compose the board of directors.

Committees, with T. I. Martin as general chairman, were named to arrange for the annual banquet to be held February 15 in the municipal auditorium, when the auxiliary to the fire company will be in charge of the service. The annual membership drive was put on this week.

"Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch" Saturday 22 Jan 1938 p 14

Over 200 At Reunion Of Families Sunday

The sixth annual reunion of the Willis-Gordon-Garnett and Allied Families Association was held Sunday in the large oak grove surrounding the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Maxwell Willis near Culpeper. Several members of the association from here attended.

Dr. H. T. Willis, of Hyattaville, Md., president of the association, presided.

More than 200 members of the clan were present. Maxwell Willis was elected president for the coming year and Turpin Willis was named vice-president. Mrs. Winfrey continues as secretary.

B. P. Willis, of Fredericksurg, read a history of Larkin Willis, of Woodlawn, the father of 21 chilfren whose descendants made up a large part of the assemblage.

"Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star" Wednesday 14 Aug 1940 p 9

Willis Named to Board

CULPEPER, Va., Sept. 13—The School Electoral Board of Culpeper County has appointed R. Maxwell Willis as trustee of the School Board for Catalpa District. He succeeds Fred P. Hudgins, who resigned recently after having held office almost continuously since 1904.

"Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star" Saturday 13 Sep 1941 p 4

Culpeper news of 50 years ago

Among the Culpeper boys recently returned from overseas is Cpl. Robert Maxwell Willis, son of Mr. Edgar Willis, and now with his father at the Merchants Grocery Co. Mr. Willis was with the 20th Engineers of the A.E.F., and served 16 months overseas.

Miss Mary Hart Willis and Miss Anna Lee Willis of Lignum have returned to their homes after a visit with Miss Addie May Johnson, of Parksley, Eastern Shore.

Robert returns from war – his sister Mary Hart Willis – 50 years earlier – "Culpeper (VA) Star-Exponent" Monday 30 Jun 1969 p 3

Wife Bertha Frances Peifer

CULPEPER, Va., Jan. 21.—Miss Agnes Blackwell was this week's guest of Mrs. Byrd Leavell. R. Peifer, of Duboise, Pa., father of Mrs. T. L. Cline and Miss Bertha Peifer, is visiting the former at her home near town.

"Washington (DC) Herald" Sunday 22 Jan 1922 p 13

The engagement of Miss Bertha Peifer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Peifer, of Du Bois, Pa., and Robert Maxwell Willis, of Culpeper is announced. The marriage will take place in the early summer.

"Fredericksburg (VA) Daily Star" Monday 22 May 1922 p 4

Miss Blance Leavell entertained with a reception on Wednesday at her home on East street, in compliment to Miss Bertha Piefer, whose engagement to Robert Maxwell Willis was recently announced.

Bertha's surname misspelled as PIEFER - "Washington (DC) Evening Star" Sunday 28 May 1922 p 22 - https://www.newspapers.com/image/332710107/

Sherwood, the old home of the Willis family, near Lignum, was the scene of a large reception Tuesday, honoring the home-coming of Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Willis, whose marriage on July 26, was a society event of DuBois, Pa. The reception was in the nature of a family gathering, given by the brothers and sisters of the groom, and was attended by more

than a hundred relatives and many close friends.

"Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch" Sunday 6 Aug 1922 p 40

RECEPTION TO BRIDAL COUPLE

"Sherwood," the old home of the Willis family near Lignum, Culpeper county, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Willis, was the scene of a reception Tuesday evening on the home-coming of Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Willis, who were married on July 26 at DuBois, Pa. More than 100 relatives called during the evening, besides many friends of the couple.

"Fredericksburg (VA) Daily Star" Monday 7 Aug 1922 p 1

Wife Mary Alice McNeil:

Mary Alice McNeil Is Wed To R. Maxwell Willis



CULPEPER—Mr. R. Maxwell* Willis, president of the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce, and Miss Mary Alice McNeil of Fishersville, member of the faculty of Culpeper High School, were married yesterday in Richmond. The ceremony took place in Centenary Methodist Church with the pastor, the Rev. J. J. Rives, D. D., officiating, and was attended by a small group of relatives and close friends.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. Henry Peery McNeil of Augusta County. She is a graduate of Madison College, Harrisonburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Willis will make their home in Culpeper after July 1.

"Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch" Saturday 11 Jun 1938 p 13

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Marriage of Robert Maxwell Willis to 2nd wife, Mary Alice McNeil – 10 Jun 1928 Richmond VA - https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-

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MISS MeNEIL WEDS

Of considerable interest in this section and in Culpeper was the wedding that took place Friday in Centenary Methodist Episcopal church, South, Richmond, when Miss Mary Alice McNeil, daughter of Mr. H. Peery McNeil, of Fishersville, became the bride of Mr. Robert Maxwell Willis, of Culpeper.

The Rev. J. Joseph Rives D. D., pastor of the church, officiated, with the families of the young couple and a few close friends attending.

The bride was unattended, and was given in marriage by her father. She looked lovely in a navy sheer ensemble, with accents of white, and blue accessories, and her flowers were a shoulder corsage of gardenias.

Immediately after the marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Willis left by motor for a wedding trip. After June 20 they will be at home in Culpeper, where Mr. Willis is secretary-treasurer of the Merchants' Grocery Co.

Mrs. Willis was educated at the Fishersville high school, and Madison college, where she was a charter member of Kappa Delta Pi, national honor society, and a member of the dramatic and other campus organizations. She also served as vice-president of the student body, and was one of the most prominent and outstanding students of her class. For several years she has taught in the Culpeper high school.

The bridegroom attended Culpeper county schools, and Richmond college. He is president of the Culpeper chamber of commerce, an active member of the Rotary club, and a civic leader in Culpeper.

Marriage of Robert and Mary – "Staunton (VA) Daily News Leader" Saturday 11 Jun 1938 p 3

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ON AND OFF MAIN AND DAVIS

Nostalgic journalese

By MARY STEVENS JONES

at a beautiful party Wednesday, I found myself in a nostalgia mood.

What a shame we can't write descriptive pieces about peoples's tea parties now, as did our Culpeper society editors of yore - Mrs. Raleigh T. Green, Mrs. D. James Coleman, and Mrs. Berkeley G. Calfee - some 40 years ago, I thought. The more I thought, the more the idea grew - and I picked up the phone.

The two hostesses were as cooperative as I hoped they would be. They didn't mind at all having their party in the paper and they gave mea free rein to go overboard and report it in the Coleman-Green-Calfee style, using all the adjectives I chose.

"What if Culpeper has grown so large one cannot possibly entertain all her friends at one party?" they agreed sensibly. "We'll be having other parties, and can entertain other friends later. Go ahead and write it any way you like."

So I am going to tell it like it was. And if I should seem to have drawn the long bow, just chalk it up to nostalgia and make allowances for a bit of exaggeration. It was a fun party, and this is designed to be a fun page out of an old book, where social writers were allowed to turn out purple prose in journalese. Here it is:

Mrs. Robert Maxwell Willis and Mrs. Bruce Goodwin Gorham were co-hostesses at a charming Valentine tea Wednesday at the attractive Willis bungalow on Madison Road. This was the first in a series of parties they have planned.

Approximately fifty ladies blossomed forth, elegantly attired and in spirits to match the

beautiful, sparkling, springlike day. The party CULPEPER - As a social reporter and a guest was a perfect antidote to the mid-winter doldrums

> A big red heart adorned the big front door, and, inside, Mrs. Willis and Mrs. Gorham greeted each guest warmly.

> The entire lower floor was thrown open for the occasion, and the living room was bright and cheerful with an open fire and arrangements of spring flowers. Attracting spoecial attention was a bowl of pink roses, which no one suspected had been bought at a local novelty store, so natural did they look. Fresh hemlock and Chinese holly from the Willis grounds lent a lifelike appearance to the arrangement and prompted many to stoop to smell the roses' frangrance.

> The Valentine motif was carried out in the dining room, where a delicious collation was served. Red carnations and red ribbon streamers formed the centerpiece on the linen and lace tea cloth, and an arrangement of red and white carnations on the sideboard added color and beauty.

Presiding at the silver tea service were Mesdames H.B. Lacy, C.E. Reams, Kenneth Gassman, and J.B. Carpenter Jr., who alternated in pouring. Dainty sandwiches, red and white heart-shaped cakes, and other samples of culinary art for which the hostesses are famous elicited oh's and ah's from the guests, several of whom asked for receipts.

One gentleman caller, who came to drive his "valentine" home, was invited in for refreshments, and this was an excuse to prolong the party. Guests seemed loath to leave, as they gathered in small groups "sipping tea and harmless gossip."

"Culpeper (VA) Star-Exponent" Friday 15 Feb 1974 p 3

Daughter:



Miss Willis Marries Mr. Holden

The marriage of Miss Anne Gordon Willis, daughter of Robert Maxwell Willis, of Culpeper, and the late Mrs. Willis, to John Gregory Holden took place yesterday at 4:30 P. M. in Saint Stephens Episcopal Church, Culpeper. The Rev. David Lewis officiated.

Mr. Holden is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Stephen West Holden, of Petersburg, and the grandson of Mrs. J. H. Claiborne.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of ivory satin and Rosepoint lace. Her fingertip veil fell from a cap of lace. She carried a crescent-shaped bouquet of stephanotis with a white orchid.

Miss Margaret Hart Glenn, of Morattico, was maid of honor. Other attendants were Mrs. Andrew Robeson, of Charlottesville; Mrs. Otto Jaretz, of Fayetteville, N. C.; Mrs. Kavanaugh Thrift, of Richmond; Mrs. P. Winfree Fore, Jr., of Culpeper; Miss Barbara Cline, of Philadelphia.

and Miss Ruth McBryde, of Charlottesville.

West Holden, of Drake's Branch, was his brother's best man. Groomsmen were Herbert Holden, of Petersburg; Otto Jaretz of Fayetteville, N. C.; Anderson Perdue, of Petersburg; William Byrant, of Fairfax; E. Turpin Willis, Jr., and A. Gordon Willis, Jr., of Culpeper.

After a reception at the home of the bride's parents, the couple left for a Northern wedding trip.

Marriage of Anne Gordon Willis – "Richmond (VA) Times Dispatch" Sunday 3 Aug 1952 p 54

ANNE GORDON WILLIS Culpeper

B.A.

English



Anne Gordon Willis, senior, VA State Teachers College 1947 yearbook - https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/154403839:1265

Anne Gordon Willis

in the Virginia, U.S., Birth Records, 1912-2015, Delayed Birth Records, 1721-1920

Name	Anne Gordon Willis
Birth Date	17 Apr 1926
Birth Place	Albemarle, Virginia, USA
Certificate Number	1926013823

https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryuicontent/view/769670:9277?ssrc=pt&tid=18821705&pid=290176780709

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	Clerk of Culpeper County Circuit Court.									
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https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/27589305:9279

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VA death record of Anne Gordon Willis Holden - https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryuicontent/view/4754734:9278

Father:

E. O. Willis, Of Culpeper, Dies at Home

CULPEPER, Jan. 3-Edgar C. a Willis, 88, Culpeper businessman and former president of the Second National Bank, of Cuid peper, died early this morning at his home here The funeral service and buris will be held at Lael Baptis. Church, at Lignum, Fuesday y afternoon. Mr. Willis is survived L by his wife, Mrs. Lelia Spotts s wood Willis and six children by a former marriage, to the late Mrs. Jean Gordon Willis, of Lig-They are Mrs. F. H. White Maxwell, Gordon and Edgai O Willis, Jr., all of Culpeper: Mrs. H. B. Winfrey, of Sperryville and Mrs. Dillard Glenn, of Moratico. Also surviving are four sisters Josephine Robertson Mrs. Salem, mother of Senator A Willis Robertson; Mrs. John M Garnett, of Rapidan: Mrs. J. Norman, of Stevensburg, and Mrs. George T. Harris, of Lynch d burg.

Obituary of father Edgar Oswald Willis Sr. – "Richmond (VA) Times Dispatch" Tuesday 4 Jan 1949 p 6

Mother:

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VA death record of Sarah/Sallie Gordon Willis – claiming she is widowed - https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9278/images/43004_162028006051_0012-00508?pld=129081

Virginia, Select Marriages, 1785-1940 View record Name Sally H. Gordon Gender Female Marital Status Single Race White Age 22 Birth Date 1865 Birth Place Orange Co., VA. Marriage Date 15 Mar 1887 Marriage Place Fredericksburg, Virginia Father John Addison Gordon Mother Mary H. Gordon Spouse Edgar O. Willis FHL Film Number 2048487 Reference ID p14 rn4

https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/18821705/person/290176423887/facts

Stepmother:



Lelia Lewis Spotswood Willis – Find A Grave 61979217

Siblings:



COUNTIES HONORED FOR SUCCESSFUL MEMBERSHIP DRIVES—Leaders from 13 County FB's which exceeded their quotas in the 1950 membership campaign are honored at the Richmond convention. Top photo, President Blalock (right center) congratulates C. L. Carr of the Isle of Wight FB which went over the top by the greatest margin. Representing other Counties successful in the 1950 drive are, left to right, T. T. Curtis, Orange; Reid Settle, Brunswick; V. K. Grizzard, Greensville and R. M. Ritchie, Dinwiddie. Bottom photo, Director of Organization T. P. Painter (right) salutes, left to right, A. Gordon Willis, Orange; George R. Mapp, Jr., Northampton; Francis D. Irving, Cumberland; W. C. Claud, Southampton; J. E. Warren, Mecklenburg and V. A. Etheridge, Princess Anne. Virginia Farm Bureau News, Vol. 10, No. 11, 1 December 1950

Brother Addison Gordon Willis (1887-1964) at far left – Find A Grave 32581857

A. Gordon Willis Dies At Age 76

CULPEPER, Va. (AP) — A. Gordon Willis, former chairman of the Virginia Milk Commission, died Saturday. He was 76. Willis, a dairy farmer, was a past president of the Maryland-Virginia Milk Producers Association. He was president of the Culpeper Farmers Co-operative Inc., secretary-treasurer of the Culpeper Stone Co. Inc., and a deacon in Culpeper Baptist church-

Obituary of Addison Gordon Willis Sr. – "Hanover (PA) Evening Star" Monday 16 Nov 1964 p 16

Culpeper Girl Marries.

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., Dec. -Miss Lucy Herndon Willis, daughter of Mrs. Eugene H. Willis. Lignum, Culpeper County, became the bride of Addison Gordon Willis. of Culpeper County, today, ceremony was performed by Rev. George W. Hurt, of Culpeper. bride was given in marriage by her brother, H. H. Willis, of Culpeper. Mrs. Hansford H. Rowe, of Richsister mond. of the bride. matron of honor. James Garnett nephew of the bride. R. bearer. Maxwell brother of the groom, acted as best man and the ushers were John Gordon. Spotsylvania of Prof. C. H. Willis, Richmond College; Alfred Garnett, University of Virginia, and Dr. C. G. Willis, Huntington, W. Va.

Marriage of Addison Gordon Willis to Lucy Herndon Willis – "Washington (DC) Herald" Sunday 5 Dec 1920 p 2

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VA death record of sister Florence Lee Willis White (1889-1977) – from car accident injuries

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9278/images/43006_162028006054_0352-00159?pld=751379053

APPROACHING MARRIAGE

Mr. E. O. Willis, of Culpeper county, announces the approaching marriage of his daughter, Miss Florence Lee, to Floyd Henshaw White. The wedding will take place on Saturday evening, Feb. 10th, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Maxwell Willis, in Culpeper county.

"Fredericksburg (VA) Daily Star" Saturday 3 Feb 1923 p 1

COPY A	#EGSTRATION CERTIFIC	CATE		STATE FAE	
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VA death record of brother Edgar Oswald Willis Jr. (1896-1977) -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9278/images/43006_162028006073_0189-00148?pld=751910540

The Free-Lance Star - Dec 22, 1977

Edgar Willis dies at 81

Edgar Oswald Willis Jr., a prominent Culpeper businessman, died Thursday in Culpeper, He was 81.

in Culpeper. He was 81.

Mr. Willis was born at the family home at Lignum and was a life-long Culpeper resident. He served on the Culpeper Town Council for 28 years and was co-owner of the former Hopkins-Willis Chevrolet dealership, the first automobile dealership in Culpeper. He was a charter member of the Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department and was a member of the boards of directors of Merchants Grocery and Central Hardware in Culpeper. A veteran of World War I, he was a member of the Culpeper Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Willis was first married to Mary Bowie Martin of Bowling Green, who died in 1945. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Anna Townsend Rawlings Willis; a son, Edgar O. Willis Jr. of Winchester; two daughters, Mrs. David Partington of Richmond and Mrs. John Charles Flynn of Portland, Me.; two sisters, Mrs. H.B. Winfrey and Mrs. Dillard Glenn, both of Woodville; and six grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Culpeper Presbyterian Church with burial in Culpeper Masonic Cemetery.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of contributions to either the Culpeper Volunteer Fire Department or the Culpeper Presbyterian Church building fund.

His body is at Clore Funeral Home in Culpeper.

Obituary of Edgar Oswald Willis Jr. - https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/tree/18821705/person/290176418546/media/c15fa117-1b15-411c-b364-44a76931570f

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Marriage of Edgar Oswald Willis Jr. to 2nd wife, Anna Townsend Penny -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9279/images/43067_162028006052_0717-00021?pld=131056582

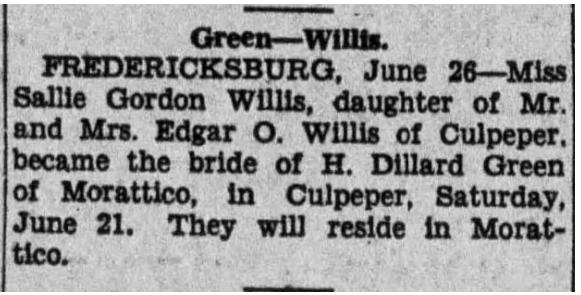


sister Mary Hart Willis Winfrey (1901-1989) - https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/18821705/person/290176418576/facts

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VA death record of sister Mary Hart Willis Winfrey (1901-1989)

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9278/images/43065_172028008877_ 0972-00031?pld=4740487



Marriage of sister Sallie Gordon Willis (1903-1985) to Herbert Dillard Green – "Richmond (VA) Times-Dispatch" Friday 27 Jun 1930 p 32



Sister Josephine Willis (1910-1923) – Find A Grave 61979284

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VA death record of Sallie Gordon Willis Glenn -

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/9278/images/43006_162028001249_0453-00212?pId=751052387

Abbreviations: b = born d = died F: = Find A Grave (www.findagrave.org) NOK = next-of-kin

Name: Robert Maxwell Willis

Name variations:

Military:

On Tuscania: 20th Eng. 16th/Co. D - private

Serial number: 250,440

Entered service from: Lignum, Culpeper VA Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Robert M. Willis

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": father E.O. Willis, Lignum VA

Returned from war on: "Santa Paula" May 1919,

Sailed on return ship as: Robert M. Willis

Next-of-kin on return ship & rank: father Edgar O. Willis, Lignum VA (cpl, 16th Co., 20th Engrs, Forestry)

World War I draft registration (1917): as Robert Maxwell Willis - b. 2 Sep 1894 Lignum VA; res: Lignum, Culpeper VA. Single. Farming & timber business at home, Lignum VA. Medium height & build.

World War II draft registration (1942): as Robert Maxwell Willis - b. 2 Sep 1893 Culpeper VA; res: Culpeper Co. VA. NOK Mrs. Mary McNeil Willis, same address. "scar on left little finger" – Height: 5'8 ½" – 155 lbs.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: 12 Dec 1917 Discharged: 10 Jun 1919 Address: Culpeper VA

Rank/unit: corporal, Infantry, 16th Co., 20th Engineers

Birth & death:

Born: 2 Sep 1893 (WWII draft) or 1894 (WWI draft) Lignum, Culpeper VA (F: Stevensville,

Culpeper VA)

Died: 11 Sep 1966 Culpeper, Culpeper Co. VA

Find A Grave record: 32592524 – presence on Tuscania indicated in text

Burial location: Culpeper, Culpeper VA

Cemetery: Masonic

Tombstone: buried as R. Maxwell Willis

Father: Edgar Oswald Willis Sr., 13 Sep 1860 Culpeper Co. VA – 3 Jan 1949 Culpeper, Culpeper VA. Son of Absalom Graves Willis & Sarah Lee Gordon. Buried in Lael Cemetery,

Lignum, Culpeper VA. Find A Grave: 61979018

Mother: Sallie (Sarah) Hart Gordon Willis, 5 Jul 1864 Indian Town, Orange VA – 14 Jun 1917 Richmond City VA. Daughter of John Addison Gordon & Mary Hart Harris. Buried in Lael

Cemetery, Lignum, Culpeper VA.

Find A Grave: 61979128

Parents' marriage: 15 Mar 1887 Fredericksburg VA Family tree at: https://www.ancestry.com/family-

tree/person/tree/18821705/person/290176423887/facts

Stepmother: Lelia Lewis Spotswood Willis, 23 Sep 1872 VA – 13 Jan 1967 Lignum, Culpeper VA. Daughter of Alexander Dandridge Spotswood & Lucy Harrison Gordon. Descendent of an early lieutenant governor of VA. Buried in Lael Cemetery, Lignum, Culpeper VA.

Stepmother's Find A Grave: 61979217

Stepmother's marriage: 1918

Spouse: Bertha Frances Peifer Willis, 29 Sep 1899 DuBois, Clearfield PA -28 Dec 1934 Culpeper, Culpeper VA. Daughter of Sanford Amadeus Peifer & Mary Martha Welliver. Buried in Masonic Cemetery, Culpeper, Culpeper VA.

Spouse Find A Grave: 32592519

Marriage: 26 Jul 1922 DuBois, Clearfield PA

Spouse: Mary Alice McNeil Willis, 3 Mar 1906 Tazewell Co. VA – 3 Sep 1985 Culpeper, Culpeper VA.

Daughter of Harrvey George Peery McNeil & Ella Octavia Gillespie. Married 10 Jun 1938 Richmond, Arlington VA. He was the son of Edgar O. Willis & Sallie Gordon, 44, widower, wholesale grocery, b. Culpeper Co. VA, res: Culpeper VA - Mary daughter of Harvey G.P. McNeil (maiden name same as current name), age 32, b. Tazewell Co. VA, res: Fishersville VA. Buried with Robert in Masonic Cemetery, Culpeper, Culpeper VA.

Spouse Find A Grave: 32592522

Marriage: 10 Jun 1938 Richmond, Arlington VA>

Children: by Bertha Peifer

 Anne Gordon Willis Holden, 17 Apr 1926 Charlottesville, Albemarle VA – 16 Oct 1989 Petersburg, Petersburg City VA. Wife of John Gregory Holden (4 Jun 1925 VA – 3 Dec 1997 SC), whom Anne, age 26, a teacher, married 2 Aug 1952 in Culpeper Co. VA. – They divorced 16 Mar 1972 in Petersburg VA. - Anne is buried in Masonic Cemetery, Culpeper, Culpeper VA. F: 7030184

Siblings: An additional sibling (besides Jean) died between the 1900 & 1910 censuses.

- Addison Gordon Willis (Sr.), 18 Dec 1887 Fredericksburg VA 14 Nov 1964
 Charlottesville, Albemarle VA. Known as A. Gordon Willis. Husband of Lucy
 Herndon Willis (1889-1966, F: 32581892), whose maiden name was also her
 married surname. Lucy was the daughter of Eugene Harrison Willis & Elizabeth
 (Bettie) Young Hiter. Buried in Masonic Cemetery, Culpeper, Culpeper VA. F:
 32581857
- Florence Lee Willis White, 19 Dec 1889 VA 11 Apr 1977 Charlottesville, Albemarle VA. Wife of Floyd Henshaw White (1892-1963, F: 32592691). Died from receiving multiple fractures & a close head injury in a car accident. Buried in Masonic Cemetery, Culpeper, Culpeper VA. F: 32592967
- Jean Cochran Willis, 16 Aug 1891 Culpeper Co. VA 4 Oct 1904 Culpeper, Culpeper VA. She is buried in Lael Cemetery, Lignum, Culpeper VA. F: 61979537

Notes:

children, 1 is living

- Edgar Oswald Willis Jr., 4 Sep 1896 VA 21 Dec 1977. Married in 1928 to Mary Bowie Martin (1900-1945, F: 32581801), daughter of Arthur Lewis Martin & Sallie B. (Martin) Martin. Married in Fredericksburg VA on 30 Jun 1951 to Anna Townsend Penny Rawlings (1898-1994, F: 178751598). Anna Penny, daughter of Dwight Townsend Penny & Ida Douglas Gordon, had married Edward G. Rawlings (1897-1947) in 1920. Following Edgar Jr.'s death, Anna married Werter Hobson Hurt (1895-1984) in 1979. An automobile dealer. Edgar Jr. is buried in Masonic Cemetery, Culpeper, Culpeper VA. F: 32582420
- Mary Hart Willis Winfred, 18 Feb 1901 VA 18 Jun 1989 Sperryville, Rappahannock VA. Wife of Harris Bolling (H.B.) Winfrey (1897-1969, F: 54914150). Buried in Saint Paul's Episcopal Churchyard, Woodville, Rappahannock VA. F: 54814496
- Sallie Gordon Willis Glenn, 1903 VA 25 Sep 1985 Richmond, Henrico VA. Married 21 Jun 1930 in Culpeper, Culpeper VA to Herbert Willard Glenn (1898-1969, F: 77308947). VA death record listsd her as a postmaster. Buried in St. Mary's Whitechapel Episcopal Churchyard, Lancaster, Lancaster VA. F: 77308950
- Josephine Willis, 19 May 1910 VA 28 Oct 1923. Buried in Lael Cemetery, Lignum, Culpeper VA. F: 61979284

Pre-war:	
Wartime:	
Post-war:	
Obituary:	
Social Security number: 227-09-0417	
Censuses:	
1900 Stevensburg District, Culpeper Co. VA E.O. Willis, 39 VA, Sep 1860, parents b. VA, married 13 years, merchant & farmer Sallie G., 35 VA, Jul 1864, parents b. VA, gave birth to 5 children, 5 are living A.G., 12 VA, Dec 1887 [son Addison Gordon] Florance L., 10 VA, Dec 1889 Jean C., 8 VA, Aug 1891 R. Maxwell, 6 VA, Sep 1893 E.O. Jr., 3 VA, Sep 1896	

& mother-in-law M.H. Gordon, 77 VA, Sep 1822, parents b. VA, widow, gave birth to 2

1910 Stevensburg, Culpeper VA

E.O. Willis, 49 VA, parents b. VA, in 1st marriage, married 23 years, farmer

Sallie G., 45 VA, parents b. VA, in 1st marriage, gave birth to 8 children, 6 are living

Florance L., 20 VA

R.M., 16 VA

O.E. Jr., 13 VA

Mary H., 9 VA

Sallie G., 6 VA

1920 Catalpa, Culpeper VA

Edgar O. Willis, 59 VA, parents b. VA, listed as married, wholesale grocery

Florence, 30 VA

Maxwell, 27 VA, manager, grocery company

Edgar O., Jr., 24 VA, salesman, trading [not clear]

Mary Hart, 19 VA

Sallie Gordon, 16 VA

Josephine, 9 VA

[for the children: both parents b. VA]

1930 Catalpa, Culpeper VA

Maxwell Willis, 36 VA, parents b. VA, age 28 at 1st marriage, manager, wholesale house,

WWI veteran

Bertha P., 30 PA, parents b. PA, age 22 at 1st marriage

Anna G., 4 VA

1940 Catalpa, Culpeper VA – same house in 1935 for Robert & Anna, Mary in rural Culpeper

Co. VA in 1935 – Robert's 1st wife has died

R. Maxwell Willis, 46 VA, manager, wholesale grocery

Mary Mc. Willis, 34 VA [wife]

Anna Gordon Willis, 13 VA [daughter]

1950 Catalpa, Culpeper VA

Robert M. Willis, 5 VA, manager, wholesale grocery

Mary M., 44 VA, clerical, wholesale grocery