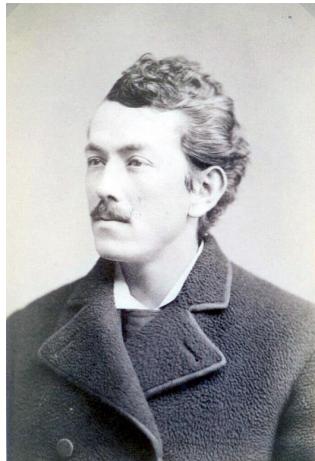
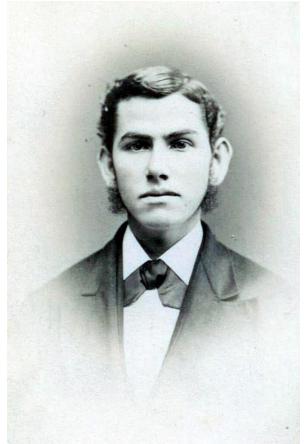


**A Brief History  
of the  
Children of Malachi Parke Mason and Catherine Cassidy**



Franklin P. Mason II

## **Children of Malachi Parke Mason and Catherine Cassidy**

Franklin Pierce Mason II

Malachi Parke Mason and Catherine Cassidy had eight children, all of whom were born in Wilmington, Delaware:

Ellen Kendall Mason, b. 28 June 1848  
Emma Virginia Mason, b. 15 March 1850  
Henry Parke Mason, b. 20 February 1852  
Franklin Pierce Mason, b 12 September 1853  
Delaware Mason, b. 26 July 1856  
William Mason, b. 11 March 1858  
Thomas Mason, b. 11 September 1861  
Isaac Edward Mason, b. 10 August 1864

Very unfortunately, both of their parents died when the children were quite young. Their mother, Catherine Cassidy Mason, died of pneumonia on 16 February 1864 at age 38 years. At the time of Catherine's death, the children ranged in age from Ellen at 15 (almost 16) years of age to Isaac at 5 months. Then, just four years later, on 10 August 1869, their father, Malachi Parke Mason, died of "lung consumption" (tuberculosis) at age 50 years. With the death of their father, the children became orphans. At the time of Malachi's death, the children ranged in age from 21 to 5 years of age.

After the death of their father, the children went to live with members of the family: with their sister, Ellen Kendall Mason Baylis; with their aunt, Tamson Mason Hoffman; and with their uncle, George Washington Mason.

Thus, the children were placed with family members as follows:<sup>1</sup>

Henry Parke (age 17) and Isaac Edward (age 5 years) went to live with their sister, Ellen. William Mason (age 9 years) went to live with his aunt, Tamson. Franklin (age 16 years) and Delaware (age 13 years) went to live with their uncle, Washington.

With such an inauspicious beginning, it might seem that the children would not have fared well in life. But for most, at least, that was not the case.

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<sup>1</sup> Emma Virginia, at age 19 years, went out on her own as a house domestic after her father died in 1869. She married James Knott in 1872. Thomas had died in 1868, before his father died.

**Ellen Kendall Mason** was born on 28 Jun 1848. As was mentioned before, Ellen married Jessie Kendall Baylis on 12 October 1865. [They were fourth cousins once removed, both being descended from Thomas Kendall (d. 1741)] They had four children: Roscoe Frank (b. 1868), Wynard Louis (b. 1870), Catherine K. (b. 1873), and Lester Kent (b. 1878).

Ellen was 21 years old when her father died. She had been married four years before at the age of 17, and she had a child by the time she was 21.

After her father's death, the home of Ellen Kendall Baylis and her husband, Jesse, became the center of life for many of the Mason children. For example, the U.S. Census of 1870 shows that Henry (then age 17) and Isaac (then age 5) were in the Baylis household. And according the 1880 Census, Isaac (then age 16) was still in the Baylis household, now working in a law office. The 1880 Census also shows that Delaware (then age 24 and a carpenter) and William (then age 21 and an apprentice to a kid finisher) had also joined the Baylis household.



Ellen Kendall Mason ca. 1866



Ellen K. Mason Baylis ca. 1908



Jesse K. Baylis ca. 1908

### Notes on Jesse Kendall Baylis

Jesse K. Baylis was a veteran of the Civil War. In July 1864 (before he was married), he joined the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Delaware Infantry as a Private. (The war ended in April 1865.)

Jesse Baylis was the Manager of the Masonic Hall (Grand Opera House) in Wilmington for many years. Following is an excerpt from the *History of the State of Delaware from the Earliest Settlement to the Year 1907*, in three volumes, by Henry C. Conrad, Published by the Author, Wilmington, Delaware 1908, Volume II, pages 424-425:

In 1869 the Masonic Hall Company was chartered with a capital of \$100,000. George G. Lobdell was the first president and John P. Allmond secretary. In 1870 the company purchased a lot on the easterly side of Market Street about midway between Eighth and Ninth streets, running through from Market to King Street and on the lot preparations were made at once to erect a Masonic Temple and opera house. At the time of its erection it was one of the most substantial and imposing buildings in the City of Wilmington. James H. Beggs served as chairman of the building committee and Jesse Sharpe as chairman of the finance committee. Thomas Dixon of Baltimore was the architect. The corner-stone was laid April 20, 1871, and the building was dedicated April 18, 1872. On its completion Wilmington possessed for the first time a thoroughly equipped and up-to-date public hall, suited for all public entertainments and with a stage capacity that afforded every facility for operatic and theatrical performances. The building also contained large and commodious rooms for the accommodation of the Masonic lodges of the City and there were apartments rented for outside purposes. Jesse K. Baylis became manager of the opera house soon after its dedication and has continued almost without interruption until the present time [1907]. He has been an unusually efficient and popular manager.

Jesse K. Baylis was on the Wilmington City Council for at least one term, beginning in 1895. He was a member of the Knights Templar, St. John's Commandery and several other service organizations.

Jesse K. Baylis owned his own home in 1920.

Ellen Mason Baylis died in 1923. Both she and her husband are buried in Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery in Wilmington.

**Emma Virginia Mason** was born on 15 Mar 1850. She was 19 years old when her father died. In the 1870 U.S. Census, she is shown as living with a family as a "house domestic" in Wilmington.

Emma V. Mason married James Knott in 1872. She was 22 years of age, and he was 28 years old. They had three children: Harry Parke (b. 1875), Mary V. (b. 1878), and James Edward (b. 1888).

In the 1900 U.S. Census, James Knott is listed as a clerk in a grocery store.

James Knott died on 13 June 1919, after which Emma went, first, to live with her son, Harry, and, later, with her son James.

Emma Mason Knott died on 7 January 1930. She and her husband are both buried in Silverbrook Cemetery in Wilmington.



Emma Virginia Mason ca. 1866



Emma V. Mason with her  
husband James Knott ca. 1900

**Henry Parke Mason** was born 20 Feb 1852. He was 17 years of age when his father died. The 1870 Census shows that he was living with his sister Ellen Baylis at that time and was employed as an apprentice cabinet maker.

Henry Parke Mason married Frances E. Walker in about 1878. He was about 26 years of age, and she was about 24. They had four children: George Latimer (b. 1886), Henry W. (b. 1889), Alice K. (b. 1891), and Katherine Kendall (b. 1892). (Frances Walker Mason had a total of nine children, only four of whom were living in 1910.)

Henry P. Mason was a carpenter for over 40 years.

Henry P. Mason owned his own home in 1920.

Henry Parke Mason died in 1930 in Wilmington. Both Henry and his wife are buried in Mount Salem Cemetery in Wilmington.



Henry Parke Mason ca. 1870

**Franklin Pierce Mason** was born 12 Sep 1853. He was 15 years of age when his father died. There does not appear to be a U.S. Census record for Franklin P. Mason for the 1870 census. However, according to the Wilmington, Delaware City Directory for 1875, Franklin lived with his uncle, George Washington Mason at that time. Franklin was still living with his uncle in 1880; therefore, it seems safe to assume that Franklin lived with his uncle from the time of his father's death in 1869 until his marriage in 1882.

On April 30, 1871, (when he was 17 years of age), Franklin P. Mason was confirmed as a member of the Calvary Church (Episcopalian) of Wilmington.

As was mentioned before, Washington Mason was a carpenter and a builder. As such, he apprenticed his nephews, Franklin and Delaware (see below), as carpenters.



Franklin Pierce Mason ca. 1872

Franklin Pierce Mason married Ann Elizabeth Hildreth in 1882. They were both 28 years of age. They had four children: Helen Otley (b. 1883), Willard Cassidy (b. 1885), Miriam Jean (b. 1887), and Gertrude Hildreth (b. 1889).

Franklin P. Mason was a carpenter for over 30 years. (In addition, he was listed as a Pattern Maker in the 1891 Wilmington City Directory working for the P. & J. Co., for whom he also worked as a carpenter.)

In 1895, Franklin P. Mason moved from Wilmington to Brooklyn, New York to join his father-in-law, James Hildreth, in the manufacture of varnish and paint. In 1900, Franklin P. Mason was listed as a Varnish Maker living in Brooklyn. (However, in the 1901 Brooklyn City Directory, he was listed as a carpenter. Therefore, he must have continued in that trade for a while after joining the Hildreth Varnish Company.)

Franklin's beloved wife, Ann Hildreth Mason, died in June 1923. Shortly before Ann died, Franklin and Ann moved from Brooklyn to Queens, where they bought a house. Franklin lived in that house with his daughter Gertrude until his death in 1928.

Both Franklin P. Mason and his wife are buried in Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery in Wilmington.



Franklin Pierce Mason ca. 1882



Franklin Pierce Mason and Ann Elizabeth Hildreth Mason ca. 1898

**Delaware Mason** was born 26 Jul 1856. He was almost 13 years of age when his father died, at which time Delaware went to live with his uncle Washington Mason. As was mentioned before, Delaware (and his brother Franklin) apprenticed with his uncle as a carpenter.

In 1875, the Wilmington City Directory shows that Delaware, at age 19, was living on his own, working as a carpenter, but just a few doors away from his brother Henry.

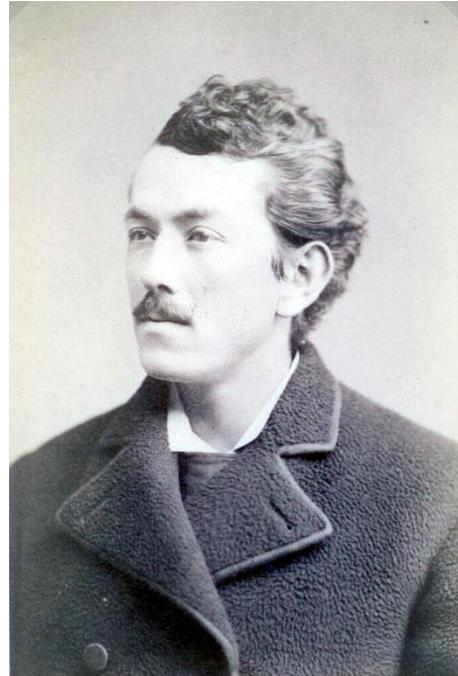
Then, in 1880 Delaware was living with his sister, Ellen Baylis (US Census).

Delaware Mason married Catherine Anne Gibson on 13 October 1881. They were both 25 years of age. They had four children: Roscoe (b. 1883), Harvey Henderson (b. 1885), Joseph Kendall (b. 1888), and Mildred I. (b. 1894).

Delaware was a carpenter all of his working life, more than 55 years.

Delaware Mason owned his own home in 1920.

Delaware died in 1937. Both Delaware and his wife are buried in Mount Salem Cemetery in Wilmington.



Delaware Mason ca. 1874



Delaware Mason with his wife and daughter  
ca. 1920

**William Mason** was born 11 Mar 1859. He was 9 years of age when his father died. After his father died, William went to live with his aunt, Tamson Mason Hoffman, and her husband, Joseph Hoffman, in Philadelphia (1870 U.S. Census).

When he was perhaps 18 years old, William moved back to Wilmington, where, in 1880 at age 21, he was living with his sister, Ellen Mason Baylis, and her family (1880 U.S. Census). In 1880, William was an apprentice to a kid goat leather finisher. At age 22, William began to work for the Pennsylvania Railroad as an engineman (engineer), a position he held for 43 years.

William Mason married Gulie Elma Smoot in 1882. He was 23 years of age, and she was 20 years old. They had one child: David Woolman (b. 1884).

William Mason was a member of Washington Lodge, No. 1 A F and F M; Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, No. 342; and Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, No. 231

William Mason owned his own home in 1920

William Mason died in 1932. He and his wife are both buried in Silverbrook Cemetery in Wilmington.

**Thomas Mason** was born on 11 September 1861. He died 02 Apr 1868 at age 7 years of “enteric fever” (typhoid fever). He died after his mother died but before his father died. He is buried with his mother in Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery in Wilmington.

**Isaac Edward Mason** was born 10 Aug 1864. He was just 5 years old when his father died. When his father died, Isaac Edward (Edward) went to live with his sister, Ellen Mason Baylis, and her husband and family. Edward was still with the Baylis household at age 16 in 1880 at which time the U.S. Census states: “works in a law office”.

Edward Mason married Emily E. Ogden in 1893 in Cook County, Illinois. He was 29 years of age and she was 37 years old. Apparently, she had been married before, because her son, Albert Ogden [Mason], was born in 1883.

Edward moved to Indianapolis, Indiana some time before 1910.

Edward Mason was an artist. For example, he did the illustrations for Christmas cards.

Edward Mason owned his own home in 1920.

Isaac Edward Mason died in 1922. He and his wife are both buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana.



William Mason ca. 1877



Isaac Edward Mason ca. 1882



Isaac Edward Mason *ca.* 1906