

The Mason Family and Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery

Compiled and Written by Franklin P. Mason II, Fall 2020

Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery was founded in 1843 by Samuel Wollaston. It is one of Delaware's first nonsectarian cemeteries.

There are many members of the Mason family (and allied families) buried in Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery.

Franklin P. Mason II will be the sixth generation of Masons, in direct line, to be buried at Wilmington & Brandywine Cemetery: Abiah Parke Mason, Malachi Parke Mason, Franklin Pierce Mason I, Willard Cassidy Mason, Willard Franklin Mason, and Franklin Pierce Mason II. Each of these direct line Masons is indicated by an asterisk, below.

The first member of the Mason family to be buried in the cemetery was Ann Kendall Mason who was buried there in 1851, just eight years after the cemetery was founded. The second member of the Mason family to be buried there was her husband, Abiah Parke Mason*, who died in 1852.

Abiah and Ann are buried in Section V (5), Lot Number 13. Three of their sons—Isaac, Washington, and Malachi—are also buried in that Lot.

- Abiah Parke Mason* (1782-1852)
- Ann Kendall Mason (1784-1851)
- Isaac Mason (1809-1864)
- George Washington Mason (1817-1882)
- Rebecca Slack Mason (1817-1903)
- Mary Elizabeth Mason (1844-1863)
- Taylor E. Mason (1849-1851)
- Alonzo P. Mason (1851-1852)
- Malachi Parke Mason* (1819-1869)
- Catherine Cassidy Mason (1827-1865)
- Thomas Mason (1861-1868)

The second group of Masons to be buried in Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery was headed by Franklin Pierce Mason I* and his wife, Ann Elizabeth Hildreth Mason and by James Hildreth, Sr. and his wife Ellen Otley Hildreth. These people are buried in Section 25, Lot Numbers 33 and 35

There are three generations of Masons buried (or memorialized) in these plots.

- Franklin Pierce Mason I* (1853-1928)
- Ann Elizabeth Hildreth Mason (1854-1923)
- Willard Cassidy Mason* (1885-1933)
- Miriam Jean Mason (1887-1897)
- Gertrude Hildreth Mason (1889-1971)
- Willard Franklin Mason* (1916-1996) *In Memory*

And there are two generations of Hildreths buried in these plots.

- James Hildreth, Sr. (1826-1903)
- Ellen Otley Hildreth (1819-1910)
- Mary Jane Hildreth (1850-1860)
- James Hildreth, Jr. (1855-1907)

Adjacent to the Mason/Hildreth plots is the burial site for George Otley Hildreth (son of James Hildreth, Sr.) and his family in Section 25, Lot Numbers 35 and 37.

The third group of Masons in Wilmington and Brandywine Cemetery is headed by Franklin Pierce Mason II* and his wife, Christina Lois Potter Mason. The plots available to these people are in Section 25, Lot Numbers 17 and 18.

No burials have occurred in these plots as of this writing. However, grave markers are in place for Franklin Pierce Mason II* (1942-) and his wife, Christina Potter Mason (1956-). In addition, there are *In Memory* markers for Willard Leckie Mason (1938-1948), David Irvine Mason (1947-1990), and James Hildreth Mason (1952-). There is also an *In Memory* marker for Agnes Leckie Mason (1914-1994), wife of Willard Franklin Mason*.

Other burial sites for Masons and allied families:

Ellen Mason Baylis (daughter of Malachi Parke Mason) and her husband, Jesse Baylis.

John Tenney Mason (great grandson of Isaac Mason) and his wife, Katherine Miller.