

JOHN R. WILSON, a prominent, active and successful lawyer and a well-known and able Democratic leader of Indiana county, is a son of William and Letitia (McAdoo) Wilson, and was born in Centre township, Indiana county, Pennsylvania, June 24, 1841. William Wilson was a son of John Wilson, of a well-to-do and respected Wilson family of Ireland, from which he emigrated in 1828 to Indiana county, where he settled in Centre township and was engaged in farming until 1883, when he died. He was a prosperous farmer and a well-respected citizen. From 1828 to 1854 he affiliated with the whigs, but in the latter year he joined the Democratic party and steadfastly held to its principles until his death. His wife was Letitia McAdoo, who was born in Ireland and came with her parents, James and Catherine McAdoo, to Washington county, this State.

John R. Wilson was reared on his father's farm in centre township. He received his education in the academies of the county, and while pursuing his academic course he followed teaching during the winter seasons in the common or district schools. Having after consideration made choice of law as life vocation; he began the study of this chosen profession in 1866 with the Hon. H. W. Wier, of Indiana, and was admitted, in October 1868, to practice law in the courts of Indiana county. After being admitted to the bar he located at Cherry Tree, this county, where he practiced up to January, 1870, when he removed to Indiana and has continued in the active practice of his profession there ever since. In 1873 he was appointed a commissioner of the Circuit Court of the United States for the western district of Pennsylvania and has held and satisfactorily discharged the duties of that office up to the present time. He enjoys a large practice in Indiana.

In 1876 he united in marriage with Mary E. Patton, a daughter of Hon. John D. Patton, of Indiana. Their union has been blessed with three children, two sons and one daughter; Max, Alice May and John D.

In July, 1863 upon the invasion of Pennsylvania by the Army of Northern Virginia, Mr. Wilson enlisted for a three months; term of service in Co. C, 57th regiment, Pa. State troops; but the regiment was never called into active service. John R. Wilson is a democrat in politics and takes a warm interest in the success of his party, in which he is a persistent worker and prominent leader. For the past five years he had not taken such an active part in politics as heretofore, yet when occasion requires he is always found in the front rank of the political struggle, manfully battling for the principles and the cause of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Democracy. Specially fitted and well qualified for political leadership, he is naturally looked to by his party in emergencies and has always served in such times with tact and ability.