

Ahab George Wilkinson

(22 Feb 1834 – 30 Apr 1922)

Wilkinson. Sunday, April 30, 1922, A. George, beloved husband of Lue Burnam Wilkinson. Services at his late residence, 1526 K st. n.w., Wednesday, May 3, at 3 p.m. Friends invited. Kindly omit flowers. Interment private.

The Evening Star, May 2, 1922

Dr. A. George Wilkinson, 58 Years In Office, Dead Was Long in Active Service in Patent Office and Recognized Dean of Corps



Dr. A. GEORGE WILKINSON.

Dr. A. George Wilkinson, for fifty-eight years a member of the examining corps of the patent office, died at his residence, 1526 K street, Sunday evening. He had remained in the active service of the patent office until a month ago, and had long been known as dean of the corps, both in total length of service and in length of service as a principal examiner.

Dr. Wilkinson was born in Willimantic, Conn., February 22, 1834. He graduated from Yale University in the class of 1856, which also included ex-Senator Depew, the late Justices Brewer and Brown of the United States Supreme Court and other distinguished men, and was a member of Scroll and Key and of Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity. He received the degree of A.M. from Yale in 1859 and honorary A.M. from Columbian College the same year. From the latter institution (now George Washington University) he received in 1878 the honorary degree of Ph.D.

After graduating from Yale he studied in France and Germany, and in 1861 was appointed assistant professor of ancient languages and literatures at the State University of Missouri, at Columbia, Mo. In 1864, the university being closed on account of the civil war, he accepted an appointment in the United States patent office.

During the greater part of his service at the patent office Dr. Wilkinson had special charge of patents relating to dentistry and to artificial limbs and was recognized as an expert in these lines. During and since the recent war he gave particular attention to artificial legs and other appliances for the rehabilitation of our wounded soldiers, and was frequently called into consultation at Walter Reed Hospital and with other government officers in regard to this work.

Dr. Wilkinson was internationally known in patent work. At the Paris expositions of 1878, 1889 and 1900 he served as a member of the international jury of awards, and also in 1889 presided over the fourth section of the Paris International Patent Congress. In 1893 he was one of the patent office examiners chosen to have charge of the exhibit of that branch of the government at the world fair at Chicago. He was one of the secretaries of the international patent conference held in Washington, D.C., during May and June 1911.

Dr. Wilkinson joined the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church of Washington, in 1857, and retained his membership there during the rest of his life, ever active in the discharge of the church duties. January 26, 1865, he married Lue Burnam Wilson of Columbia, Mo., who survives him. He also leaves three children: Mrs. Howard L. Hodgkins and Miss Lucille W. Wilkinson of Washington and George L. Wilkinson of Chicago; six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock from his late residence, 1526 K street. Rev. Dr. Wallace Radcliffe and Rev. Dr. Henry Allen Tupper will officiate. Dr. Wilkinson's grandsons,

Howard Wilkinson Hodgkins, George Wilson Hodgkins and Lawrence Wilkinson, and two of his associates in the patent office, Herbert Wright and William Hutchinson, will serve as pallbearers.

The Evening Star, July 1, 1914, p. 14

Employee of U.S. For Fifty Years

A.G. Wilkinson Patent Office Examiner, Honored by Fellow-Workers

The completion of fifty years in the government service was celebrated this morning at his desk in the patent office under a bower of roses by A.G. Wilkinson, a principal examiner in the office and dean of the examining corps. July 1, 1864, he entered the government service in the patent office as an examiner. During the day today Mr. Wilkinson was the object of many congratulations on the part of employes of the bureau, and when he arrived at his office his desk was covered with roses. Commissioner Thomas L. Ewing of the bureau of patents sent a large bouquet and the employes of Mr. Wilkinson's division gave him a bouquet of fifty roses.

Entering the patent office by appointment of the then Commissioner Holoway in 1864, Mr. Wilkinson was promoted to be principal examiner in the office four years later. At that time there were only six principal examiners, but Mr. Wilkinson has seen the work in the office increase until now there are forty-three principal examiners, each in charge of a special line of inventions. He is now head of division 20, which looks after patents in surgical instruments, builders' hardware, including locks and latches. He has also given much attention to the subject of dentistry.

Was Once a Professor

Prof. Wilkinson, as he is called by virtue of his having occupied, before he entered the patent office, the chair of modern languages in the University of Missouri, says that when he first entered the government employ the patent office had not been completed, although he was assigned an office in the south wing, which was near completion, the north wing not having been completed. Washington, at the time, he continued, was nothing more than mud puddles, and there were practically no fine public buildings to attract visitors or paved streets to encourage pedestrians.

The dean of the examining corps came from a family of inventors. One of his ancestors, Jephtha A. Wilkinson, was an inventor of the rotary cylindrical printing press. It was in interference with Hoe's patent, and in the final decision, according to Mr. Wilkinson, Hoe won. Jephtha returned to England and began manufacturing the presses there. Israel Wilkinson invented and used the first machine for making screws and also was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Another direct ancestor, Oziel Wilkinson, in company with his son-in-law Samuel Slater, built and operated the first machinery in this country for manufacturing cotton cloth. He also made nail machines and with them the first cut nails manufactured in this country.

David Wilkinson invented the sliding lathe for turning iron and brass, and the United States Congress gave him \$10,000 when the machine was adopted for government shops.

His Activities Abroad

The activities of Prof. Wilkinson in patent office work have been many and varied, and whenever the office needed someone to deal with foreign powers in patent matters he was usually selected. In 1878, 1889 and 1900 Prof. Wilkinson served as a member of the international jury of awards at the Paris expositions of those dates. He also presided over the fourth section of the Paris International Patent Congress of 1889.

When the representatives of many foreign powers came to this city in 1911 to draw up a patent convention for the exchange of patent rights among foreign powers, Prof. Wilkinson was selected to act as its secretary.