

Maurice Percy Wrightstone (1880 – 1941)

Maurice Percy (Morris) Wrightstone was the 8th child born on February 17th 1880 to Michael Wrightstone and Eliza Jane Kline in the Siddonsburg area of Monaghan Township located in York County Pennsylvania. ¹

During the early 1900s Maurice lived with his parents, and his brothers and sister; Edwin, Irwin, and Ida on an Upper Allen Township Cumberland County farm. On April 1st 1900 Maurice Wrightstone visited his brother Ira, who at the time lived about five miles away with his parents near Shiremanstown in Hampton Township Cumberland County Pennsylvania. ²

There is one photograph of a young person, standing behind his plow and team of horses. On the back of the photograph is a stamp; “M.P. Wrightstone, Photographer.” It is not clear who the person in the photo is. It probably is not Maurice or his father Michael, but one of his brothers who was a farmer. The photo was in with the Edwin Wrightstone photo collection, who was the only brother who would become a farmer. The photo appears to be 1900-1905. ³

Maurice lived with his parents until he moved to Illinois. By 1910 Maurice lived in Taylorville City, Taylorville Township Christian County Illinois. While there he worked for the Cornell Supply Company. While in Taylorville, when he was 32 years old, Maurice married 26 year old Luelle Pearl Nelms on November 21st 1912. ⁴ Pearl was born September 22nd 1886 in Owaneco Illinois to Doctor John W. Nelms and Charlotte E. Yockey. ⁵

Maurice and Pearl moved to McCook Nebraska red Willow County Nebraska in 1914, where he opened the Wrightstone Plumbing and Heating Company, located on Main Street McCook Nebraska. Maurice was in Hastings Nebraska in 1915. “...On Monday August 16th 1915 Miss Lena Benner, of Hastings and Faye Deines of this city were married at the Congregational parsonage, Rev. Lewis Heib officiating. The groom has been employed in the Wrightstone plumbing shop in this city for some time past, and has made many friends with whom. The Republican joins in wishing the happy couple a long and prosperous life...” ⁶

By 1918 Maurice and Pearl lived at 707 2nd Street McCook, Willow Grove Township, Red Willow Nebraska. By 1920 Maurice owned a plumbing shop in McCook, about 100 miles east of Hastings, where his wife, Pearl was a bookkeeper. Living with them at 153 2nd street west McCook, was Pearl’s mother, Charlotte E. Yockey-Nelms.

In 1929 Morris’s plumbing shop was the cause of a bad fire that destroyed a grocery store above the shop, and a FW Woolworth building. ⁷ The building was owned by Morris, and it was insured, and they rebuilt the building.

Maurice and Pearl were active members within their community. In his lifetime, Maurice had been a photographer, dry goods salesman, and plumber. He eventually owned and operated a plumbing business in McCook Nebraska.

Maurice died April 13th 1941 in the McCook area of Red Willow County, Nebraska. ⁸ Pearl died in December 31st 1972 while living in McCook of Red Willow County Nebraska. Pearl bequeathed an Arts Building to the Northern Plains Community College located in McCook Nebraska; Wrightstone Fine Arts Building, which was opened for classes in the spring of 1976. Pearl also bequeathed a wing be built on to the Hillcrest Nursing Home. ⁹ Both Maurice and Pearl were laid to rest at Memorial Park Cemetery McCook Nebraska. Maurice and Pearl had no children.

Bibliography

1. 1880 Maurice Wrightstone Census: Monaghan, York, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1205; Family History Film: 1255205; Page: 200A; Enumeration District: 2; Tenth Census of the United States, 1880; (NARA microfilm publication T9, 1,454 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
2. 1900 Maurice Wrightstone Census: Upper Allen, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: T623_1401; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 29. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census; Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900; T623, 1854 rolls.
3. 1910 Maurice Wrightstone Census: Taylorville Ward 2, Christian, Illinois; Roll: T624_235; Page: 11A; Enumeration District: 0030; Image: 142; FHL Number: 1374248. Original data: Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910 (NARA microfilm publication T624, 1,178 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
4. 1918 Maurice Percy WWI Draft Registration: WWI Draft Registration Card, Serial Number 1266, Order Number 330, September 12th 1918, Red Willow, Registration Location: Red Willow County, Nebraska; Roll: 1711767; Draft Board: 0. Original data: United States, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration; M1509, 4,582 rolls.
5. 1920 Maurice Wrightstone Census: Willow Grove, Red Willow, Nebraska; Roll: T625_1000; Page: 8A; Enumeration District: 196; Image: 437. Original data: Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920; (NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29; National Archives, Washington, D.C.
6. 1930 Maurice Wrightstone Census: McCook, Red Willow, Nebraska; Roll: 1290; Page: 6B; Enumeration District: 19; Image: 455.0. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census; Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930; Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1930; T626, 2,667 rolls.
7. 1940 Percy Wrightstone census: McCook, Red Willow, Nebraska; Roll: T627_2261; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 73-20; United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1940. T627, 4,643 rolls.
8. Pearl Wrightstone Social Security Index: Issue State: Nebraska; Issue Date: 1962; Social Security Death Index, Provo, UT, USA; Original data: Social Security Administration. Social Security Death Index, Master File; Social Security Administration.

End Notes

¹ Maurice Wrightstone Name and Birth Date: Michael and Eliza Wrightstone Family Bible, Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: Translated Out Of The Original Greek; And With The Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised; New York” American Bible Society, Instituted In The Year MDCCCXVL, 1867; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

² Ira Visiting His Brother William: Ira was referred to twice; 1st Ira’s wife was referred to as Mrs. Alvin Wrightstone, and 2nd Ira was referred to as as D. A. Wrightstone, which is an error. There are no 1st names starting with “D: in the entire Wrightstone Line. Given the circumstances of the article, it could only be Ira the paper is referring too; Page 4, The Patriot News, Harrisburg Pennsylvania, Thursday February 12th 1920; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

³ Maurice Percy Photographer: Photograph MPW_(01A).jpg and MPW_(01B).jpg; Taylor ~ Graham Library, The Wrightstone Photo History, 479 County Line Road, York Springs, Pennsylvania 17372.

⁴ Maurice Wrightstone Marriage: Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M01209-4; System Origin: Illinois-ODM; GS Film Number: 986723; Illinois Marriages, 1815-1935, index, FamilySearch; <https://familysearch.org>; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

⁵ Pearl Wrightstone Birth and Family Details: Pearl Wrightstone Obituary, McCook Nebraska; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.

⁶ Miss Lena Benner, of Hastings and Faye Deines Marriages: Friday August 20th 1915, McCook Republican News, Nebraska State Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 5608, Lincoln, NE 68505.

⁷ Maurice Wrightstone Plumbing Shop Fire: Monday, April 1st 1929 and Tuesday, April 29th 1929, The Lincoln Evening Journal, Evening State Journal, Daily News Publication, April 2, 1929, Lincoln Nebraska, Museum of the High Plains Historical Society, 413 Norris Avenue, McCook, Nebraska, 69001.

⁸ Maurice Wrightstone Death and Family Details: Estate Records, Maurice P. Wrightstone, Case No. 2722, Book 3, Page 322, Date of filing 1941, McCook County Archives, McCook County Nebraska; Pearl Wrightstone Obituary, McCook Daily; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372. Gazette, April 16th 1941; Museum of the High Plains Historical Society, 413 Norris Avenue, McCook, Nebraska 69001.

⁹ Pearl Wrightstone Death and Family Details: Estate Records, Pearl Wrightstone, Case No. 5514, Book 58, Page 1; Fee Book: Book 8, Page 114, Date filing Jan 5th 1973 McCook County Archives, McCook County Nebraska. Pearl Wrightstone Obituary, McCook Daily Gazette, January 3rd 1973; Taylor ~ Graham Library, 479 County Line Road, York Springs PA, 17372.