

= Herbert Charles Wilson =

Herbert Charles Wilson ( December 7 , 1859 ? December 17 , 1909 ) was a Canadian politician and physician . He served as mayor of the Town of Edmonton and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the North @-@ West Territories .

Wilson was born in 1859 in what would become the province of Ontario . The son of a manufacturer , Wilson 's family had extensive business interests in the area of Picton , Ontario . Wilson studied medicine and moved to Edmonton in 1882 , one of the first physicians to settle there . He was appointed to official medical positions and , for several years , owned a drugstore in town . He served as a consultant to First Nations reserves near Edmonton and also became a director of many local corporations . He was elected to the Territorial council in 1885 , and soon became its speaker . During his speakership , he helped to change the council 's rules and procedures . He left territorial politics after six years , citing health reasons . He maintained a medical practice in town for many years , and went to considerable efforts to keep up with the latest practices .

Wilson interested himself in civic activities in Edmonton , and eventually ran for mayor , winning election in 1895 . He left office after less than two years in a dispute over town funds . He attempted a comeback in 1904 , but was defeated in a run for the town council . He married in 1886 , and had a son and two daughters . He died in 1909 ; an industrial park in the city is named for him .

= = Early life and education = =

Wilson was born in Picton , Canada West ( now Ontario ) , the only son of Charles Stewart ( c . 1827 ? October 28 , 1900 ) and Eliza Maria ( née Biggar ) ( c . 1832 ? 1867 ) Wilson . His father was a well @-@ known manufacturer of carriages and sailing ships and a leading banker in his hometown . Additionally , he served as a councillor and mayor of Picton , and was a good friend of Prime Minister John A. Macdonald . Wilson 's mother was a daughter of Charles Biggar , who , like Wilson 's paternal grandfather , Stewart Charles Wilson , was of United Empire Loyalist descent . One of Wilson 's uncles , James Lyons Biggar , was Member of Parliament for Northumberland East , Ontario . Wilson 's mother died in February 1867 when he was seven years old . His father later rewed , marrying Louisa Maria Colley ; they had a daughter , born in about 1870 . The Wilson family was of Irish descent .

After attending public high schools in Picton , Wilson went on to study at the Upper Canada College , before graduating from the Ontario College of Pharmacy on February 7 , 1878 . He went on to attend Trinity Medical School in 1878 and achieved Bachelor of Medicine and Doctorate of Medicine degrees in 1882 and 1883 respectively .

= = Early career = =

Wilson moved west to the town of Edmonton in the North @-@ West Territories in 1882 and , shortly after arriving , became active in the local community . He was elected as Director of the Edmonton Literary Club in October 1882 and , in 1883 , became a member of a Methodist church committee . He also served as president of the Edmonton Cricket Club , Edmonton Curling Club , Edmonton Gas and Oil Company and as director of the Edmonton Building and Investment Company .

Wilson registered as a medical practitioner in the North @-@ West Territories in 1886 and again in 1906 when the province of Alberta entered Confederation . As one of the first physicians in Edmonton , Wilson opened the first drug store , next to his office and served as a medical consultant to nearby First Nations reserves in addition to serving as the official police surgeon for the North @-@ West Mounted Police district of Edmonton from 1886 to 1887 , a coroner for Edmonton and the North @-@ West Territories and an examiner for numerous insurance companies .

Pressed for time by his recent marriage to Emily Lee earlier in the year , an increase in practice due to the town 's rapid population growth and his increasing political roles , Wilson sold his drug store in 1886 to a town alderman , Philip Daly . He then partnered with Herman McInnes in practice .

= = Politics = =

Wilson entered territorial politics when he submitted a bid for a seat as an elected representative for the Edmonton district on the Territorial Council . He was elected on September 15 , 1885 , at the age of 25 , defeating his opponent , Frank Oliver , by 120 votes to 111 to become the youngest member of the council .

In 1886 , Wilson , along with William Dell Perley and James Hamilton Ross , was part of a delegation sent to Ottawa by the North @-@ West Territories to deliver a council @-@ agreed reply to the Speech from the throne . He remained on the council until its abolition in 1888 , when he was elected to the first Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories , along with his onetime opponent , Frank Oliver .

= = = Speaker of the Legislative Assembly = = =

Wilson was nominated by Hugh Cayley , a member of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories from Calgary , for speaker of the Assembly prior to the opening of the first session , on October 31 , 1888 . It was commonly assumed that James H. Ross would be the first speaker , but Wilson 's name was mentioned for the position and it was decided to hold a vote . After the first three ballots ended in ties , Ross called upon his supporters to vote for Wilson , who was then elected unanimously .

In 1888 , Lieutenant Governor Joseph Royal presented Wilson with a petition against the controversial election of Hillyard Mitchell , member for Batoche , over opponent George L. Fisher . Wilson presented the petition , as well as a verbal message from Lieutenant Governor Royal , initiating a discussion of proper procedures of receiving petitions in the Assembly . The petition was subsequently read , and sent to the Committee on Privileges and Elections . The Committee ruled in its report that the petitioners did not follow correct procedures , and Mitchell 's victory was affirmed . On November 30 , 1888 , Wilson hosted a dinner for members and other guests in a hotel in Regina , the " first of the kind in the history of the North @-@ West Legislative Assembly " .

As Speaker , Wilson also helped revise the rules and forms of proceedings of the Legislative Assembly , and served on the Standing Committee on Standing Orders and Library . In 1891 , Wilson left territorial politics after 6 years , citing health reasons . He was succeeded as speaker by James H. Ross .

= = Post @-@ territorial politics = =

Wilson returned to Edmonton after his retirement as speaker and continued to be an active community member . He served as President of the Edmonton Liberal Conservative Association in 1892 , and of the Upper Canada Boys ' Association in Edmonton in 1909 , the North Alberta Medical Society , and the Alberta Medical Association in 1907 . He was also a member of many community organizations ? the Edmonton Old Timers ' Association , Council of the College Physicians and Surgeons of the North @-@ West Territories , Edmonton Electric Lighting and Power Company ( presently EPCOR ) and a patron of both the Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan Rifle Associations .

Wilson spent a year in Europe with his wife and took post @-@ graduate education in Edinburgh and London . In 1894 , along with 5 other physicians , he sent a letter to Vital @-@ Justin Grandin to support the building of a general hospital by the Grey Nuns , which was opened on December 15 of the next year . He served on the medical board , until his resignation in 1899 over a disagreement regarding patient admission . He was appointed Justice of Peace of Edmonton in 1895 .

= = = Mayor of Edmonton = = =

In the 1895 municipal election , Wilson was elected mayor of Edmonton , defeating John Alexander McDougall . Important issues in the election included choosing a site for the building of the High

Level Bridge , securing funds for a hospital , and lowering high insurance rates .

Wilson was acclaimed mayor in 1896 , but resigned in October the same year due to a dispute over town funds , stating " I regret very much that this simple affair has assumed such a disgraceful form [ and ] had to be fought out in the manner " . He attempted a comeback in 1904 as he ran for alderman for the newly formed City of Edmonton , but he was defeated , finishing fourteenth of seventeen candidates .

= = Personal life = =

In Toronto , on September 15 , 1886 , he married Emily Charlotte Lee in a traditional ceremony at St. Peter 's Anglican Church . Emily Wilson owned a piano , one of the first in Edmonton , and it was used at various dances , an activity the couple enjoyed . The Wilsons were friends of many notable early leading Canadian figures , such as Father Albert Lacombe , Charles Tupper , and Amédée Forget .

The Wilsons had a son , Charles Arthur ( born 1887 ) , and two daughters , Violet Henrietta ( born 1890 ) and Marjorie ( born 1894 ) . Charles like his father attended Upper Canada College , and became a law student at an Edmonton @-@ based law firm . Charles Wilson Jr served in the 49th Battalion , and was killed in action at the Battle of Sanctuary Wood in 1916 . Violet served overseas with the St. John 's Ambulance Brigade as a voluntary aid worker . She later worked as an immigration officer , broadcaster , and author . The couple 's younger daughter , Marjorie , was a nurse .

= = Death and legacy = =

Wilson died in Edmonton on December 17 , 1909 , at the age of 50 , following a stroke . He had a history of health problems , including a neurological disorder . His partner in medical practice , Herman McInnes , attended him in his final illness . Wilson 's funeral , which was held on December 19 , had a procession that " extended for half a mile [ and comprised ] nearly one @-@ hundred vehicles " . He was buried at the Edmonton Cemetery . In 1947 , following the death of his wife , Emily , she was buried next to him .

After his death , a newspaper stated that Wilson was " in the best sense of the phrase , a great practitioner of the old school , he was not in any sense an ' old fogey ' of a doctor , rather , he made it a practice to visit eastern hospitals at frequent [ sic ] to keep in touch with medical progress " . He was also described as " an active , public @-@ spirited citizen " of which " kindness and geniality were outstanding qualities in his nature " .

Wilson Industrial Park in Edmonton was named in his honor in 1975 .