

# Getting to Know Charles Wilcox

NH CITIZEN ARCHIVISTS INITIATIVE·THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2016 12 Reads

Many of our newly formed team of Citizen Archivists are transcribing the personal letters of Civil War soldier Charles W. Wilcox. It was suggested that we share some facts about him now that we're getting to know him so well. Here are some of the things that the Historical Society has learned about our friend Charles (if anyone cares to add to this note, comment below and we'll update this message).

1832 January 31st- Charles' parents get married in New Hampshire, probably near Hanover. Erastus Wilcox and his bride Electa B. Brown are about 28 years old. He is from Connecticut and she is from Hanover, NH.



Farmer Erastus Wilcox (1804-1872)

1833- Charles' big brother Stephen Parker Wilcox is born in Brookfield, VT.

1836 June 26- Charles Wilbur Wilcox is born in Brookfield, Vermont.

1839- Little sister Mary Elizabeth Wilcox is born. Charles is 3 yrs old at the time.

1848- Little brother Henry Irving (or Alba) Wilcox is born when Charles is 12 yrs old.

1850s- the family is farming in Brookfield, VT. Stephen Parker spends some time teaching in Wisconsin and Connecticut but returns home to the farm to help out the family after Charles Wilbur enlists in the army.

1860 Fall- Charles Wilbur Wilcox moves to Keene, New Hampshire, where he has found work as a jeweler for Fred W. Cobb.

1861 May- after participating in a large rally at Central Square in Keene, Charles hopes to enlist in the army. Unfortunately for him, his employer Fred Cobb enlists leaving Wilcox in charge of the jewelry store.

1862 August- Cobb may have returned to Keene to take over the business again as he is mustered out of the army (now a 1st Lieutenant) on August 31, 1862. This same month, Charles Wilcox meets up with a close friend Henry Sprague at Central Square in Keene and they decide to enlist in Captain Babbitt's Company I of the 9th New Hampshire Regiment. Henry Sprague, of Winchester, NH, is 22 years old and working as a clerk at the Eagle Hotel in Keene.

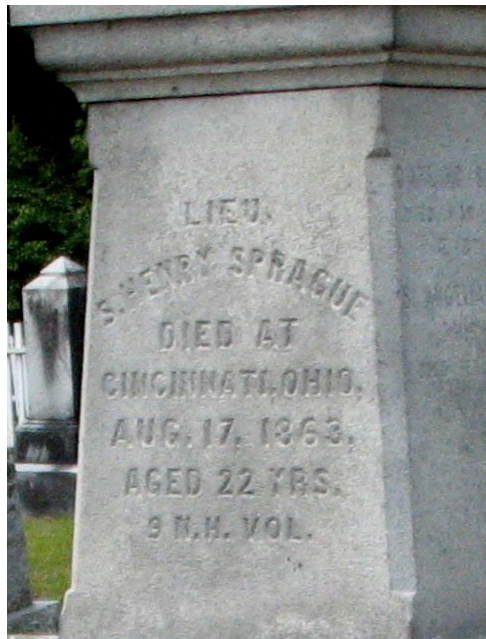


Charles Wilbur Wilcox as a young man



LIEUT. S. HENRY SPRAGUE, Co. F.

1862-1863- Charles nearly dies of the black measles during his first winter with the army.



Gravestone of Henry Sprague- Winchester, NH

1863 Summer- friend Henry Sprague contracts malaria and Charles Wilcox cares for him until his death on August 18, 1863.

1864- by early 1864 Charles is promoted to 2nd Lieutenant and begins writing in a diary (now transcribed and will be uploaded to Keene State Commons soon)

1864 May 12- Charles Wilcox is captured as a prisoner of war during the Battle of the Wilderness. He remains a POW until March 1, 1865, nearly 10 months. His diary ends at this point.

1868- Charles marries Ann M. Clark in Brookfield, Vermont. He is now 32 years old. They quickly move to Milford, Massachusetts where he becomes a jeweler.

1870- Charles' sister Mary Elizabeth dies at the age of 31.

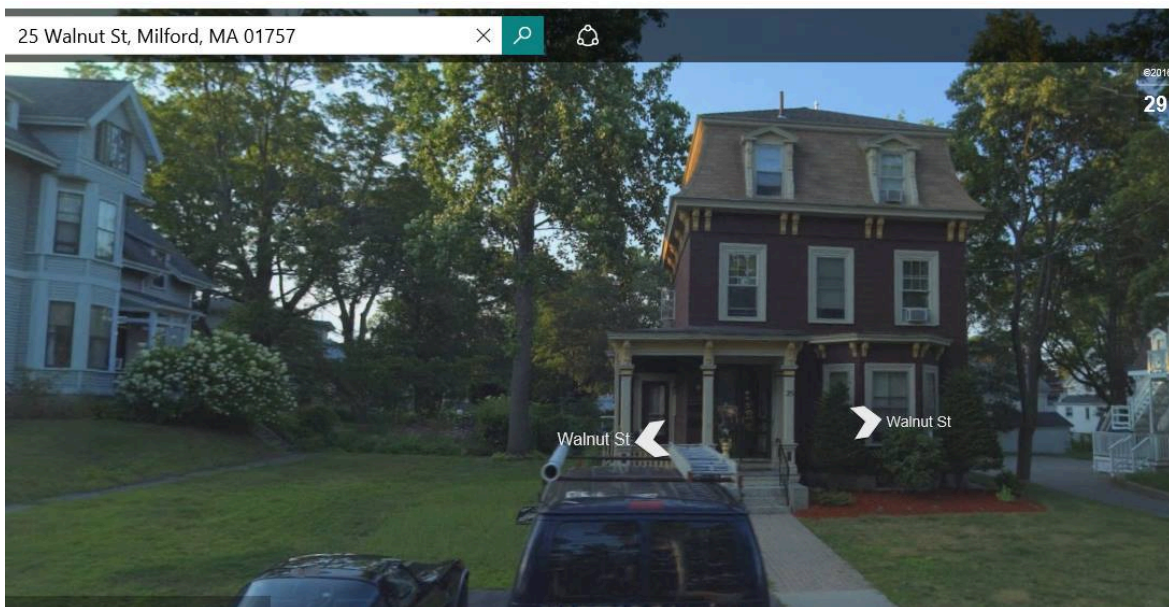
1872 November- Charles' father Erastus dies in Brookfield, VT, at the age of 68. Charles is 36 years old.

1877 April- Charles' brother Henry dies in Massachusetts at the age of 29. Charles is 40 years old.

1877 May 8- Charles and Ann Wilcox have their first child in Milford, Massachusetts, a son named Clark Henry.

1889 April 7- Charles' mother Electa dies in Milford, Massachusetts at the age of 87. Charles is 52 years old.

1900 June 27- Charles' wife Ann dies in Milford, Massachusetts, at the age of 57. They had been



2016 Google Search for 25 Walnut St, Milford, MA, where Charles Wilcox lived in 1900 according to census.

married for 32 years. She died the day after his birthday.

1901 October 31- Charles marries second wife Minette Honyland Barrows in Milford, MA. She is 32 years old. He is 65 years old.

1913 September 23- Charles Wilbur Wilcox dies in Chelsea, Massachusetts at the age of 77. He is buried in Brookfield, VT.