

Mindwell Crampton Wilson

Delphi, Carroll County

November 17, 1882 – June 26, 1979

Mindwell Josephine Crampton Wilson was born in Delphi, November seventeenth of 1882 to Colonel and Mrs. A.B. Crampton, and was married to Henry B. Wilson in Delphi whose passing occurred May nineteenth of 1966. Her very full life consisted of a residence in Ontario, Canada, only to return to Delphi in 1909 to assume ownership of the Delphi Citizen-Times (later Delphi Citizen.), which was sold in 1927. Her column entitled “At the Mail Box” was just one of her distinguishing works while involved in journalism here in Delphi. Her columns were partly newsy and also of an historical nature which informed their readers about historical matters in a conversational tone which related to the common person (my words).

Other attributes of service to County and Country were as State Regent of the Indiana Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and president of the Women’s Press Club of Indiana. Her journalism skills were utilized as editor of the State Magazine for the American Association of University Women and for several years was secretary of her 1903 Purdue University graduating class. She also was a correspondent for the *Indianapolis News* with a regular weekly D.A.R. feature and Delphi news for several years. She was a charter member of Tri Kappa Sorority in Delphi, Charles Carroll Chapter of the DAR, and the Make Merry Class of the Delphi United Methodist Church (which was across the street from her residence.) and the Phi Beta Phi sorority.

Her residence, which today is affectionately known as “The Brick” in preservationist circles, was occupied by the Wilsons in 1917, having been purchased from the Reverend Samuel Seawright, noted Presbyterian Pastor... Mrs. Wilson utilized her clout in Democratic Party circles to host many nationally important officials in this dwelling, including President Woodrow Wilson; Nellie Taylor Ross, the first female Governor and first female Director of the U.S. Mint; and – the most notable of them all – Franklin Delano Roosevelt, during his campaign for the Vice-Presidency. According to reputable accounts, Roosevelt took a light lunch in their home prior to attending a party rally, which was at the Delphi City Park.

Mindwell Crampton Wilson passed away on June 26, 1979, in Delphi, Indiana.

This profile was provided to ICW by Mark Smith, Carroll County Historian.

For more information about Mindwell Crampton Wilson, go to:
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/63394141/mindwell-josephine-wilson>

References will be published at the end of Women’s History Month.

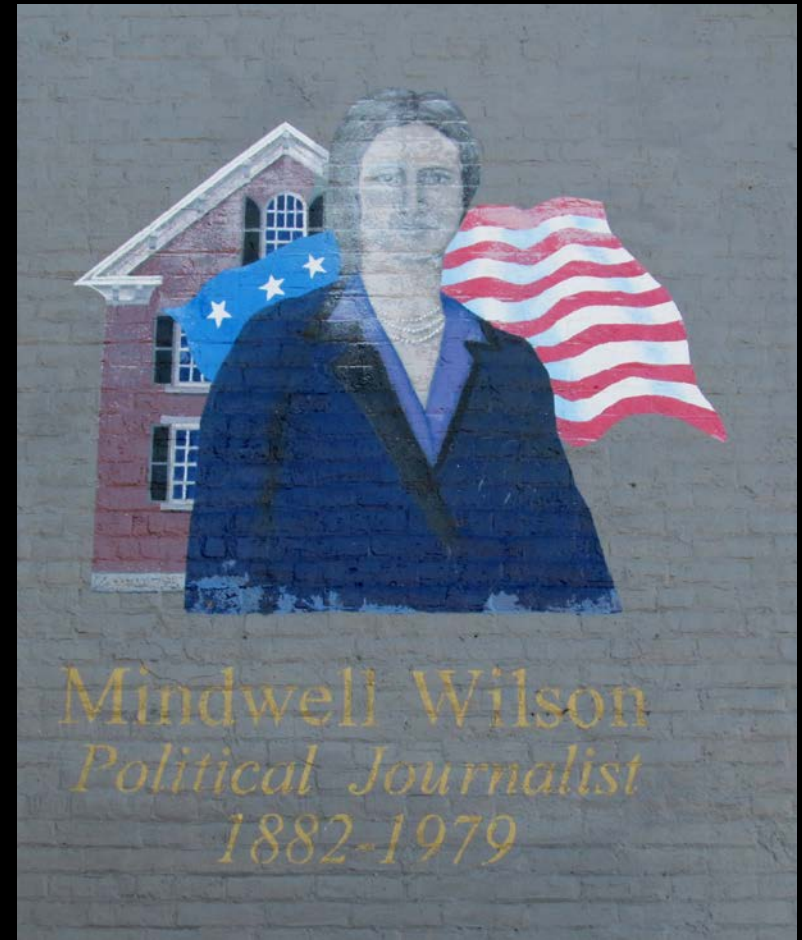


Photo Courtesy: Mark Smith (photo can be seen as part of a mural on the corner of East Franklin and Washington in Delphi, Indiana.)

