

**MRS. MARY WARREN**

Author—Jessie W. Scott  
Waupun

Another woman of strong personality, was Mrs. Mary Warren of Fox Lake. Having the qualities of leadership, she had the gift of drawing people together and interesting them in good works.

She did a great deal for the temperance movement, going about speaking to the settlers in school houses and homes.

**ELLA WHEELER WILCOX**

Author—M. P. Wheeler, Co. "G", 29th  
Wisconsin Volunteers

**THE WAY OF THE WORLD**

(Ella Wheeler Wilcox)

Contributed by the Waterloo Chapter

Laugh and the world laughs with you;  
Weep and you weep alone,  
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,  
But has troubles enough of its own;  
Sing, and the hills will answer,  
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,  
But shrink from voicing care.

Rejoice and men will seek you,  
Grieve, and they turn and go,  
They want full measure of all your pleasure,  
But they do not need your woe;  
Be glad and your friends are many,  
Be sad, and you lose them all;  
There are none to decline your nestar'd wine  
But you must drink life's gall.

Feast, and your halls are crowded,  
Fast, and the world goes by,  
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,  
But no man can help you die!  
There is no room in the halls of pleasure,  
For a large and lordly train,  
But only one by one we must all file on,  
Through the narrow isles of pain.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox was born November 5, 1850, in the village of Johnstown, Rock County, Wisconsin, (not in Johnstown Center as sometimes stated.) Her parents were Marcus H. Wheeler, and Sarah Pratt Wheeler, with three older children they had followed, "Grandsir Pratt" from Vermont in 1849.

In the spring of 1852 the Wheeler family settled in Dane County, Wisconsin and in 1853 were at home on Section 2, town of Westport, where Ella grew up, in the home where she made her reputation as a writer of appealing poetry, until her marriage in 1884, when she went to Connecticut; from which state her Grandfather Wheeler had migrated to Vermont years before.

Her education was acquired in a district school, now named Ella Wheeler Wilcox School, except one short term at Wisconsin University, which was as she saw it a "waste of time."

Riding horseback, dancing, visiting girl friends, dreaming great dreams and being kind, was better than trying to master mathematics, of which she had a "holy horror."

Recently the old Wheeler home was accidently burned.

With a Great Grandfather Pratt seven years in the Revolutionary War, and his wife Elizabeth Currier of French blood; a Grandmother named Connor; a Mother, who, like most of her aunts and cousins, was addicted to the habit of composing verses, Ella had the inherited tendency; a regular family study of Shakespeare, Byron, Burns and modern poets all year round, 1849-50 doubtless added a prenatal influence, which formed the character of her ambition.

Our mother inherited a poetic strain, a talent for versification. I recall several rhyming parodies, sarcastic verses and sentimental compositions or additions to songs of those days. One sang was of a lovelorn girl, who constantly asked "Are we almost there." She was returning home after a fruitless search for health. As

the song was written, it ended thus: "The quick pulse stopped! She was almost there!" It lacked a few lines when sung to a certain tune and mother added these: "And they laid her where the flowers would spring, which oft she had sought in their early bloom; where wild birds carol and sweetly sing, a requiem o'er her lowly tomb." . . . These lines were quite as metrical, quiet as poetical as the song itself.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox wrote verses which appealed to the public and never one verse strained or ungrammatical, as she states in her memoirs, her first check paid for a dress to wear to a wedding, in March 1869. Her financial returns were not of importance until after 1880, though she was known and loved by thousands of readers. She wrote for the same reason that a bird sings. It was what she was made for. Her marriage was a love match, 1884. The death of Mr. Wilcox overwhelmed her, until satisfied that she had received messages from him. Then she resumed literary work, and other activities; including war work in France up to Armistice Day.

A malignant growth in one breast caused her death, October 30, 1919, at her home in Short Beach, Conn.

"The art of being kind" was her religion, and she lived it every day of her life.

In the years between 1865 and 1875, a strong prohibition wave was sweeping over Wisconsin. Good Temper Lodges became numerous. T. D. Kanouse was our strong man with S. D. Hastings, H. W. Giles, Thurlow Brown and Emma Brown all in the work. A lodge met in the Plackett school house, five miles west of us, and the Wheelers were among the charter members. Many of Ella Wheeler's earlier verses were in support of total abstinence and in opposition to booze, its makers, and its venders. Fifty-six of these were published in a volume entitled "Drops of Water." Her volume entitled "Shells" contained 119 poems—more than 175 poems and the author not 23 years old. It is surprising that in no one of those early poems have I ever noticed a crudity of

composition, disregard of rythme, or straining for rythme. With her to the making of books there was no end, until she collapsed. It is doubtful if anyone knows the names of all her published poems. They were a great multitude and everyone found ardent admirers—and critics. The world is better because Ella Wheeler Wilcox lived.

This biography was written by the brother of Ella Wheeler Wilcox, M. P. Wheeler, Company "G," 29th Wisconsin Volunteers, Windsor, Wisconsin.

MRS. MARY BAKER CAMERON

Author—Lillian H. Van Auken  
LaCrosse

Mary Baker Cameron came to La Crosse in the year of 1857, a bride of a year, having been married on February 21, 1856 to Angus Cameron at Urbana, Steuben County, N. Y., and they both entered heart and soul into the activities of this rapidly growing village. She came of Revolutionary stock, her father, William Baker, was the son of Judge Samuel Baker, a soldier, who served with distinction in the Revolutionary War and who settled in Urbana in 1790. Her mother was of Dutch descent and a cousin of President Martin Van Buren. Her Colonial ancestor who entitled her to become a Colonial Dame was Thomas Topping, who was a member of the first council of the first governor of the colony of New York and was an assistant of the General Court of Connecticut in 1678 and 1684. She belonged to the Colonial Dames of New York and was made the first Vice-President of the Colonial Dames of Wisconsin.

Mr. Cameron attended the Wesley Academy at Lima, N. Y., also the Genesee Academy. He was admitted to the Bar in Buffalo and practised law in Rochester, N. Y., thus he was fully prepared for the honors which the State of Wisconsin bestowed upon him and which were graciously shared by Mrs. Cameron. Mr.