

# F AIRVIEW CEMETERY • BROWNSTOWN, INDIANA

## Dr. Joseph A. Stilwell

Occupant Name: Dr. Joseph A. Stilwell

Location: Section C

Date of Birth: 4/11/1831

Date of Death: 5/30/1894

Date of Burial: 1894

Veteran: Yes- Civil War

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:



### DEATH OF DR. STILWELL.

Dr. Joseph A. Stilwell was born in Brownstown township, near Pleasant Grove, April 11th, 1831, died at his home in Brownstown, May 30th, 1894, aged 63 years, 1 month and 19 days.

He was the second son of Charles Wesley and Hannah Stilwell; honest, industrious and intellectual people who emigrated to this county early in its history. He had three sisters and two brothers, namely: Elizabeth B., who married Nelson Durland and resides at Seymour. Margaret L., who married A. C. Milligan, and lives now in Greensburg, Kansas. James B., who lives near the depot and is respected by a wide circle of friends. Rachael R. now dead and Charles W. who died in the army.

Wesley Stilwell educated his children in the common schools of his day as best he could. Joseph early in life exhibited a taste for professional life and accordingly studied medicine in his youth under Creede Wilson, near Medora, he then took a regular course of study at a Louisville Medical and Surgical school graduating in 1853. For awhile he practiced with Dr. Wilson in the western part of the county, later he practiced at Tampico. 1850 he commenced practicing in Brownstown, where excepting his war service he has been in constant practice since.

On Nov. 11th, 1860, he was married to Julia Worth, in Brownstown, and five children were born to bless the home established by them, namely: Walter D., (now dead) Maria, Kate, Worth, (now dead) and Anna.

Soon after his marriage he attended a series of medical lectures in Philadelphia. At the breaking out of the war in 1861, he entered the service under Col. Hendricks and served till the close of the war as a surgeon. He soon rose to the rank of chief surgeon of his regiment and went with Sherman on his celebrated "march to the sea."

He was never an office seeker but was appointed assistant secretary of the Indiana Senate at one time, and was also an assistant clerk in the body that framed our present state constitution.

He was for several years a member of the Brownstown Board of Education and took an active interest in educational things.

As a physician and surgeon he had no peer in this part of Indiana, his reputation being par excellence.

For many years he was an honored member of the masonic fraternity and took a deep interest always in its teachings and principles.

In his death, Brownstown and vicinity, the medical profession, the society to which he belonged and his esteemed family have all lost a most valuable friend. Intellectually and physically, he was an example for men.

He was always a close student and was very widely read and deeply learned. Upon any subject he could talk intelligently and never seemed to enjoy himself more than when in conversation with learned company.

His bearing and demeanor was always dignified and kind. He was firm in all his convictions and never wavered. His reputation for honesty was never questioned, and professional secrets of which one in his profession are sure to collect many were always held sacred and inviolate.

No more careful or indulgent father could be desired, and his home has always been noted for discipline, obedience and love. To those remaining in that home, his place can never be filled.

Their sorrow not alone, however, for a more general expression of regret was never current on our streets than when the word was spread that the golden cord was severed. The funeral services were conducted at the residence and around the grave, Friday afternoon, by the Masonic fraternity and Rev. Fletcher and Elder Jones.

The funeral cortege was the largest seen in Brownstown for years, evidence of his esteem.

In sadness, we consigned his body to the grave to await the resurrection morn.