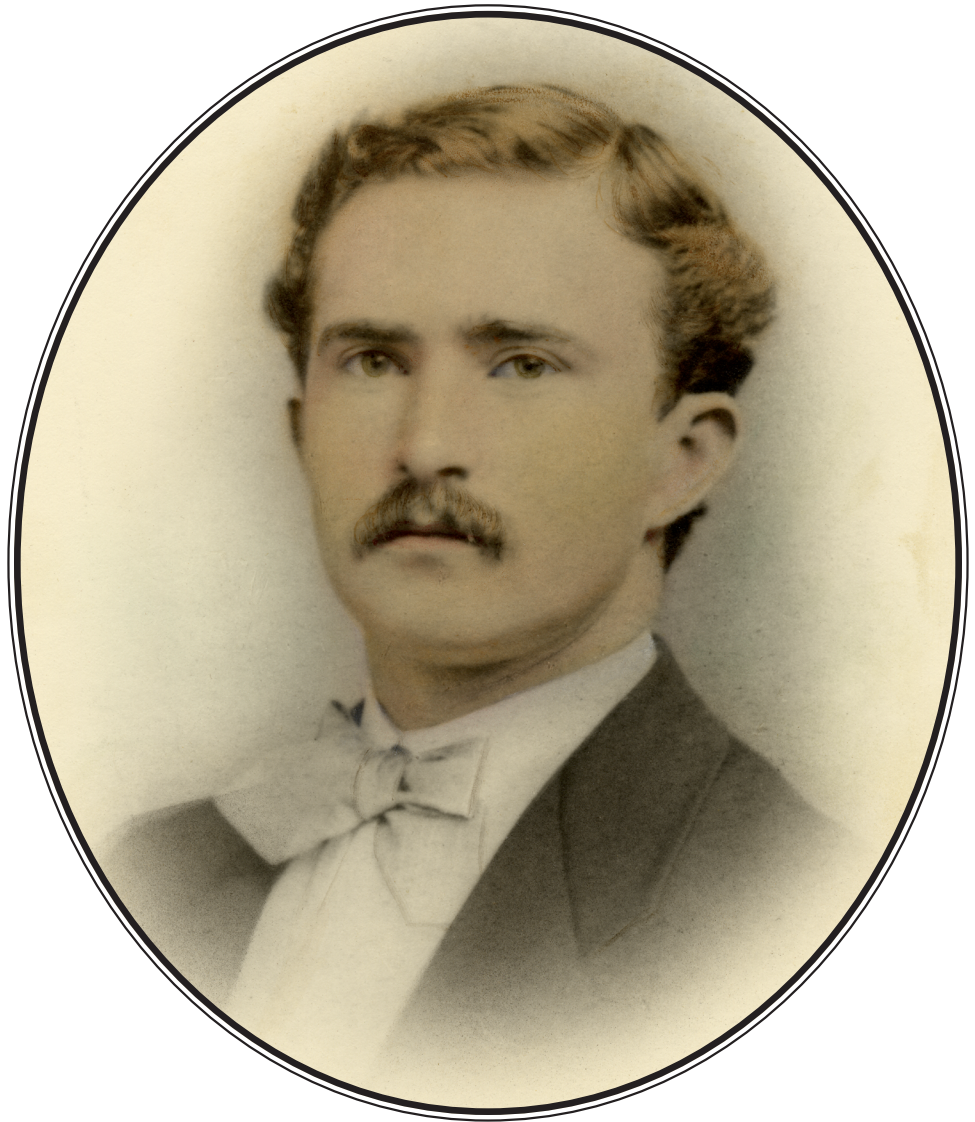


# John Chamberlain Wilson

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**T**he oldest son of Thomas Chamberlain Wilson and Mary Anne Joyce was born in October 1847 in Washington, D.C. He had a brother, Matthew (b. 1850) and a sister, Margaret (b.1855). His father was a carpenter and builder born in Baltimore in 1822. His mother was born in Ireland in 1819 and came to America when she was two years old. John always considered himself Irish even though his father was not. His father was



*With an unidentified buddy at the Jersey shore*

successful enough to have a household with two servant girls according to the 1870 census. John was a student at Georgetown University during the civil war and was in the audience at Ford's Theater the night Lincoln was assassinated in April 1865. He worked as an attorney and trust officer for a bank. He managed his own investments well enough to retire at 40 and travel in Europe for 20 years.

In 1907 at the age of 60 he married Charlotte Chaffee Gibson, whom he had met at the Jersey shore in 1890 when she was 14. She was 31 when he proposed to her on the condition that she come to Europe to marry him, and they were married in London at St. George's in Bloomsbury. In 1909 they returned to the US. Charlotte was pregnant, and they did not want to risk having a son born in France where he would be subject to conscription. They lived briefly in Atlantic City at 128 St. Charles Place (as in the Monopoly Game) where their only child, Elizabeth, was born in 1909. In 1910 the Wilsons moved to Washington, D.C., and settled into the house at 2615 Woodley Place where they spent the rest of their lives.

John's sister Margaret lived with them in Washington, occupying the third floor of the house until she died. She was never married and never worked. John had encouraged her to travel, but she disliked traveling. Elizabeth learned to play bridge when she was seven so that she could be the fourth with her parents and "Auntie."

John had been educated by Jesuits and was appalled that his daughter was not learning Latin in the third grade, so he decided to tutor

*Charlotte and John in Atlantic City during their courtship*







John's mother, Mary Anne Joyce Wilson

*Margaret Wilson in Nice in 1907: On the back of the photo she writes: "I send you a snap that was taken in the garden of the Imperial. It is pretty good except the sun was in my eyes and made me frown."*



John and Elizabeth

her at home instead of sending her to school. Elizabeth and her mother protested, but he would not be dissuaded. He taught Elizabeth Latin and math, but left the other subjects to Charlotte. After the 8th grade he allowed Elizabeth to go to public school again.

John Wilson's last legal work was a suit against the City of New York on behalf of the stockholders for one of the subway systems when the city was refusing to let them raise fares. The subway and its stockholders (including Mr. Wilson) lost a bundle. He died of "old age" December 22, 1930, at the age of 83.