

Thomas H. and Isabel Durbin Wellington

by Stephanie Clayton

In 1831, the Thomas H. Wellington family moved to Nelson County, Ky., to a home on the west side of what is now Louisville Rd. (31E), about 3.3 miles north of Bardstown. Some of the initial property purchased became part of the Sisters of Charity's Nazareth Farm at Nazareth, Ky. According to Sarah B. Smith's book, *Historic Nelson County, Its Town and People*, the building on the property was originally referred to as the Waterloo Inn. She reported that its original size of 18 rooms is now reduced to about 6 rooms. Smith claimed that the original building was thought to have been built circa 1790. Also according to Smith's book, a Mr. Wellington sold it to W. G. Young for \$4,000.¹

Thomas H. Wellington does not appear in the tax index book in the Genealogy Room until 1840. It is known he was here, at least by 1832 when his daughter, Mary Aloysia Catherine Wellington was baptized at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bardstown.²

The following is a compilation of research, put together in one document, to be added to the Wellington and Durbin family files in the Genealogy Room of Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Ky.

Sources are named and cited in the footnotes. The search began with a review of Dolores and Danny Bohn's Baptisms and the copies of clips from The Catholic Advocate, digitized by Ellen Smith, already found in the digital family file of Wellington. These are all available in the Genealogy Room digital collection.

Isabel Durbin Wellington

The Isabel Durbin Wellington memorial on Find A Grave includes a copy of the first page of a 19 page deposition, added by researcher Bobbi Dant Tucker. This deposition was made by Isabel Wellington in the Nelson County Circuit Court stating that her deceased husband, Thomas Wellington, did not leave a will. She named her 7 living children and their spouses.³ She did not name the ten deceased children, but information on their names can be found in various other places such as in the federal census records. The 1860 Federal Census for Nelson County shows that after Thomas's death in January 1860, the family continued to live in the same location with their son, Vitus as head of household. Isabel, Thomas's widow, lived with her son as did her children, daughter in law, and grandchildren, Ella, age 19, Sallie Bell, age 3, Isadore, age 26, Catherine, age 19, and Isabel, age 10.⁴

The baptism records compiled by Dolores and Danny Bohn, specifically their Nelson County White Baptisms section, showed several Wellingtons as being baptized with details found,

¹ Sarah B. Smith, *Historic Nelson County, Its Town and People*, p.309 Publ. by GBA/Delmar, 1983, Bardstown, Ky.

² Dolores and Danny Bohn, *Nelson County White Baptisms*. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library in Bardstown, Ky.

³ Bobbi Dant Tucker, Memorial ID [120531383](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/120531383) www.findagrave.com.

⁴ Nelson County, Kentucky 1860 Federal Census, p189, Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, Inc., 2008.

including the baptism of Mary Aloysia Catherine Wellington, born 11 Feb 1832, baptized 30 Apr 1832 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church⁵, and who died at age 7 in 1839.⁶ She was the first of their children baptized in Nelson County.

Isabel's death record states that Isabel Wellington, widow, born Madison County, Ky., female, White, age 77 died 6 Sep 1877 of Inflammation of bowels. She resided and died in Nelson Co., Ky.⁷ She most likely died in her home but it is possible that she died in the care of the Sisters of Charity at Nazareth.



Thomas Wellington

Born in Massachusetts on 2 April 1797, Thomas Wellington died in Bardstown, Kentucky on 4 Jan 1860. He was buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in Bardstown in Section B, Row 40, Grave 45. This information can be found on Find A Grave Memorial 72225206⁹.

His death record states that he suffered for 10 days and died of Erysipelas. He was 63 years old.¹⁰

⁵ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/120531383/isabella-wellington>; accessed March 15, 2025), memorial page for Isabella Durbin Wellington (17 Sep 1800–6 Sep 1877), Find a Grave Memorial ID [120531383](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/120531383), citing Saint Joseph Cemetery, Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky, USA; Maintained by RhondaPattonWathen and children (contributor [46879360](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/120531383)).

⁶ Death Announcement of Catherine Wellington, age 7. The Catholic Advocate; digitized, 23 Nov 1839. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Ky.

⁷ Death record for Isabel Wellington. Deaths Prior to 1911, Nelson County, Kentucky, p265, Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2008. Copyright 2007. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Ky.

⁸ Ibid. Photo by Rhonda Wathen

⁹ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72225206/thomas-wellington>; accessed March 15, 2025), memorial page for Thomas Wellington (2 Apr 1797–4 Jan 1860), Find a Grave Memorial ID [72225206](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72225206), citing Saint Joseph Cemetery, Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky, USA; Maintained by RhondaPattonWathen and children (contributor [46879360](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72225206)).

¹⁰ Death Record for Thomas Wellington. Deaths Prior to 1911, Nelson County, Kentucky, p325, Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2008. Copyright 2007. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Ky.

Children of Thomas and Isabel Durbin Wellington

As previously mentioned, the Wellingtons had 17 children, ten of whom died in infancy.

The seven children living as of the 21 Sep 1860 deposition given by Isabel Wellington were: Nicholas J. Wellington (1819-1896), Elizabeth Isabella (Wellington) Higdon (1821-?), Vitus Wellington (1825-1893), Martha Lewis (nee Wellington, 1829-?), Isadore Wellington (1834-1900), Caroline Frances Wilson (nee Wellington, 1837-?), and Catherine 'Kate' Warren (nee Wellington, 1839-1900). Nelson Circuit Court, 21 Sep 1860, Nelson County, Kentucky¹¹ Attempts to locate a copy of the entire 19 page Circuit Court deposition in the County Clerk's Office have proven unsuccessful so thanks to Ms. Tucker's sharing the page on Find A Grave, we have a piece of family history that may have been lost otherwise.

The Wellington children currently known to have been baptized in Nelson County, Ky. are Mary Aloysia Catherine, baptized in 1832; Isadore, baptized in 1834; Caroline, baptized in 1836; Frances, baptized in 1837; Elizabeth, baptized in 1839; and Catherine, baptized in 1840. All were baptized at St. Joseph Catholic Church except for Elizabeth who was baptized in St. Vincent Church at Nazareth, Motherhouse.¹² Other Wellingtons found in the Deaths Prior to 1911 book by Ellen Smith are:

Ann Wellington, 18 y.o., female, Black, single, born in Ky., died Sep 1879 of Phthisis. This was taken from the physician's return of Dr. A. Smith.¹³

Louisa, Black, 31 years old female, married, died 31 Jul 1874 of heart disease, born Nelson County, Ky., lived and died in Nelson County. Her parents were Joseph and Celia Wellington.¹⁴

A death record found for Hannah Wellington, married, was found with Thomas Wellington listed as her father but no mother was listed. The record states that she was 40 years old and died 26 May 1857 of Dropsy.¹⁵ Her birth year would have been around 1817 and since she was not mentioned as a living child of Isabella and Thomas in the deposition, she is probably not the daughter of the same Thomas Wellington who died in 1860.

Other Wellingtons buried at St. Joseph Cemetery are N. J. Wellington (1818-1896) and A. C. Wellington (1822-1901)¹⁶; Catherine, age 7, buried 16 Nov 1839¹⁷; Samuel Thomas Wellington,

¹¹ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72225206/thomas-wellington>: accessed March 15, 2025), memorial page for Thomas Wellington (2 Apr 1797–4 Jan 1860), Find a Grave Memorial ID [72225206](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72225206), citing Saint Joseph Cemetery, Bardstown, Nelson County, Kentucky, USA; Maintained by RhondaPattonWathen and children (contributor [46879360](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46879360)).

¹² Dolores and Danny Bohn, Nelson County White Baptisms. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library in Bardstown, Ky.

¹³ Death record for Ann Wellington. Deaths Prior to 1911, Nelson County, Kentucky, p364, Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2008. Copyright 2007. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Ky.

¹⁴ Death record for Louisa Wellington, Deaths Prior to 1911, Nelson County, Kentucky, p235, Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2008. Copyright 2007. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Ky.

¹⁵ Death record for Hannah Wellington, Deaths Prior to 1911, Nelson County, Kentucky, p195, Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2008. Copyright 2007. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Ky.

¹⁶ Nelson County Kentucky Cemeteries, Vol. IV; Central Section Including Bardstown and St. Joseph Cemeteries, p51, Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, Inc., 2008. Repository: Genealogy Room, Nelson County Public Library, Bardstown, Ky.

¹⁷ *Ibid.* p94.

b.19 Dec 1915- d. 20 Dec 1915¹⁸; Zitrus (should be Vitus) Wellington, buried 4 Feb 1890 age 64 yrs.¹⁹; and Eliza Wellington, died 1927.²⁰

Abstracts of Nelson County Newspapers show the following:

p. 42- The Bardstown Herald reported that a daughter of Thomas Wellington, Esq., died on 1 March 1855, at the age of 17. She had blue eyes.²¹

These next notices were abstracted from The Nelson County Record.

p. 146- Charlie and Emma Wellington were attending the Murrays Run School.²²

p. 162- A marriage announcement was made for Carrie Wellington, daughter of Vitus Wellington, to Will J. Bell at St. Joseph Church on 5 Feb 1891.²³

p. 181- N. J. Wellington served as petit juror on 29 Jan 1880.²⁴

p. 203- A marriage announcement was made for Miss Stella C. Wellington, daughter of N. J. Wellington. She married Robert A. McKeene on 27 Oct 1885.²⁵

p. 213- on 17 May 1888, Miss Mamie Wellington, daughter of V. Wellington, visited her cousin, Miss Mamie Hemmeler of Louisville. ²⁶

Also, from the Nelson County Record but in another book, was an announcement for the intention to marry between Alice Wellington to V.P. Miller. They planned to marry at St. Cecelia in Louisville. It states that the bride to be is a native of Nelson County.²⁷

Census Information for Nelson County

1850 Federal Census

Students at Bardstown Female Academy- C. Wellington, age 14.

Farmer- Thomas Wellington, age 53, born MA; his wife, Isabel, 50; their children Vitus, 25, farmer; T., 17, male; Martha, 21; Frances, 13; C., 10. On the same page were the Higdon, Aud,

¹⁸ Ibid. p.109.

¹⁹ Ibid. p.100.

²⁰ Ibid. p.114.

²¹ Carolyn Wimp, Compiler, Nelson County Newspaper Abstracts September 1807-1890, p42. Indexed by Judy Nacke, Publ. by Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Inc. 2001.

²² Ibid. p.146.

²³ Ibid p.162.

²⁴ Ibid. p.181.

²⁵ Ibid. p.203.

²⁶ Ibid. p.213.

²⁷ Carolyn Wimp, Compiler, Nelson County, Kentucky Newspaper Abstracts 1895-1902, p.122. Publ. Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Inc. 2004.

families who are affiliated with the Wellingtons. Also on the same page is another Wellington family: Nicholas, 32; Ann Carol, 27; M. Wellington, 6, Female; and S. Wellington, 1, female.²⁸

1860 Federal Census

School Teacher, N. J. Wellington, 42, male; A.C., 36, wife; E.M., 16, male; F.J., 11, male; M.L., 9, male; Thomas, 2; Laurence, 6 mos.²⁹

(In the home on Louisville Rd.) Vitus, 35; Isabel, 59; Ella, 19; Sallie Belle, 3; Isadore, 26; Catherine, 19; Isabel, 10. ³⁰ This was after Thomas Sr. passed away that January and, apparently, Vitus and his family moved in with the widow, also his mother, Isabel. This home is probably where Thomas died. Note: David Cox and his family were 3 families up the page from this Wellington Family and the Cox's lived in Cox's Creek in the home across from the current Cox's Creek Elementary School.

1870 Federal Census

Nick Wellington, 51; wife, Caroline, 50; Tom, 12; Stella, 8; and Jessie, 4, female. ³¹

In Chaplin, Nelson Co., Ky., Isabel Wellington as head of household, age 70; Vitus, 45, a farmer; Ellen, 29; Bell, 13, female; Annie, 9; Carrie, 8; Vitus Jr., 3; Joseph, 1; and Isadore, 35, male, working as a butcher.³² This indicates that they no longer lived in the house on Louisville, Rd. near Nazareth and would have moved to Chaplin between 1860 and 1869.

Thomas Wellington, Black, age 18, was working as a laborer and living in the home of Smith King in the High Grove Pct.³³

1880 Federal Census

Bardstown Voting Dist. 1

Ben Wellington, Black, age 79, his wife, Maria, age 39, and their children Maggie, 11, Ester, 10, Ben Jr., 5, and Alonzo, 3 mos., were living in the household. Bardstown precinct 1 was on the

²⁸ Compiled in 2000 by Celia Keeling, Ellen Smith, and Don Beeler, Nelson County Kentucky 1850 Federal Census p11, 49-50; Nelson County Genealogical Roundtable, 2008.

²⁹ page 106

³⁰ page 189

³¹ p19

³² 121

³³ 135

east side of what is now 31E (Hwy 150). ³⁴The left side of the road was Bardstown, precinct 9 in 1880. This is the side of the road where Nazareth is located.

In the same District 1 of Bardstown, was living Charles Wellington, 4 and his sister, Catharine, age 3, grandchildren of the head of household who was Mary H. Coomes, age 44; her son, Carroll, age 25, Blacksmith; her daughter, Eva, 23; son Willie, 20; son John, 15; and daughter, Annie, 10. The last names of Mary H.'s children living here was Coomes. Everyone in this household was White and all born in KY.³⁵

Wellingtons in the same Bardstown Voting District 1 were: Nicholas, 61; Ann C., 58; Thomas, 20; Stella, 17; and Mary, 10. Also living in the same home were their daughter, Medora Lily, 35; and Lily's children William, 13; John, 9; Joseph, 5; Herbert, 4; and. Stella, 2.³⁶ All were White and born in Ky.

In the 9th precinct of Bardstown of the same 1880 census was Vitus Wellington, now 54 yrs. old, and his family. His wife, Ella, 39. It appears that they were back in the Louisville Rd. home.

The news clippings, death records, and census records suggest that several of the Wellingtons died in the home, with most of them being some of the 10 infant children of Isabella and Thomas Wellington.

³⁴ Map and page 13.

³⁵ p.21

³⁶ p22