



Bill & Bonnie Daniels Firefighters Hall & Museum - Minnesota Fire Museum

Line of Duty Death Honorarium

Assistant Chief Charles Wilson - Duluth Fire Department

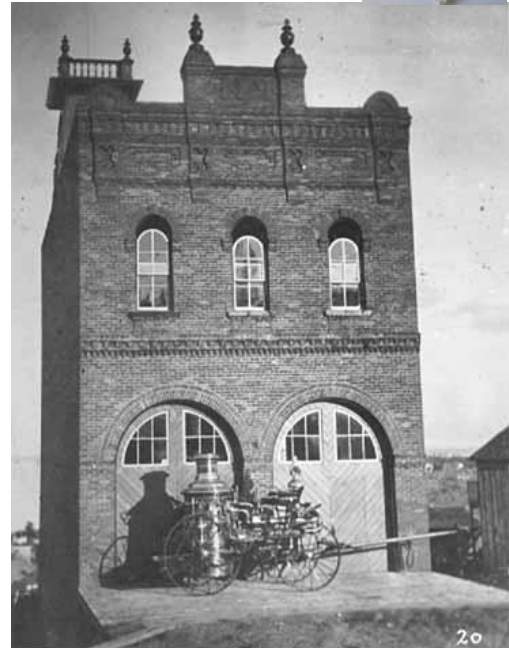
Line of Duty Death #58 - June 6, 1920

Assistant Chief Charles Wesley Wilson was born July 5, 1869 in Otisville, Iowa to unknown mother and father. He married Carrie L. Troth in 1897. His father was from Canada with his mother from New York. They have a daughter Lola on March 2, 1903 and another daughter – Elizabeth Gates born May 5, 1906. Their last child, another daughter – Flora Cordella is born November 24, 1910. The family resided at 1121 East Second street.

He applied to Duluth Fire and is appointed as a Pipeman on May 1, 1898 assigned to Hose Co. #6., which at the time, the Duluth shop was building their hose wagons (common amongst large departments) or if too busy – DFD was buying from E. B. Preston out of Chicago.

On November 11, 1898 he is transferred to Chief Driver until July 1, 1901 when is promoted to Captain of Chemical Co. #1. Chemical Co. No. 1 (shown right) was a Champion Chemical Engine Co., manufactured by the Fire Extinguisher Mfg. Co. of Chicago. The purchase price was \$2,25. It weighed 4,800 lbs. and was drawn by two horses.

On July 1, 1909 he is promoted again this time to 2nd Assistant Chief which he serves in that role until October 1, 1915 when he is promoted again to 1st Assistant Chief, a total of 22 years of service to the Duluth Fire Department.



Fatal Incident: Sunday, June 6, 1920

ASST. FIRE CHIEF SERVED 22 YEARS IN DEPARTMENT

Flags at Half-Mast to Honor Fireman Killed in Auto- mobile Crash.

Flags were at half mast all of yesterday on the city hall building, over fire and police headquarters and other public buildings in Duluth in respect to First Assistant Fire Chief C. W. Wilson, who died early yesterday morning from injuries received in an auto crash. Wilson was riding in his car with Fireman Otto Kalkbrenner at the time of the accident. The two were taken to St. Luke's hospital, where Wilson died less than a half hour after the crash. Kalkbrenner is at the hospital with bruises about the head, face and hands. Physicians said last night his injuries are not serious.

Funeral: Tuesday, June 8, 1920

Funeral services will take place at 3 p.m. on June 8 at the Masonic Temple. The Knights Templar will be in charge. Chief Joseph Randall of the fire department announced last night a cortege of 60 firemen will attend the funeral. Six veteran members of the department will be chosen for pallbearers. His funeral was said to have had a larger attendance than any prior in Duluth's history, other than Chief Blacks 13 years earlier.

Interment: Tuesday, June 8, 1920

Chief Wilson is interred at Forest Hill Cemetery in Duluth, Section L, Block 28, Lot 8. He is buried next to his brother Linus J. Wilson who died in 1902 at the age of 30. The emblem/symbol says IN HOC SIGNO VINCES – Latin for “In this sign thou shalt conquer” famously attributed to the Roman Emperor Constantine who reportedly saw a cross in the sky with those words before a pivotal battle.



Timeline/Documents/Records/Articles:

- 1869 – July 5 – Birth
- 1897 - Marriage
- 1898 – Pipeman Duluth Fire
- 1898 – November 11 – Chiefs Driver Duluth Fire
- 1901 – July 1 - Captain Chemical No 1
- 1903 – March 2 – Daughter Lola Edit born
- 1906 – May 5 – Daughter Elizabeht Gates born
- 1909 – July 1 – Appointed 2nd Assistant Chief
- 1910 – November 10 – Daughter Flora Cordella born
- 1915 – October 1 – Appointed 1st Assistant Chief
- 1920 – June 6 – Death
- 1920 – June 8 – Funeral and Interment

Chief of Department:



Chief Joseph Randall
1909 to 1927