
He was educated in the Lowell schools and later attended Phillips Exeter Academy. In 1889, he was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1893. He then attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and received his Master’s degree in 1896.

In 1914, he married Fifille Willis of Columbia, Missouri. They spent part of every year in Italy at the historic Villa Balbianello on Lake Como in Italy, which he purchased in 1919.

In his political career, he was an alderman of the city of Lowell, a representative in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and a member of the U. S. House of Representatives, representing the Fifth Congressional District of Massachusetts for five terms from 1903 until 1913. He chose to not run for re-election.

As a soldier, he went to The Spanish-American war in 1898, where he was Adjutant and First Lieutenant with the Sixth Massachusetts U. S. Volunteers, and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in the field at Puerto Rico. During World War I, Ames was appointed by Governor Calvin Coolidge as Major General of the Massachusetts State Guard.

He served as president of the United States Cartridge Company and treasurer of the Heinze Electric Company of Lowell, where he invented numerous mechanical and electrical devices. Ames was also an advocate of both the automobile and the airplane. He was an early and avid automobilist and donated a valuable trophy for the 1908 Road Race that took place in Lowell.
He established the Lowell Airport Corporation, which ran the Lowell Airport that was dedicated with a huge air meet in June of 1928.

At the time of his death, he was treasurer and director of the Wamesit Power Company, vice president and director of the Ames Textile Corporation, and a director of the Union Land and Grazing Company of Colorado.

Butler Ames died on November 6, 1954 at his home on North Street in Tewksbury, which was known as “The Hill.” He is buried in the Hildreth Family Cemetery in Lowell.

Butler Ames at eight months and eight days old
MIT Varsity Football Team. Butler Ames is in the back row on the left.
BRIDESMAIDS STUMP BUTLER AMES

DISTINGUISHED BACHELOR JUST ENGAGED IS SURE OF THE BRIDE, HOWEVER, AND IS QUITE SATISFIED
Artistic study of Miss Fifele Willis, fiancee of Butler Ames.

Having recovered from the shock of the news that Butler Ames—who was counted a confirmed bachelor—was actually going to get married, Lowell folks are beginning to ask interested questions about the who and when and all the details. The former congressman is perfectly ready to tell anything he can; but he was stumped when a reporter for the AMERICAN asked him: "Who are the bridesmaids going to be?"

"Oh, my goodness! I don't know," Butler Ames laughed.

He did say, however, that his former secretary, Joseph A. Legare, will probably be his best man. The wedding will take place in Columbia, Mo., June 28, and that is just next Thursday.

Miss Fifele Willis, whom Mr. Ames is to marry, has never been in Lowell, so far as anyone knows. She and Mr. Ames met four years ago when he was in Washington. Mr. Ames, who is tall, with a fine appearance, a good "line of talk" and a nimble toe, was much in demand in Washington society. Miss Willis was visiting friends there and they became acquainted.

Before then Mr. Ames' name had been connected in romantic gossiping with many a Washington maiden—notably Alice Roosevelt before Nick Longworth came along. But no one seems to have noticed any particular devotion on his part toward Miss Willis. If it was a case of love at first sight, they hid their secret.

How Mr. Ames pressed his suit is another mystery. So far as known, he has made no Western trips, save one just before he announced his approaching marriage a week or so ago. That followed a short business trip to Europe, and was supposed to have been purely a business mission.

Probably the four years development of the romance has been largely through the medium of letters. Miss Willis, meanwhile, is understood to have been doing educational work in Columbia. She is a remarkably beautiful young woman, according to what Lowell folks hear, and is, besides, capable and energetic.

The marriage is to be a very quiet one; and Mr. and Mrs. Ames will live in Lowell. He has lived in the past with his father, General Adelbert Ames, at Tewksbury, and with Mrs. Ames, his mother.

Mr. Ames has extensive business connections and is considered wealthy.

From the Boston American, Sunday, June 21, 1914