

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION









The Early History  
OF THE  
WILSON FAMILY

OF  
Kittery, Maine.

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By FRED A. WILSON.

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*Brown Wilson*

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## Preface.

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**I**N presenting these papers to the public, the author wishes especially to acknowledge the assistance of the many people who have interested themselves in the work. Mr. Otis D. Wilson has rendered particularly valuable service in presenting the records of the William Wilson<sub>3</sub> branch of the family. Through Mr. Franklin H. Bond of Kittery it was possible to get accurate and extensive copies of the Kittery Town Records — his familiarity with the latter rendering his service almost indispensable. A score more of names might be mentioned.

F. A. W.



*THE EARLY HISTORY*  
*OF THE*  
*KITTERY WILSONS.*

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*"We attend thy reverend length of days,  
With benediction and with praise."* — *Akenside, Odes.*

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CHAPTER I.

FIRST GENERATION—GOWEN WILSON.

THE early history of the State of Maine is in many parts more or less uncertain and obscure. Historians differ in recounting the journeyings of early explorers and the times of settlement of some of the old towns. The reason for this uncertainty is not hard to find. Most of the colonies of New England were established by concerted action and had great men for their leaders, high aims for their settlement, and a more or less perfect organization for their control. As a natural result of these conditions most of the doings of these colonies from the very beginning are known to-day — in some instances with an accuracy of detail which is surprising. Public records, private journals, and other papers valuable to the hunter in historical or genealogical fields are now accessible relating to most of the settlements in New England outside of Maine. There, on the other hand, many of the records afford only meagre information — and that sometimes scattering and disconnected. The explanation is easy. Much of Maine was settled by stragglers acting disunitedly; people with no great leaders, and perhaps with no fixed purpose





beyond the ever-present desire to get a living in the best way. Fishing was one of the first attractions. The cutting and shipping of lumber soon became a prominent business. Trading with the Indians, chiefly in furs, was also very lucrative.

Explorations upon the coast of Maine became frequent soon after 1600. In 1603 Martin Pring was there with two vessels. George Weymouth visited the shores, and sailed up the rivers in 1605. It was he who began the outrages against the Indians, which ended in savage antagonism to the colonists resulting in bloodshed and sorrow for generations. In 1607 the Plymouth Company made an attempt to plant a colony at the mouth of the Kennebec River. This was called the Popham Colony, after Lord John Popham, chief justice of England, and a prominent member of the Plymouth Company. It failed because its people were reckless, care-naught adventurers, picked up at random in the seaports of England. When the settlement was finally abandoned, the colonists carried back to England the most deplorable reports of the character of the country and its inhabitants. The disastrous issue of this attempt discouraged colonization for several years, although there were many private expeditions for the benefits accruing from the fishing and fur trade. In the year 1620, the year the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock, seven English ships made voyages to the coast of Maine to trade. Two years later over thirty vessels went to fish there, and made good trips.

The thought of colonies in these northern latitudes grew familiar. It is probable that settlements were made at Saco, Pemaquid, Damariscotta, and other places in Maine in 1623. From this time on settlements rapidly increased in number along the coast, and began to spread inland. In 1635 the Plymouth Company, "oppressed with losses, expenses and trouble,"<sup>1</sup> surrendered its patent to the king. A new company was formed, and Sir Ferdinando Gorges<sup>2</sup> was appointed governor of the whole of New England. "The nature of Gorges was generous,

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<sup>1</sup> From the records of the Plymouth Company. See document in full in Hazard's Historical Collections.

<sup>2</sup> For some account of Gorges' career see Adams' Three Episodes of Massachusetts History. Vol. I.



and his piety sincere. He sought pleasure in doing good; fame, by advancing Christianity among the heathen; a durable monument, by erecting houses, villages, and towns. The contemporary and friend of Raleigh, he adhered to schemes in America for almost half a century. When the wars in England broke out, the septuagenarian royalist buckled on his armor, and gave his last strength to the defence of the unfortunate Charles." <sup>1</sup> He obtained what was considered ownership of the territory between the Piscataqua and Sagadahoc Rivers. Saco was then the most flourishing settlement in his province. There the governor lived, and the first court was held there in 1636. This court had drawn upon paper a stately scheme of government, with deputies and counsellors, a marshall and treasurer of the public revenue, chancellors and a master of ordnance, and everything that the worthy old man, Sir Ferdinando, deemed essential to his greatness. Agamenticus, "a poor village" (now York) soon became a chartered borough; "and under the name of Gorgeana, the land around became as good a city as seals and parchment, a nominal mayor and aldermen and chancery court can make out of a town of less than three hundred inhabitants." <sup>2</sup>

Kittery Point — the first part of Kittery to be occupied — was then a rambling settlement called the Piscataqua Plantation. The inhabitants lived along the shores, and were chiefly engaged in fishing and trading, and later on in the lumber business. It is impossible to say just when this place was settled. It is estimated that in 1638 Kittery had a population of two hundred." <sup>2</sup> It is probable that the first settlements were made there from ten to fifteen years previously. It was formed into the town of Kittery in 1647, its territory embracing the present towns of Kittery, Eliot, and North and South Berwick. Forty-two men were admitted to the town at that time. In 1652 the Massachusetts Bay Colony made a claim upon all of that portion of Maine which was East of any part of the Merrimac River. This claim — based upon a very literal interpretation of the

<sup>1</sup> Bancroft's Hist. of the U. S. Vol. I., p. 347, 1879 ed.

<sup>2</sup> Williamson's Maine. Vol. I., p. 267.



Massachusetts Bay Colony's charter — included the coast of Maine as far East as Portland. It was vigorously disputed; but one town after another, yielding in part to arguments and in part to menaces, gave its adhesion. Gorges died in 1647. His heirs took no interest in his province in Maine, and his government had tumbled to pieces long before these extensions of the Massachusetts Bay Colony's claims.

Ownership of lands in Kittery was obtained by grants from the proprietors of the province until 1647. There is no doubt, however, that many of the settlers picked out their lots and took possession of them without any actual right to do so. They were what to-day would be called "squatters." Land was to be had for the asking — the proprietors being anxious for settlers to come into their provinces. After 1647, when Kittery was formed into a town, lands were granted by the selectmen and laid out by them or by town surveyors appointed for the purpose. These town grants not infrequently conflicted with grants formerly made by the proprietors of the province. They even were laid out encroaching upon former town grants, and the phrase, "laid out foul before and now relaid out," is often met in the old town records. The following is an example: <sup>r</sup>

"Kittery December 13 1740. Then laid out unto Joseph Wilson one acre of land by virtue of a grant granted to him Mar the 10<sup>th</sup> 1703 being part of said grant one half of said acre was laid out foul of Hutchins land by Daniel Emery Sury<sup>r</sup>. and it was taken up again and the said acre is laid out as follows." etc.

The surveyors were careless about the points of the compass, and inaccurate about the bounds of the grants — so that lots often largely exceeded in area the number of acres they were supposed to contain. Settlers who possessed lands previous to 1647 had the formal granting and laying out afterwards made by the town in order to perfect their claims. For this reason the dates of the grants made during some ten years or more after the town was established do not necessarily show the times of settlement upon those grants.

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<sup>r</sup> Kittery Records. Book 2 of grants, fol. 142.



An example of the many rules made in town meeting for avoiding trouble over boundary lines is as follows: <sup>1</sup>

“At a Leagall Town Meeting held at Kittery June 24th 1687. Whereas many controversies doe or may arise between the Inhabtants of the Town referring to their respective Grants of land and concerning the bounds thereof, Some of the s<sup>d</sup> Grants being found to exceed the number of Acres Granted and also to exceed their breadth by the Water Side. for the prevention of future trouble it is ordered by the Town that those Antient bound Set between one mans Land and an other through this whole Town either by the Selectmen or Surveigher or Surveighers Appointed by the Town for the laying out of land Shall stand as the true and lawfull bounds between every mans Land.”

There are many names upon the list of forty-two persons admitted to the town of Kittery which are Kittery names to-day. Probably there never has been a time when the town has not had among its citizens Shapleighs, Spinneys, Emerys, Chadbournes, Gunnisons and Wilsons. Many other well known Kittery names are not upon this list. Robert Cutts and William Pepperrell settled there some years later — before 1700. The names of Hutchins, Gerrish, Haley and Bryar are also of later occurrence in the annals of the town. One man upon this list was Gowen Wilson, the earliest American ancestor of one of the numerous families of Wilsons which are represented in this country to-day. <sup>2</sup> It is with him, his children, grand-children, and their connections that this book chiefly has to do.

It is impossible to tell when Gowen Wilson settled in Kittery. Information about him is very limited, and affords very slight ground for any inferences. He had a son and a daughter who apparently were born between 1650 and 1660. From this it can be reasonably inferred that Gowen was born between 1615 and 1635. He was a member of the town in 1647, which sets the

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 48.

<sup>2</sup> Savage's Genealogical Dictionary names more than sixty Wilsons, heads of families, who were in this country before 1700. Most of them had no blood relationship close enough to be recognized commonly.





date of his birth back before 1625, presumably. So that the indications are that Gowen Wilson settled in Kittery at some time between 1635 and 1647—unless he came over with his father, of which there is no evidence. He was one of the men who signed their submission to the government of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1652. In June 1674 and in June 1675 he was elected to the board of selectmen of the town. The following is a copy of the record of one of these elections: <sup>1</sup> The other one <sup>2</sup> is similar to it.

“At a generall town meeting held at Kittery June 24<sup>th</sup> 1674. There was chosen Selectmen for for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing as follows Lieut Roger Plaisted James Emery William Spencer William Fernald Thomas Spinney William Love and Gowen Wilson. — Capt<sup>n</sup> Charles Frost Chosen Town Clerk — Capt<sup>n</sup> John Wincoll and Lieut Roger Plaisted or either of them Chosen to lay out land as in y<sup>e</sup> year before”—

The next mention of Gowen Wilson is in 1680, when he and Enoch Hutchins made an inventory of the estate of John Phillips.

The first piece of land granted by the town to Gowen Wilson is described by the following copy of the original record <sup>3</sup>:—

“JANUARY 19, 1658.

Granted, lotted, and layd out by y<sup>e</sup> Selecttownsmen for Kittery unto Gowen Wilson, his heirs or assigns forever, he duely preferring y<sup>e</sup> town order, twenty-four acres of upland on y<sup>e</sup> East side of Spruce Creek and joyning to Robert Mendam’s lott by a division of marked trees on y<sup>e</sup> South East side of y<sup>e</sup> said Mendam’s lott and soit runs twenty-four rods by y<sup>e</sup> water side and so back into y<sup>e</sup> woods by a North line untill y<sup>e</sup> said number of acres be accomplished. This grant was recorded y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1661.”

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 28.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 29.

<sup>3</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 11. It is a good example of the rapid deterioration of old records to note that this grant can not be wholly deciphered upon the town records to-day. The edges of the rotten pages have become more delapidated than they were eight or nine years ago, when this grant was first examined by the author.



This record, taken alone, bears no evidence of its exact location. The following is a copy of the record of an additional grant.<sup>1</sup>

“ Kittery y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> of June 1673 — at a leagall town meeting for y<sup>e</sup> granting of lands in y<sup>e</sup> lower part of y<sup>e</sup> river and town of Kittery there was granted unto Gowen Willson and his heires forever an addition to his house lot Joyning to Richard Endles. This is a true copie taken out of the origenall. Aprell 30 1674 — as Attest Francis Hook.

Measured and layd out unto Gowen Wilson his addition grant dated — June 12 1673 — between his house lot and Richard Endles house lot a hundred and sixty poles in length North East from Spruce Creek, and one and twenty poles in breadth bounded w<sup>th</sup> Richard Endles s<sup>d</sup> lot and y<sup>e</sup> Goose Cove on y<sup>e</sup> South East, and contains one and twenty acres. I say layd out this 20 of December 1678

per me John Wincoll Surv<sup>r</sup>”

These two grants together make a piece of land forty-five rods wide and one hundred and sixty rods long, containing forty-five acres. Still there is nothing to show its exact location. The lots of Endles and Mendam mentioned in the records are laid down very indefinitely. Robert Mendam’s grant<sup>2</sup> in question is an ashen swamp lying between Spruce Creek and the head of Brave Boat Harbor. The land which Endles occupied is not mentioned at all in the town records.<sup>3</sup> Goose Cove, or Goose Creek, is not now so called.

The evidence which fixes the location of this land of Gowen Wilson — the only land he ever owned in Kittery — is found upon a map of his son Sargt. Wilson’s estate recorded in 1703,<sup>4</sup> and upon a map of Elihu Gunnison’s estate recorded in 1697.<sup>5</sup> On the map of the Wilson estate the “home lot” of forty-five

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 36.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 2.

<sup>3</sup> For reasons given later on.

<sup>4</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 99.

<sup>5</sup> Kittery Records. Book 2 of grants, fol. 12. This map is of an old grant, and probably was made so that its bounds would be more accurately recorded.



acres is pictured — being forty-five rods wide and one hundred and sixty rods long. Mendam is on the North West, and Endle on the South East. Goose Cove, and the outline of the shore of Spruce Creek, are shown. The addition to this lot, to show which this map was made, is laid out around “Mendam’s swamp.” A study of a map of the town of Kittery shows that there are just two places on “y<sup>e</sup> East side of Spruce Creek” where this home lot possibly could be located. It would fit the conditions — even to the position of the swamp — when placed adjoining the North West side of either the Bartlett Road or the Norton Road. These two roads lead to York from the old road leading from Kittery Point “up the creek.” They run magnetically North East for the greater part of the distance. The names given them always have been used, although it is doubtful if they were officially designated by the town.

The map of the Gunnison estate, above mentioned, is of a three hundred acre grant made many years previously. It extends from the shore back into the woods on a North East line. Upon it Goose Creek (or Goose Cove) is laid down, together with some other indentations of the shore line which make a combination only to be found in one place on Spruce Creek. This piece of land occupied the whole space between what are now called the Norton and Bartlett Roads. A piece marked “Richard Endles’ land” is included upon the North West side of this estate — being next to what is now called the Norton Road. Still farther to the North West is pictured a house marked “Mr. Wilson’s Garrison.” This Gunnison map gives additional evidence more than sufficient to prove that the land upon which Gowen Wilson lived, the only land he ever owned in Kittery, was located at the junction of the Norton Road with the main road up the creek. If it were laid down there to-day, it would be found to extend from the Norton Road North West to the North West boundary walls of land lately owned by William Haley; and from Spruce Creek North East, including several estates on the Norton Road. Goose Creek — formerly a creek, now but little more than a cove — is now known as Wilson’s Creek, although there is seldom occasion to



use the title. Westerly from this creek is a beautiful point now called Cherry Tree Point. It is the only point in Spruce Creek now thickly grown with trees; and it is within the bounds of the old Gowen Wilson Estate.

It is of interest in this connection to note that this conclusion about the location of this grant was reached many years ago by another seeker. Major Mark Dennett <sup>1</sup> wrote the following:—  
“Therefore I feel very confident that Goin Wilson’s farm was where the late W<sup>m</sup> Wilson lived. It was near the river, and Col<sup>o</sup>. Wilson’s farm was then an unbroken forest. I remember seventy-five years ago that three elderly men viz: Aaron, Elihu and Nathaniel Wilson lived and occupied the lands where the said W<sup>m</sup> Wilson lived. And I think it very likely those lands descended to them from their ancestor Goin Wilson. And if my supposition be correct then the turn of the road at the head of the cove must have been ‘Goose Corner.’”

There are records of three children of Gowen Wilson. It is almost certain that there were no more who grew to manhood, for extant papers show that only three got portions of the estate, with no provision made for any other heirs.

This also shows that Gowen Wilson’s wife did not outlive him. Except for this one conclusion, not a single fact or inference which will tell more about this woman can be drawn from the records. Who was she, and where did she come from, probably always will remain unanswered questions. If the often followed custom of naming one daughter after the mother was observed in this instance, the mother’s name was Deborah. The facts will not warrant this statement to be any more than a suggestion, however.

Gowen Wilson died between 1684 and 1686. He signed a deed of gift to his son-in-law on June 2<sup>d</sup> 1684. <sup>2</sup> On August 6<sup>th</sup> 1686 one of his sons signed his satisfaction with his portion of his father’s estate, <sup>2</sup> which shows that Gowen had died sometime previously.

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<sup>1</sup> He married Alice, sister of Col. Gowen Wilson, who was well known in his county, and to whom Major Dennett refers in his letter. Wm. Wilson named in the letter was a son of Elihu afterwards mentioned. Aaron was uncle to Elihu and was distantly connected with Nathaniel.

<sup>2</sup> See Chapter II. of this book.





1 This ends the story of Gowen Wilson's life in this country. Of his life before he came to this country, nothing is known. Very likely an investigator abroad could get further information. It is not a task which can be easily undertaken from America by correspondence. The name is so common, and the field of search so large that one should be able to hunt personally if he would hope for success with a reasonable expenditure of time, money and labor.

There seems to be much traditional information in circulation. The common story of three brothers settling in three different parts of the country has not skipped the Wilson family. There is nothing whatever to substantiate this story, or to disprove it. The fact that this tradition is a common one for any family, rather makes it require the support of some direct evidence to entitle it to respectful consideration. There is a strong impression, amounting even to a conviction in the minds of many members of the family, that Gowen Wilson came from Scotland. Mr. Otis D. Wilson, a careful investigator, recently wrote the following: — <sup>1</sup>

“Somewhere about 1840 I heard a long talk between my father, my uncle Col. Gowen Wilson, and some other persons in regard to early family history, and they spoke of our descent as being from the Scotch as a matter of certainty. I have heard it mentioned as a matter of fact by my uncle Richard Wilson, who was born in 1768. So that at that time it was a fully accredited legend in the family that our earliest ancestor in this country was a Scotchman.”

It is said that sixty years ago, when individual peculiarities were more marked than in cosmopolitan to-day, the descendants of Gowen Wilson had strong characteristics of the Scotch people. Some have said that Gowen came to America from Paisley, Scotland. It has been impossible to trace this statement back to its source; but it seems to have been handed down from of old — one cannot say how correctly.

The given name “Gowen” is very rare outside of this Wilson family. Within the family it is quite common. The

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<sup>1</sup> In a letter to the author.



name may be found in nearly every generation down to the present time. It is said to be a Scotch name, although it seems doubtful if it is derived from that common Scotch, or Scotch-Irish name Gavin.

So far as is known at this present writing there are but two extant signatures of Gowen Wilson. One of these is said to be on a deed from him to Andrew Haley.<sup>1</sup> This document is known to have been in existence a few years ago, and several clues to its present whereabouts have been traced, but the paper has not been found. The other signature is on a paper now in the Fogg collection of autographs, which paper contains signatures of many settlers of Kittery. The following is a copy of it:—

“To the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Governer and Councill  
Sitting at boston July 5 1676  
The Humble request of severall of the  
Freemen and Inhabitants of Yorkshire.

That whereas wee haue had long experience of the faithfullness and good service of Major Richard Walden for this whole Collonie, and in particular for this countie of Yorkshire, and now for want of Commission from the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Generall Court is at present disabled from doing that Service in the civell Government of this Countie which wee stand in Greatest need of, especially in respect of our present feares of some Underminers which may possibly bee att worke allreadie privately towards the subverting of the government established over us,

Our Humble request (therefore) unto yo<sup>r</sup> Hon<sup>rs</sup> is that iff it may stand with your wisdom and good pleasure, that you will Commisionate the said Major Walden with and Invest him in the same Magistraticall authoritie over us of this Countie of Yorkshire that he had formerly.”

This paper bears the signatures of forty men, of whom twelve sign by a mark. The names are not given here, because the writing in many cases is so nearly illegible that it would be impossible for one not familiar with the names to decipher them correctly. The signature of Gowen Wilson is that of a man not much used to handling the pen.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Given in full later on.

<sup>2</sup> See fac-simile on title page.



## CHAPTER II.

SECOND GENERATION — JOHN AND DEBORAH WILSON.  
THE HALEY FAMILY.

THE three children of Gowen Wilson of whom there is any record were John, Joseph and Deborah. Deborah was married in or before 1684, therefore it is fair to assume that she was born before 1664. Joseph and John had land granted to them in 1673. The rapid granting of the best of Kittery land made it desirable for young men to obtain their shares as early as possible, which would be very soon after they came of age. This makes it probable that these two were born after 1650.

It is not known upon what basis a man of those times presented his request for a home lot, or for additional pieces. A study of the records throws but little light upon the question. There are some indications that the amount of additional land a man could get depended in some way upon the land he already occupied — perhaps upon the quantity, or perhaps upon the amount of improvement. Later on there seems to have been a limit put upon the quantity given at one time. The grantee's wishes as to location were usually considered. It is likely that young men and new comers were offered special inducements to settle in town — it being very desirable to get a large population for better protection against the Indians.

After 1680, when he signed the Phillips inventory, the next mention of Gowen Wilson is in 1684. In June of that year he gave Andrew Haley, who married his daughter Deborah Wilson, eleven acres of land as his daughter's portion. The following is a copy of the deed: —<sup>r</sup>

“ Know all men by these presents that I Gowen Wilson for diuers good Considerations but more Especially in regard of y<sup>e</sup> relation between Andrew Haley of Spruce Creek who Married my daughter,

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<sup>r</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



Deborah, And for and in consideration of my daughter's portion, doe giue freely and grant unto y<sup>e</sup> Said Andrew Haley his heires Executr<sup>s</sup> Administr<sup>s</sup> and Assigns a Small tract of land contayning Eleaven acres or thereabouts, be it more or less, which land lyeth in Spruce Creek on the Eastern Side of Robert Mendums his land, and is part of y<sup>e</sup> forty five Acres of land granted to me by the Selectmen of Kittery twenty three or twenty four years past, which land is to run from Robert Mendums bounds Eleaven pole in breadth within fence, And Soe to run from from y<sup>e</sup> water Side North East up into y<sup>e</sup> woods Eight Score pole. I doe further also freely giue unto the said Haley a small orchard which was formerly a Cow yard & Inclosed and moreouer besides this I doe promise to allow the s<sup>d</sup> Haley unto y<sup>e</sup> land before mentioned a sufficient lane to go up into y<sup>e</sup> woods to haue and to hold the Said land aboue s<sup>d</sup> to him and his heires foreuer more. Unto which Deed of Gift I doe hereunto Volluntary and freely Set my hand this Second day of June 1684. It is to be understood that the heires aboue mentioned must be Such as is born of my Daughters body, and Soe to remain in that generation.

As attest my hand and Seal

Signed, Sealed & Delieured  
in presents of us  
Mary Hook  
The mark of  
Johana X Crocker

Gowen Wilson [Seal]  
Gowen Wilson came &  
owned this Deed of Gift to be  
act and Deed to Andrew Haley this  
2 June 1684 before me  
Francis Hook  
Justice pece

A true copy of y<sup>e</sup> originall Deed Transcribed  
& compared with this 28 May 1696

P Jos Hammond Registr<sup>r</sup>."

This land was eleven rods wide and one hundred and sixty rods long, being a piece running the whole length of the North West side of his estate. The deed of gift also mentions a small orchard, but this now cannot be located. Andrew Haley was the first of the name in Kittery. There is no record of the date of his marriage, or of the birth of his children. There seems to have been only one son — also named Andrew — who had a





family. The town records<sup>1</sup> show the marriage, in 1697, of Andrew Haley and Elizabeth, daughter of Humphrey Scammon. Their children—as recorded in the town book—were Elizabeth, Andrew, William, Samuel, Sarah and John. This is Andrew Haley 2d. His will, dated in 1728, reads as follows:—<sup>2</sup>

“Will of Andrew Haly.

In the Name of God Amen.

The Eighth day of April Anno Domini one thousand Seven Hundred twenty and five I Andrew Haly of Kittery in the County of York in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England yeoman being very Sick and weak in Body But of Perfect mind and memory Thanks be given unto God do make and Ordain this my last will and Testament that is to Say Principally and first of all I Recommend my Soul into the hands of God that Gave it and my Body I recommend to the Earth to be buried in Decent Christian Burial at the Discretion of my Executrix and as Touching Such worldly Estate wherewith it hath Pleased God to Bless me in this life I Give and Dispose of the Same in the following manner and form.

Imprimis I Give to my well Beloved Son Andrew Haly all that my Land that Lyes between Joseph Willsons Land and Samuel Skillings Land Lying in Kittery in Spruce Creek which Land was formerly my fathers Andrew Haly Dec<sup>d</sup> with the buildings that are now Standing on said Land and also a tract of Land which I have Lying in the woods by Joseph Weeks and George Fenicks their Land as by returns on record in Kittery Town Book may appear he paying Such Sums of money as I Shall in these Presents here after Order him to pay and also to allow & Suffer his Brethren Samuel and John Haleys twenty five Cords of wood to Each of them Samuel Hally to Cut and Carry of his twenty five Cords in Six years time and John Haly to Cutt and Carry of his wood within ten years time from the above Said wood Land.

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 10.

<sup>2</sup> See “Maine Wills.”



Item I Give to my well beloved Sons Samuel Haly and John Haly the Land whereon I now live & Dwell and the housing that is thereon Standing to be Equally Divided between them that is to Say Samuel to have his half part of the Land that is below the High way Adjoyning the Land of Benjamin Hutchins Deceased and John his half Part next to the Land of Peter Lewises, and the Land that is above the High way; Samuel Haly to have his half Lying to the Land of Peter Lewis and John to have his half Part Lying to the Land of Benjamin Hutchins Deceased only reserving & Excepting the Fruit that Shall Grow on the orchard for my wife Elizabeth during her widowhood, they my Said sons paying Such Sums of money as I Shall Order them hereafter in these Presents. and the Housing to be Equally Divided between my Said Sons Samuel and John Haly Excepting my wife Elizabeth her third in the above said Lands and housing during her widow-hood, my Said Samuel and John to be possest of the Land and housing hereing given them when they Shall be of twenty one years of age.

Item I Give to my well beloved Daughter Elizabeth Haly fourty Pounds twenty Pounds to be paid her by my Son Andrew Haley in money or Cattle at money Price the other twenty Pounds to be paid to her by my Said three Sons Andrew Samuel and John in money or Cattle in Equall Shares at money Price.

Item I Give to my daughter Sarah Haly fourty Pounds twenty Pounds to be paid her by my Son Andrew Haly & the Other twenty Pounds to be paid her by my Said three Sons Andrew Samuel and John in money or Cattle in Equall Shares or parts at money Price.

Item I Give to my well beloved Daughter Rebeckah Haley fourty to be paid to her in money or Cattle at money Price by my Said Sons Andrew Samuel and John Haley when she shall be twenty-one years of age or marriage.

• Item I Give to my Dearly Beloved wife Elizabeth whom I Constitute make and Ordain my Sole Executrix of this my will and Testament during her widowhood all the fruit that Shall grow



on my Orchard and a third part of my Dwelling house and a third Part of the Income of my Lands above Specified together with all my household Goods Debts and moveable Effects and Stock of Creatures for her Support During her widowhood and the bring up of my children and to pay my Just Debts and what Shall Remain thereof after her Marriage or Decease to be Equally Divided among my Children And if any of my Children above Named Should Depart this life (before they Come of age or marriage) that then it is my will that my Surviving Children shall have what I have in these Presents Given to the Deceased to be Equally Divided among them.

Finally I do hereby utterly disallow revoke and Disannull all and Every other former Testaments & wills & Executors in any wayes before Named and willed Ratifying and Confirming this and no Other to be my Last Will and Testament In Wittness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the day and year above written.

Andrew Halley [Seal]

Signed Sealed Published Pronounced  
and Declared by the Said Andrew  
Halley as his Last will & Testament  
in the Presence of us the Subscribers

Gowen Willson  
Samuel Skillin  
Thomas Hutchins

<sup>his</sup>  
John X Hutchins

<sup>mark</sup>  
Joseph Webber

Probated 13 May 1725. Inventory returned, 2 July 1725, at £1176:16:7, by Withers Berry, Gowen Wilson and Thomas Hutchins, appraisers. £4:3:0, additional returned by the Executrix 9 June 1727."

This paper mentions all of the children given in the town record except William — therefore probably deceased. There is another child, a daughter Rebeckah, named in this document but not in the town books. The town records of this period have whole families recorded in one place and apparently at one



entry. This consecutiveness shows that all were recorded at one time, as otherwise records would be spread out in chronological order and no family would be by itself. So that it may be assumed that the entry of the family of Andrew Haley 2d was thus made before the birth of Rebeckah; and that the record of this child was neglected. The will gives to the sons Samuel and John their father's home lot. This was near the head of the "Eastern Branch of Spruce Creek." This is the cove in Spruce Creek which makes up nearly to the present junction of the Post Road with the road from Kittery Point. The son Andrew — he being Andrew Haley 3d — had his grandfather's land. In June, 1673, Andrew Haley 1st, had thirty acres granted to him at the "head of Eastern Creek."<sup>1</sup> By two grants in 1696, Andrew Haley 2d, obtained twenty acres adjacent to this.<sup>2</sup> These were subsequent grants to different members of the family.

Andrew Haley 3d married Mary, daughter of William and Sarah Bryar, in August, 1727. Of his brothers and sisters, Elizabeth married Peter Lewis in 1726; Samuel married Grace Lewis in 1733; Sarah married Joseph Week in 1726; Rebeckah married Charles Smith in 1735; of John or William there is no marriage recorded in the town records. There was an Andrew Haley 4th married to Elizabeth Lewis in 1754 — showing that the name Andrew was transmitted from generation to generation for at least four times.

The eleven acres of land which Gowen Wilson gave to his son-in-law, Andrew Haley 1st, and which, 'as has been shown, was subsequently owned by Andrew Haley 3d, was for the most part recently owned and occupied by William Haley, Jr. — a descendant of the family. A recent examination of the bounds showed the two long boundary walls still fairly straight, eleven rods apart, and running back from the shore upon a North East line — thus, to-day, marking a piece of land laid out more than two hundred years ago. The Northwestern boundary wall of this piece is the Northwestern line of Gowen Wilson's estate, forty-five rods distant from the Norton Road.

<sup>1</sup> The above named Eastern branch of Spruce Creek was often called Eastern Creek.

<sup>2</sup> These three Haley grants are recorded in the Town Records of land grants. Book 1, fols. 35, 46 and 48, respectively.





In 1673 there was granted to John Wilson ten acres of land on the North North West side of Joseph Wilson's twenty-acre lot at the head of Eastern Creek. It was one hundred and sixty rods long East North East and West South West, and ten rods wide North North West and South South East.<sup>1</sup> This was the only land this son of Gowen had granted him by the town. The following peculiar document <sup>2</sup> contains the evidence of his being an heir of Gowen. It has been, and still is, rather a puzzle to investigators.

“To all Christian people to Whom this present instrument shall come Know Yee that I, John Wilson of Kittery in y<sup>e</sup> province of Maine in New England do acknowledge to have rec<sup>d</sup> three acres of land with a dwelling house one cow and one Sow all which I received and with which I doe willingly acknowledge my Selfe to be fully Satisfied Contented and paid all my part and portion in and of my father Gowen Wilsons estate. also Know Yee that I doe freely, fully, clearly and absolutely acquit and discharge my brother Joseph Wilson of every part and parcel thereof that ever was due to me whether by will or heirship. Further Know Yee that after my decease I y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> John Wilson doe covenant and promise to and with my Brother Joseph Wilson that on condition he, his heirs or assigns shall take care of me if I shall need his or their help that then y<sup>e</sup> above s<sup>d</sup> house and three acres of land shall return to my s<sup>d</sup> Brother Joseph Wilson his heirs, Executors, Administrators. or Assigns to be his and their own proper estate and that forever. In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and Seal y<sup>e</sup> 6 day of Aug<sup>st</sup> 1686.

John Wilson. [Seal]

In presents of us  
Wm Screven  
Nicholas X Weeks.

John Wilson came before me this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September 1686 and owned this Instrument to be his act and deed

Befor me Edw. Rishworth Just. pea.”

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 36.

<sup>2</sup> York County deeds — see published volumes.



When this deed was executed John Wilson undoubtedly was a man in the prime of life. This document bears on its face evidence that he had some mental or physical defect which made it certain that he would have no family — as otherwise a man of that age would hardly execute an instrument of that kind. The fact of his wanting a home, and making provision to be taken care of should he need it, rather precludes any likelihood of his early decease. Further inferences are little more than guess-work, and yet it would seem as if a man with sufficient mental ability to promulgate an agreement of that kind would not do so unless he was physically incapacitated.

Administration upon the estate of John Wilson, deceased, was granted early in 1691.<sup>1</sup> His entire property went to his brother Joseph.

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<sup>1</sup> York Deeds. Vol V., fol. 9, part 2.



## CHAPTER III.

## SECOND GENERATION — SARGT. JOSEPH WILSON.

THE third child of Gowen Wilson was Joseph. He is a personage of hardly less interest than Gowen himself—for through Joseph alone can be traced the Wilson lines of descent from Gowen. Joseph probably was born, as has been shown, between 1650 and 1655. The first mention of him in any records is dated March 2d, 1672, when he and his brother John were witnesses to a deed from Jonathan and Mary Mendum to John Fennick.<sup>1</sup> It is worthy of note that on this paper Joseph Wilson signed by making a mark, while John Wilson wrote his name.

The next mention of Joseph is the following:—<sup>2</sup>

“Measured and layd out unto Joseph Wilson his grant of twenty acres of land dated June 12<sup>o</sup> 1673 —at y<sup>e</sup> head of the Eastern Creek a hundred and sixty pole in length East North East and twenty pole in breadth North North-west and bounded w<sup>th</sup> Enoch Hutchens land South South East.  
John Wincoll Surv<sup>yr</sup>.”

It will be noticed that the date given is the date of the grant, the time of laying out being lacking. At that time lands usually were laid out within a few days of granting. Twenty years later, when land became scarce, many years sometimes elapsed between the granting and laying out. There are recorded cases where town grants not laid out were bought and sold. The papers passed in such instances were simple receipts. This land of Joseph's is the twenty acre lot which John Wilson's ten acres, granted the same day and probably laid out at the same time, was adjoining. John's land was on the North North West side.

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds—see published volumes.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 35.



This was the first land owned by Joseph Wilson in Kittery. Succeeding this there were several grants located in three different places in the town. This grant at the head of Eastern Creek was enlarged by at least two additions, until in 1700 it was an irregular shaped piece containing sixty-one acres.<sup>1</sup> It was two hundred and sixty-one rods long and about sixty-five rods wide, in its extreme dimensions. Its exact location has not been determined. Its boundaries ran chiefly East North East and West South West, and South South East and North North West. It is quite certain that a part of the land now owned by John Wentworth, and located on the Post Road near the junction of the Kittery Point Road, was included in this estate. Probably the lower end of it was not more than fifty rods from the head of the nearest arm of Spruce Creek—which, as has been shown, was called Eastern Creek. The greater part of this land was evidently on the North side of the Post Road. None of it is now owned by Wilsons. The farm of Ervin I. Wilson, on the South side of the Post Road, was granted originally chiefly to different members of the Hutchens (now Hutchings) family. The Post Road, so called, is of comparatively recent origin, although there always was a connection between the Kittery Point Road and the road running Northerly around the head of what may be called the Western branch of Spruce Creek.

Joseph Wilson also possessed a considerable estate now owned by the heirs of the late Col. Gowen Wilson, of Kittery. This lies on the West side of the road leading to Eliot—which road probably existed, as a lane if not as a highway, in the days when this part of the town first was divided. About eighty rods South of the house now owned by Albert S., son of Col. Gowen Wilson, a stream runs under this road. This finally empties into the head of the West branch of Spruce Creek. It runs down behind the home lot of Albert S. Wilson in a Southerly direction, parallel to the road; then swinging gradually to the Eastward it crosses the highway. It is now very small but in early times was quite important. It is the chief outlet to swamps which were once very extensive—the reservoir of quite

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<sup>1</sup> There is a map of it in Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 93.





a large watershed formed by surrounding forests. The clearing of these lands dried up the swamps, and therefore the stream. The swamps were mostly in one place and were called Pudding Hole Commons, being common lands of Kittery. "Commons" were lands where any citizen, under certain restrictions, might get hay or wood, or might pasture his cattle. Pudding Hole Commons is frequently mentioned in the early town records and is still known by that name — at least by people in that vicinity. It was an open swale of quite large extent in early days and probably was much resorted to for its swale grass. Out of this swamp the stream runs nearly South for one hundred and fifty rods or more until it reaches what was once a mill dam, near which stood a mill. This mill was in active use as a grist mill and bark mill as late as the early part of this century. The dam was first built and owned by Joseph Curtis who used the water power chiefly to operate a saw mill. The water backed up behind the dam and formed a pond — probably long and narrow — known as Curtis's Mill Pond. Joseph Curtis was High Sheriff and a large property holder in this vicinity; and many grants of land were made in which, in some way, this property was mentioned as a boundary. This was partly because it was large and partly because Curtis was a prominent man; and so, naturally, places near by came to be located as "near Mr. Curtis's."

The first mention of Joseph Wilson in this vicinity is in 1682. On October 23 Richard Endoll had laid out a grant of twenty acres near "ye mast wayes," bounded with Joseph Wilson and Andrew Haley on the South and East.<sup>1</sup> According to the town records Joseph Wilson had no land there at that time; but there had been a grant to him of ten acres dated the June before, which was eventually laid out bounding Endoll as recorded. It is impossible to account for this discrepancy. The trouble seems to lie with the records. Perhaps there was a previous grant which was not recorded; perhaps the laying out was made in 1682 but not recorded until later; or perhaps Joseph bought a

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<sup>1</sup> Also spelled Endle. A complete account of this man is given later. This grant is recorded in Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 35.



piece of land there, the record of the transaction being neglected. In this latter instance, the lot must have been small for the lands belonging to the estate of Joseph Wilson as given in the inventory taken after his decease are but little more than the records show he possessed; and this overrun could be attributed, not unreasonably, to careless laying out of grants.

In 1685 Joseph Wilson obtained twenty acres at this place, ten of which has been mentioned as granted to him in 1682. The following is the record: †

“Septemb<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1685. Measured and laid out unto Joseph Wilson his town grant of ten acres of land bearing date June 24 1682—and his grant of ten acres more granted June 23<sup>d</sup> 1683—on y<sup>e</sup> East and South of Richard Endles land on y<sup>e</sup> West side of Spruce Creek by the Mast wayes Sixty-two poles North and South and forty pole East and West and the rest to make up the twenty acres lies on y<sup>e</sup> East Side of Richard Endles land as per y<sup>e</sup> Marked trees

John Wincoll, Surveigh<sup>r</sup>”

The next grant to him was made in 1694 and laid out in 1697, according to the following copy of the record:—

“Kittery Decemb<sup>r</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> 1697 Measured and laid out unto Sarg<sup>t</sup> Joseph Wilson his ten acres of land granted unto him by the town of Kittery May y<sup>e</sup> 16 1694 bounded by Cap<sup>m</sup> Fernalds line East and West thirty six pole and on the West Side with his own land running back into the woods on a North line Fortie Eight pole as appears by Marked Trees Containing ten acres of Land

per me W<sup>m</sup> Godsoe Surv<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> town of Kittery”

This is a good example of inaccurate laying out. This piece of land overruns more than three quarters of an acre. It should be said, however, that the errors were all in one direction and the lots all ran large—surveyors being only too careful to lay down the full amounts of the grants. This property also was in the vicinity of Curtis’s Creek, and “his own land” on the West

† Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 55.



side was the twenty acre lot formerly granted. The Capt. Fernald estate mentioned as a boundary was quite a large property, and part of it is owned by Fernalds at the present time.

In 1699 Joseph Wilson was granted forty acres more,<sup>1</sup> but the record does not say where it was located. About this time land began to be scarce and was frequently granted "wherever it might be found clear of any other man's land." Although this phrasing is not used in this instance it seems probable that this procedure was followed. It seems most likely that about one-half of this grant was laid out as an addition to the lot near Mr. Curtis's on the West side of Spruce Creek, and the balance near the property at the head of Eastern Creek.

There was still another grant to Joseph Wilson. It was made and laid out in 1703, and the following is a copy of the record:—<sup>2</sup>

"Kittery May 15<sup>th</sup> 1703—Measured and laid out for Sarg<sup>t</sup> Joseph Wilson twenty four acres of land lying at y<sup>e</sup> head of his home Lot in Spruce Creek and is part of a grant of thirty acres of Land granted unto him by the town of Kittery May 10<sup>th</sup> 1703—Bounded in part by his house Lott on the South west and by Richard Endles Land on the South east and Mendums Swap and upland on y<sup>e</sup> Northwestward and is Northwest by Weekes Land twenty eight poles and West by y<sup>e</sup> parsonage land to a Cloven Rock and y<sup>e</sup> whole is Denominated by a figure adjacent  
By m<sup>e</sup> W<sup>llm</sup> Godsoe Survey<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> town of Kittery.

Kittery May 15<sup>th</sup>—Measured and laid out for Sargeant Joseph Wilson Six acres of Land y<sup>e</sup> remaining part of his thirty acres of land granted unto him May 10<sup>th</sup> 1703—being in Length forty pole Northeast and South west and in breadth twenty four pole North west and South east Bounded by y<sup>e</sup> upper part of Richard Endles land that runs up from y<sup>e</sup> Mill in Spruce Creek on y<sup>e</sup> Southeast Hutchins on the Northeast and Andrew Haley on y<sup>e</sup> Northwest and Southwest

By m<sup>e</sup> W<sup>llm</sup> Godsoe Surveyor for Kittery"

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 61.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 99.



Accompanying this record is a map, of which mention already has been made to show the original forty-five acre lot which belonged to Gowen Wilson. This is marked "Sargeant Wilsons Home Lot." From this the twenty-four acre addition extends irregularly in a North Easterly direction carrying the head line two hundred and sixty-eight rods from the shore on the South East side — along what is now the Norton Road. The six acre lot of this latest grant was located near the head of the twenty-four acre addition, but did not adjoin it.

There is but one recorded purchase of land by Joseph Wilson, and the following is a copy of the deed: —<sup>1</sup>

Know All men by these p<sup>r</sup>sents that I Richard Endle of Kittery in y<sup>e</sup> County of york Yeoman for & in Consideration of a valluable Sum of money to me in hand paid by my brother Joseph Wilson of y<sup>e</sup> same place yeoman

Endle           y<sup>e</sup> Receipt thereof I doe Confess and my  
 to            Selfe therewith Contented & paid haue  
 Wilson       Given granted bargained & Sold and for  
               ever Set over unto y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Joseph Wilson  
               his heirs Execut<sup>rs</sup> Administrat<sup>rs</sup> & As-  
 signs for ever Ten Acres of Land with y<sup>e</sup> timbr<sup>r</sup> &  
 wood Standing or lying thereon bounded or Lying  
 in Kittery Near y<sup>e</sup> great mast way behind Simonses  
 Marsh Joyning to or Near y<sup>e</sup> town Commons and  
 is part of that Lot of land that was given or Laid  
 out unto my Late father M<sup>r</sup> Richard Endle dec<sup>d</sup> as  
 Appears on Record in Kittery town book To Haue  
 & To Hold y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Ten Acres of land with y<sup>e</sup> timbr<sup>r</sup>  
 & wood or Underwood Standing or lying on s<sup>d</sup> land  
 unto y<sup>e</sup> Only & propper use Benefit & behoofe: of  
 him y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Joseph Wilson his heirs Execut<sup>rs</sup> Adm<sup>rs</sup>  
 or Assigns for ever And Furthermore I y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Richard  
 Endle doe for my Selfe and my heirs Execut<sup>rs</sup> and  
 Administrators Covenant to & with y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Joseph  
 Wilson his heirs Execut<sup>rs</sup> Administrat<sup>rs</sup> or Assigns  
 for ever that y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Land & premises are free from  
 all Incumbrances by him made and that he is the  
 true and Lawfull owner thereof and of Every part  
 thereof y<sup>e</sup> peaceable possession thereof to Warra<sup>t</sup> &

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.





for ever Defend against all persons laying a Law-  
full Claime thereunto In Witness whereof I have  
hereunto Set to my hand & Seale this Twenty first  
day of January one thousand Seven hundred & Ten  
1710/

Richard Endle (<sup>a</sup>seale)

Signed & Sealed in ye p<sup>r</sup>sence  
of us ye Subscrib<sup>r</sup>s  
Gowin Wilson  
William Godsoe

The 31 : of January 1710/ Then Richard Endle

II

p<sup>r</sup>sonally Appeared before me the Subscrib<sup>r</sup> one of  
her Maj<sup>t</sup>y<sup>e</sup> Justices for ye County of york &  
Acknowledged this within Instrument to be his  
free Act and Deed/ W<sup>m</sup> Pepperrell

A True Coppie of ye Original Transcrib<sup>d</sup> & Com-  
pared Febr<sup>y</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1710/

II

Jos: Hammond Reg<sup>r</sup>

Thus are comprised the real estate holdings of Joseph Wilson. An inventory<sup>1</sup> taken after his decease credits him with sixty-one acres at the head of Eastern Creek, sixty-one acres on the West side of Spruce Creek and sixty-four acres at Goose Creek — the latter being fifty-eight acres of home lot and a six acre wood lot. All of this land is called "wood land" except the home lot.

Besides these holdings of land Joseph Wilson owned quite extensively in sawmills. At the time of his decease he owned one-half of a large mill, in partnership with Elihu Gunnison (Jr.) and Andrew Haley. This mill was built by Elihu Gunnison (Sr.), Andrew Haley, Henry Barter and Joseph Wilson — each man owning a quarter part. Elihu Gunnison sold out to his son in 1708,<sup>2</sup> and Henry Barter sold out to Joseph Wilson in 1709.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> York Co. Register of Probate, No. 2, fols. 32 and 33.

<sup>2</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



In 1706 Elihu Gunnison mortgaged to Samuel Wentworth of Boston two hundred acres of land and several buildings. The following is an extract from the mortgage deed :<sup>1</sup>

“And my three quarters part of a certain Saw Mill in company with Joseph Wilson. And one quarter part of another Saw Mill in company with the Said Joseph Wilson and Andrew Hales, and of the Streams waters ponds flumes Gear Takle Utensils and Appurtenances to y<sup>e</sup> Said Severall Mills belonging, both of them Standing Scituate at Spruce Crick afors<sup>d</sup>.”

This mortgage was paid by Elihu Gunnison Jr. in 1713. These papers show that Joseph was an owner in three sawmills. One of these mills was undoubtedly at Goose Creek. The map of the Gunnison estate shows a mill there, and in a deed from Elihu Gunnison to John Ingarson<sup>r</sup> a piece of land is designated by saying it was near the sawmill at Goose Creek. The deed, already mentioned, from Henry Barter to Joseph Wilson is of one-quarter of a sawmill on Crockett's back creek. Crockett owned land on the East side of Spruce Creek which is known to-day as Crockett's Neck. Crockett's back creek is evidently the same that is known to-day as Barter's Creek. This makes up behind Kittery Point as far as the present Spruce Creek Road. It is difficult to see, to-day, where a mill could have been situated on it, but the destruction of the forests probably changed the appearance of the watercourses here, as elsewhere. The other sawmill was probably located North of Crockett's Neck at a place called, to-day, “the mill dam.” It is the only place on the East side of Spruce Creek which shows beyond question that a mill once stood there. The stones of the dam are used to-day, when the water is below half tide, for a crossing from Crockett's Neck. The creek runs back from the dam in an Easterly direction and crosses the road from Kittery Point “up the Creek” about a third of a mile away. The bridge at this crossing has been long known as “Merrymeeting Bridge.” Very likely the mill at

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



“The Milldam” was in use in more recent times than any other on the East side of Spruce Creek, for the stream — judging by its size to-day — was probably the last one to shrink too small for mill purposes.

At Goose Creek, now often called Brigg’s Corner after Hiram D. Briggs who kept a store there fifty years ago, there is still a small stream running across the fields and under the road. There are no traces of a dam, however, although some have questioned whether certain good sized stones may not have been carried there by man and not by nature.

In the inventory of Joseph Wilson’s estate there is an item

“To a Parcell of Iron work Belonging to the old sawmill Being on  $\frac{1}{4}$  part.”

from which it would seem that one of these three mills in which Joseph was interested had become, in 1710, old and probably unused. It is impossible to say which one this was.

Joseph Wilson married Hannah, daughter of Richard Endle, about 1682. If Joseph was born in 1650 or a little later, which has been shown probable, he was about thirty years of age when married. His wife was undoubtedly some years younger. She died in 1747 and so probably was born during the six or eight years preceding 1664. The town records do not give her maiden name. This was found through a deed dated 1719,<sup>1</sup> from Hannah Wilson to her son Gowen, of which the following is an extract: —

“All my right, title, interest, claim, challenge or demand, which I have or ought to have, to all tracts or parcels of land, marsh, bog ground, houses, orchards, wood or timber, which are in the town of Kittery, aforesaid, which did or ought to belong to my deceased father, Richard Endle, formerly of Kittery, aforesaid,” etc.

It will be noticed that in the deed already mentioned from Richard Endle to Joseph Wilson the wording is “my brother Joseph Wilson”; and the deed says the land in question “was laid out unto my late father Richard Endle.”

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



The following family of twelve children was born to Joseph and Hannah Wilson.<sup>1</sup>

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Hannah,    | born Nov. 29, 1683. |
| Joseph,    | " Oct. 28, 1684.    |
| William,   | " Aug. 28, 1686.    |
| Ruth,      | " Apr. 19, 1688.    |
| Gowen,     | " Jan. 29, 1690.    |
| Agnes,     | " Mar. 1, 1692.     |
| John,      | " Jan. 13, 1694.    |
| Rebecca,   | " Feb. 16, 1696.    |
| Deborah,   | " Apr. 19, 1698.    |
| Mary,      | " Feb. 25, 1700.    |
| Anna,      | " Mar. 29, 1702.    |
| Elizabeth, | " Sept. 23, 1705.   |

The home of Joseph Wilson was, as has been seen, on the Goose Creek lot — the home lot of his father Gowen. It has been shown that this lot was located North East from the shore with the Norton Road as its Southeastern boundary. The road from Kittery Point up the creek crossed it then, as it does to-day, sixty or seventy rods from the shore. This road is one of the old roads of the town. It was an Indian footpath trailing through the woods long before the settlement of the town — which perhaps accounts for its crookedness. The map dated 1703 of Joseph Wilson's estate, which has been described, shows three buildings; and the map of the Gunnison estate, of which mention has been made, shows one building marked "Mr. Wilson's Garrison." The position of this last building — which is curiously drawn out with black and red inks with a large flag flying — corresponds with the location of the largest of the three buildings shown upon the Wilson map. It is not known how accurately placed are the buildings in this instance, but there are similar cases in the records where the positions shown are correct; and it is believed that they were meant to be located as correctly as possible. Assuming this, the location of Joseph Wilson's house was on the North West bank of Goose Creek (now called Wilson's Creek) — perhaps twenty or thirty rods South West of the corner of the Norton and Kittery Point roads. The grassed-over remains

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 5.





of a cellar are there at the present time — but it is doubtful if it was of this house. Moses Wilson, grandson of this Joseph, lived in a house on this side of the road and probably on this old cellar. The inventory of Joseph Wilson's estate, dated 1710, has an item of "a part of a frame and Timber provided for a dwelling house for himself," which shows that he was preparing to build a new house. He likely lived in the house built by his father, Gowen; but it is doubtful if the houses of the earliest settlers — and Gowen's was one of these — had sufficient conveniences to be tolerated for very many generations after the advent of the sawmill. This might be especially true of sawmill owners.

It is noticeable that while many old houses torn down from time to time at the present day contain hewn timber, few, if any, contain hewn floors; and the flooring is sawed so evenly as to rather preclude the idea of its having been done with hand saws. Of course there are instances where house materials were imported, but these were in important settlements in dwellings of rich or prominent men.<sup>1</sup> The house, whichever it was, that was on this old cellar at Goose Creek has not been in existence within the recollection of present generations. Forty years ago the evidences of a cellar there were clear, while to-day one might walk by the place thinking it was a natural hollow in the ground.

There is one rather peculiar feature of the records of the Goose Creek estate of Joseph Wilson. The eleven acre lot which Gowen Wilson gave to his son-in-law Andrew Haley, and which has been owned by Haleys until very recently, is included in the 1703 map of Joseph Wilson's home lot. It is hard to explain this. Whether this was done to show the lot as it was originally laid out; whether Andrew Haley had not then shown his claim upon the piece given him; or whatever the reason was — it has thus far baffled the efforts of investigators to show why this was done. The inventory of Joseph Wilson's estate made in 1710 does not include this land. It names fifty-eight acres in the home lot. Forty-five of this was granted to Gowen, who gave Andrew

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<sup>1</sup> If this reasoning is correct, it is reasonable to assume that the houses of the very earliest settlers in any place have been rarely preserved until the present time.



Haley eleven, leaving thirty-four acres. Then Joseph Wilson got his addition of twenty-four acres, making fifty-eight acres in all in his estate at this place. The deeds and the inventory agreeing, it is very evident that either by accident, or for a purpose, the 1703 map is incorrect in this respect.

Joseph Wilson held various offices in Kittery from time to time. He was chosen surveyor of highways and fences in March, 1694, and was re-elected yearly until 1699. The following is a copy of the record of his last election to this office — a part of the town meeting record of March, 1698: <sup>1</sup>

“ Chosen for Surv<sup>rs</sup> of highways & fences  
                   Baker Nason        } for ye up<sup>r</sup> part  
                   John Cooper        }  
                   L<sup>t</sup> Shapleigh        } Middle p<sup>t</sup>  
                   John Morrel        }  
                   Richd. Briar         } Lower part.”  
                   Joseph Wilson        }

The following is a record of his appointment to a committee in 1697: <sup>2</sup>

“At a Legall Meeting of ye Inhabitants of ye lower Town of Kittery the 15<sup>th</sup> of Novemb<sup>r</sup> 1697 — Mr William Pepprill Chosen Moderat<sup>r</sup> Voted that an house of four and twenty foot long and eighteen foot broad and about Six food Stud shall be built upon the Ministry land at Spruce Creek and the Management thereof is left to Lieut John Shapleigh M<sup>r</sup> Elihu Gunnison M<sup>r</sup> Richd Cutt M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Curtes and Sargt Joseph Wilson.”

It is probable that this was the first building erected in Kittery expressly for a church.

Here is another record of service to the town: <sup>3</sup>

“At a Legall town Meeting held at Kittery May 24<sup>th</sup> 1699 L<sup>t</sup> John Shapleigh was Chosen Moderat<sup>r</sup> for the s<sup>d</sup> day John Heard Joshua Downing and Joseph Wilson were Chosen to Set with ye Select-

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 52.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 51.

<sup>3</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 61.



men for to Allow of all grants of Land that be made this day. here follows a List of y<sup>e</sup> Severall persons that had lands granted them this day w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Numb<sup>r</sup> of Acres."

Joseph Wilson was elected to the board of Selectmen of Kittery in 1703, 1704 and 1705. The following is the record of his first election: <sup>1</sup>

"At a Legall town Meeting held at Kittery y<sup>e</sup> 1 of March 170<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> William Pepperrell Esq<sup>r</sup> was Chosen Moderat<sup>r</sup> for that day — Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Winkley was Chosen Representative for y<sup>e</sup> Town — Maj<sup>r</sup> Joseph Hammond was Chosen Town Clerk and Sworn — Cap<sup>tn</sup> John Hill, L<sup>t</sup> Charles Frost, James Warren Ens<sup>n</sup> John Leighton Mr Elihue Gunnison Joseph Hill & Joseph Wilson were Chosen Selectmen for the year ensuing — Ensign John Leighton Chosen Town Treasurer — Richard Toziar, Sam<sup>l</sup> Small & Peter Lewis Sr were Chosen Constables and Sworn afterward—James Smith James Grannt Nich<sup>s</sup> Gowen Al<sup>t</sup> Smith Joshua Downing Joseph Hill Mr Rich<sup>d</sup> Cutt Joseph Weeks, Henry Barter, Stephen Tobey and L<sup>t</sup> Richard Boyer were Chosen Survers of highways and fences."

The last record of Joseph Wilson as an officeholder in the town is in 1708 when he again was chosen surveyor of highways and fences.

It doubtless has been noticed that here and there throughout the town records this man is called Sargeant Joseph Wilson. This was a military title held in the organization of the people of the town for protection against the Indians. The town records contain no references to these matters, but it is known from outside papers that throughout the town suitable houses were chosen in which a half dozen or so of the nearby families took refuge in times of trouble with the Indians. The fighting strength of the several families of course was made more efficient by the combination. It has been seen that the Gunnison map shows a building marked "Mr. Wilson's Garrison,"— and this is proof

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 98.



that Sergt. Wilson kept such a house. His title did not come from this, however; for his son Joseph maintained a garrison but had no military title, and Sergt. Wilson's widow, Hannah Wilson, also kept a garrison house. In Sept. 1722 Widow Wilson was chosen to set up a garrison house and include the families of Joseph Weeks, Samuel Skillin, Gowen Wilson, John Wilson and William Haley; and Joseph Wilson was chosen to the same, he to include the families of John Benson, Thomas Hutchins, Enoch Hutchins and John Dealing.<sup>1</sup>

There is no record of the death of Sergt. Wilson. The following inventory of his estate<sup>2</sup> shows that probably he died early in 1710. In the foregoing account of his life references frequently have been made to this document :

A true and Perfect Inventory of All and Singular The Goods Chattels and Credits of Sergeant Joseph Wilson of Kittery Deceased Taken by us the Subscribers. And apprised as they were showed vnto vs By mistriss Hannah Wilfon Relict of the Deceased this 17th Day of May 1710=witneff our hands.

Henry Barter  
William Godsoe

| Imprimis                                                                                 | £   | s  | d  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| To the Dweling house Barn and out housing                                                | 30  | 00 | 00 |
| To fifty eight acres of land Belonging to the Dweling house att three pounds p acre      | 174 | 00 | 00 |
| To 6 acres of wood land lying att the head of the house Lott att 20 shilling p acre      | 006 | 00 | 00 |
| To 61 acres of wood land lying att the head of the Eastern Creek att 25s p acre          | 076 | 05 | 00 |
| To 61 acres of wood land lying By Captain Furnald farm att                               | 061 | 00 | 00 |
| To the halfe Part of the Sawmill in Partnership with mr Elihu Gunnison and Andrew Halley | 060 | 00 | 00 |
| To the stock of Cattle viz 2 yoak oxen                                                   | 18  | 00 | 00 |
| To 2 yoak Horses on of 4 years old, 1 of 3                                               | 11  | 00 | 00 |
| To 3 Cows and 2 calves                                                                   | 10  | 00 | 00 |
| To 3 hefers of 3 years old each                                                          | 06  | 15 | 00 |
| To 2 yearlins 20 shilling each                                                           | 02  | 00 | 00 |

<sup>1</sup> Probate Records York Co. Book 2, fol. 87.

<sup>2</sup> Probate Records York Co. Book 2, fol. 32.





## THE KITTERY WILSONS.

|                                                                            |                 |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| To 3-2 year old Horses and 3-2 year old hefrs                              | 12 00 00        |                  |
| To 1 mare and Colt old saddle and Bridle                                   | 03 00 00        |                  |
| To 33 old sheep and 31 Lambs                                               | 16 00 00        |                  |
| To 5 Old swine and 6 Shotts 6 litle piggs                                  | 04 06 00        |                  |
|                                                                            | <u>83 01 00</u> | 83 01 00         |
| To Arms and Ammunition viz 3 Guns }<br>with the Amunition 1 old Carbine }  | 04 16 00        |                  |
| To 1 halbert, Raplor 1 Cuttlash }<br>1 Belt }                              | 01 13 00        | 006 09 00        |
| Carried over to the other side                                             |                 | <u>496 15 00</u> |
| Brought from the other side                                                |                 | 496 15 00        |
| To Tools and Implements for husbandry viz                                  |                 |                  |
| To 4 Harrow Axes 12 shilling 1 Broad Axe 10 shg                            | 01 02 0         |                  |
| To 2 Iron Squars 2s 6d, 3 Augurs 9 shilling                                | 00 11 6         |                  |
| To 4 Chissels 4 shilling, 2 Planing Iron 1s 6d                             | 00 05 6         |                  |
| To 2 Old Sawds 2 shilling 1 Adde 3 shilling                                | 00 05 0         |                  |
| To 2 Drawing knives 3 shillg 3 hamers 3 shillg                             | 00 06 0         |                  |
| To 3 wedges and 2 Beetle wrings                                            | 00 05 0         |                  |
| To 6 hooes 15 shilling, 66 Pounds of hoging Chaines att 8 pence p pound    | 02 19 0         |                  |
| To a parcel of Old Chains Containin' 53lbs                                 | 01 01 0         |                  |
| To a pair Plough Irons 10 shll, 2 forks 3 shll                             | 00 13 0         |                  |
| To an old cart, 2 old Sleds the side }<br>of one new Slead }               | 01 00 0         |                  |
| To 2 old frees 1 pair hoop 1 hours 1 Reap hook                             | 00 04 0         |                  |
|                                                                            | <u>08 12 0</u>  | 008 12 0         |
| To Household Goods—viz—30 pound }<br>of Good Powder att 20 Pence p pound } | 02 10 0         |                  |
| To on Tankard att 7 shill, old powder 2 shill                              | 00 09 0         |                  |
| To on Larg fether Bed and furniture                                        | 07 00 0         |                  |



SARGT. JOSEPH WILSON.

43

|                                                            |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| To on Larg Trunk 12 shill Table Cloth<br>8 shll            | 01 00 0                  |
| To 2 more Beds and furniture att 4<br>pound each           | 08 00 0                  |
| To 6 pound wolen yarn 12 shill                             | 00 12 0                  |
| To 25 yards of wolen whom spun cloth                       | 03 15 0                  |
| To 8 pound of linen yarn                                   | 00 16 0                  |
| To 4 lb flax att 8d p lb                                   | 00 02 8                  |
| To 2 pair of wollen Cards 5s Bible 2s 6d                   | 00 07 6                  |
| To 1 Box Iron, and 2 heaters—7 shill—                      | 00 07 0                  |
| To Money Scals 1 shll, Looking Glass<br>1 shill            | 00 02 0                  |
| To 3 Iron Pott and hooks                                   | 01 10 0                  |
| To 2 Tramelts 12 sh, frying pan 8s,<br>Tonge fish fork, 3s | 01 03 0                  |
| To 3 very Larg Knott Boles 10sh,<br>moss wooden ware 4s    | 00 14 0                  |
|                                                            | <u>28 08 2 028 08 02</u> |
| <br>                                                       |                          |
| To Provision viz 20 Bushll Barley                          | 03 00 0                  |
| To 10 Bushll of Indian Corn                                | 01 16 0                  |
| To a parcel of pork of about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a Bll        | 01 00 0                  |
| To 2 Spinning wheels 10 shill, old<br>Cask att 10 shll     | 01 00 0                  |
|                                                            | <u>06 16 0 006 16 00</u> |
| Carried over to the other side                             | <u>540 03 02</u>         |
| <br>                                                       |                          |
| Brought from the other side                                | 540 03 02                |
| To 1 Peace of new Leather and some<br>fishing Craft        | 00 04 0                  |
| To 2 Bucketts and a Cann                                   | 00 03 0                  |
| To Earthenware 2 shill, moss 1 shill,<br>sieve 1 sh        | 00 04 0                  |
| To 1 Pair low snow shoes                                   | 00 06 0                  |
| To his waring apparrall                                    | 10 00 0                  |
| To 3 Knives and fork 3sh, 1 lamp 2<br>shill                | 00 05 0                  |
| To 1 Chest and som Tobacco in it                           | 00 05 0                  |
| To Cash, silver, and paper                                 | 07 18 9                  |
| To 4 Chairs something old and worn                         | 00 05 0                  |
| To on old fish and Tackling for on<br>more                 | 00 03 0                  |



## THE KITTERY WILSONS.

|                                                                                            |                 |                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| To a Gundolo and 2 Cannos on not finished                                                  | 09 00 0         |                  |
| To a parcel of squared Timber for 2 frames                                                 | 05 10 0         |                  |
| To a part of a frame and Timber provided for a Dwelling house for himself                  | 05 00 0         |                  |
| To 2 Bushll of wheat mixt with Barle                                                       | 00 07 0         |                  |
| To the old meal Bagg                                                                       | 00 06 0         |                  |
| To a Chamber pott of powder                                                                | 00 03 0         |                  |
|                                                                                            | <u>39 19 9</u>  | 39 19 9          |
|                                                                                            |                 |                  |
| To Lumber lying att the Sawmill                                                            |                 |                  |
| To 38 merchantable pine logs                                                               | 11 08 0         |                  |
| To 20 other Refus logg att 2 shll p logg                                                   | 02 00 0         |                  |
| To 2 boards shingle Timber                                                                 | 00 14 0         |                  |
| To 4 logg intended for shingles Timber                                                     | 00 16 0         |                  |
| To his interest in a house on the land by Captain Furnalds farm                            | 03 00 0         |                  |
| To his share of 1331 foot of plank                                                         | 03 09 0         |                  |
| To 7746 foot of merchantable Boards att 35 shill                                           | 13 10 0         |                  |
| To a parcel of slit work                                                                   | 01 02 0         |                  |
|                                                                                            | <u>35 19 0</u>  | 035 19 00        |
|                                                                                            |                 |                  |
| To a Debt due from Andrew Lowds                                                            | 02 03 09        | 616 01 11        |
| To a Parcell of Iron work Be-<br>longing to the old sawmill<br>Beeng on $\frac{1}{4}$ part | 01 10 00        |                  |
|                                                                                            | <u>03 13 09</u> | 003 13 09        |
|                                                                                            |                 | <u>619 15 08</u> |

York ss. May 10, 1711.

The within named William Goodsoe and Henery Barter Personally appearing before me the subscribers Judge of Probate &c within said County made oath that they did make apprifement of the within Estate to the Just value to the best of their Judgment and also Mrs Hannah Wilson appearing made oath to the truth of the within Inventory and if any thing more hereafter fhall come to her knowledge she will give it in to the Registers office of the aforefaid County.

Ichabod Plaisted



Recorded in the Registers office in the County  
of Yorke No 2 fott 32 & 33.

p Charles Frost, Register.

Sergt. Wilson's widow Hannah Wilson was appointed administratrix May 10th, 1711; and the following is her account rendered in 1714.<sup>1</sup>

Hannah Wilson Relict and administrix of the Estate of he late husband Joseph Wilson deceased her accounts of charges and disbostments as appears By Sundry & Particular hear aftar set forth and named since the loss of her faid husband for which the s<sup>d</sup> accountant prays louance foloweth to the value

#### FUNARALL CHARGES

|                                                                                                    |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Imprimas account of parlechelary to Capt. paporoll<br>for 8 gallands of wine and 3 Gallands of Rum | 02 10 00             |
| To 6 lbs of sugar, 1 Galland of molasses                                                           | 00 07 00             |
| To Nutmags Cloves Allspis and Gonger                                                               | 00 07 00             |
| To 13 pair of mens Gloves and 8 pair<br>womans Glovs To the Cofen and digen the<br>Grave           | 02 18 00<br>00 15 00 |
| To Elisha Ingerson for attendane aboutt<br>the funarell                                            | 00 03 00             |
| To the fetchen the Crownar from York                                                               | 00 01 00             |
| To the Crownars fees and Constobolls Charges<br>and Jury                                           | 01 13 00             |
| To the Charges of Administrasion, persons and<br>bondsmen                                          | 02 09 00             |
| To divars othear bobty paid to Sundory persons                                                     |                      |
| Imprimis to Capt paporoll                                                                          | 05 19 09             |
| to mr Elihu Gunnson Junr                                                                           | 07 03 00             |
| to mr odd horn                                                                                     | 00 05 00             |
| to Richard Michell                                                                                 | 00 02 00             |
| to Bangomen Hochens                                                                                | 00 02 00             |
| to Mr Winkely                                                                                      | 00 04 00             |
| to Edward Eairs-Smith                                                                              | 03 07 00             |
| to Mr Richard Cutt                                                                                 | 03 08 00             |
| to Mr George Webboar                                                                               | 00 02 00             |
| to Mr Hamands for Recording 2 bills of saill                                                       | 00 08 00             |

<sup>1</sup> Probate Records York Co. Book 2, fol. 87.





## THE KITTERY WILSONS.

|                                                                 |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| to Mr Paporoll one Mr Hooks account                             | 09 07 00 |
| more vis to a sut of morning for my self                        | 05 00 00 |
| to more lost by logs or wonklns 12 sheep                        | 03 00 00 |
| to loss in the dwelling house falling down                      | 05 15 00 |
| to bringing up one child three years and halfe<br>at 7s p annum | 24 10 00 |
|                                                                 | <hr/>    |
|                                                                 | 79 18 02 |

## Errors Excepted

|                                                                                                                      |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Allowed the widdow Wilson for her trouble in<br>administering and other nessary £20, To so<br>much paid the Probates | } 20 00 00 |
|                                                                                                                      | 00 19 09   |

The Estate of Joseph Wilson Credet<sup>d</sup> appears by  
severall sums Recovered of Sundry parsons

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Imprimas of Mr. Ebenezar More | 04 00 00 |
| of Mr. Josiah Scillian        | 00 19 00 |
| of Cristefar Michell          | 00 18 00 |
| of Mr Robart Elott            | 00 18 00 |
| of pettear Lewes              | 00 15 00 |
| of Recharad Westcot           | 01 00 00 |
| of Robart mocaney             | 00 07 00 |

York ss. Barwick March 26th 1714

M<sup>rs</sup> Hannah Wilfson presenting the within  
acct<sup>s</sup> and made her oath thereunto before me the  
subscriber Judge for the Probate of Wills, &c.  
within the County of Yorke and it is considered  
that she be allowed the fum of one hundred pounds  
seventeen fhillings & 11d

Ichabod Plaisted

Recorded in the Registr<sup>s</sup> office for the County  
of Yorke. No 2. Voll-87-88.

p Charles Frost Registr<sup>r</sup>.

This last document shows that Sergt. Wilson died suddenly,  
and in such a manner as to require a coroner and his jury. Un-  
fortunately the search for their verdict has been unsuccessful. It  
is to be noted that there is an item in this same document "to  
loss in the dwelling house falling down." The inventory of the  
estate names "a part of a frame and Timber provided for a  
Dwelling house for himself." It is perhaps idle to guess on these



facts; but the question arises whether his house was not old or weak — he was about to build a new one — and whether he was not killed by the falling in of some part of it. He was under sixty years old and apparently in full health, for he was active in both public and private life at or near the time of his death.

Sergt. Wilson died worth about six hundred and twenty pounds — a considerable estate for those times. In 1711 there was put upon the town records a list of freeholders with the yearly income from their real estates. This was done to get correct assessment of taxes. Of the two hundred and forty-one names upon this list only sixty-four have a yearly income of ten pounds or over. The receipts from Sergt. Wilson's estate are stated to be ten pounds. The wording of the town records leads to the conclusion that only income from land was included, and consequently his sawmill property would not come into this reckoning. It is noticeable that the good will of his business is not considered in the inventory of his estate, although it is doubtful if this could make very much difference.

The following extract of a deed shows that Sergt. Wilson was a "house wright," or carpenter:

"John Parsons, husbandman, Joseph Parsons, blacksmith, Enoch Dill, labourer and Ruth his wife, which said John, Joseph and Ruth are grandchildren of Joseph Wilson, late of Kittery, house wright, and Hannah his wife, both deceased," etc.<sup>1</sup>

This is a quit claim deed to Moses Wilson of their grandmother's dower in the estate of their grandfather Sergt. Wilson. It will be seen later on that the connection was through the Sergeant's daughter Ruth, who married Elihu Parsons of York.

Hannah Wilson, the Sergeant's widow, had set apart for her use about thirty acres of the Goose Creek property. There are records<sup>1</sup> from time to time of several sales and purchases by her — partly in connection with her position as administratrix of her husband's estate, and partly on her own account. It has been

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



shown that in 1722 she was chosen to set up a garrison house. Probably this was done because hers was the best garrison in the vicinity, and not on account of any special ability on her part as an Indian fighter. These things rather indicate, however, that she was an energetic woman, not living that quiet inactive life which perhaps might have been expected of a woman in her position.

Hannah Wilson died in the early part of the year 1748. She was over eighty years of age. Administration upon her estate was granted to her eldest son Joseph Wilson. The following papers are the administrator's account, additional account, and a bill presented by her son-in-law John Norton.

The Accouyst of Joseph Willson Administrator of all & Singular The Goods and Chattels Rights and Credits of Hannah Willson late of Kittery Dec<sup>d</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Accouystant Chargeth himself with all and Singular The Goods and Chattels, rights and Credits of y<sup>r</sup>, s<sup>d</sup>, Dec<sup>d</sup> ammounting as appeareth By an Inventory Thereof Exhibited into The Registry of s<sup>d</sup> Court of Probate for s<sup>d</sup> County of York To The Sum of £212. Old Tenor and Pittions for allowances out of The same as follows —

|                                                                                                                |                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| To The funeral Charges of The Decd—old tenr                                                                    | £55 05 09      |
| To Probate fees for Letter of Administration }<br>and recording ye same & ye Bond &c                           | 2 8 -          |
| To ye Committee for apprizing sd Estate Paid                                                                   | 05 15 00       |
| To my time and Expeuce with the Committee                                                                      | 02 00 00       |
| To my Time in Goeing To The Probate office }<br>for ye warrant of apprizement and expence                      | 01 10 00       |
| To my time in Goeing To Pay The funerall }<br>Charges and Settling ye accounts of ye<br>same and Getting recyd | 01 10 00       |
| To my journey to York to ye Court of Pro- }<br>bate to Get ye Committee Sworn                                  | 02 00 00       |
| To the Committee Journey to York to be }<br>sworn—                                                             | 03 00 00       |
| To my Journey to York to Exhibit This }<br>accouyt                                                             | 2 - -          |
| Warrt. for ye View, & apprizemt of ye }<br>Widows Est and recording 14 The In-<br>venty & Report 18            | 1 12 -         |
| Examg allowing & recording this accot                                                                          | 1 2 -          |
| Errors Excepted                                                                                                | <u>£78 2 9</u> |

p Josoh Willson



York. ff.

At a Court of Probate held at York July 4 1748 Joseph Willson within named appeared & made oath to the Truth of the within accot which being well vouched, Ordered that he be allowed the Sum of Seventy eight pounds, two shillings & nine pence. Bills of the old Tenor out of said Estate in full Discharge thereof

Recorded liby 7, Fol<sup>o</sup> 178

Jer Moulton Judge

pr Simon Frost Regr

Jos<sup>h</sup> Willsons AccotJuly 4, 1748 Ent<sup>d</sup>Inventy of persone<sup>l</sup> Estate £38 1 -

Real Estate sold 189 - -

227 1 -1<sup>st</sup> Accot 78 2 9

2 Ditto 168 2 -

3 Ditto 38 6 -

284 9 9227 1 -

12) 57 8 9

4 15 8

To additional account of Joseph Willson Administ<sup>r</sup> to the Estate of Hannah Willson late of Kittery Deceas<sup>d</sup>

To Due to the forth Commte for Viewing and }  
apprizing of the Estate of sd Deceas<sup>d</sup> } 13 00 0

To 1 day goeng to ye Register for a warrant }  
for a second Committee and notifying ye same } 2 00 0

To 1 day waiting on sd Committee when viewing }  
the land and expence } 2 0 0

To 1 day to gett ye Committee Sworn and Expence 2 0 0

To 1 day attendance at Octr Court and Expence 2 0 0

To ye Surveyr for Drawing a plan of ye land 0 10 0

To two days attendance at April 749 Court }  
and Expence } 4 0 0





## THE KITTERY WILSONS.

|                                                                                            |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| To Due to John Norton                                                                      | 10 12 0        |
| To Due to Joseph Willson                                                                   | 111 14 0       |
| To Due to Benjn Parker Junr                                                                | 0 10 0         |
| To Drawing this acct                                                                       | 0 6 0          |
| To 2 days attendce at probt Court May 1749                                                 | 4 - -          |
| To the Justice for Swearing ye appress 10/ & the Regr for Searching Papers & Writing 10/ } | 1 - -          |
| To Mr Frost for Extroodinary time & expence for the Heirs of the Estate }                  | 2 - -          |
| To the Second Committee for time and expence                                               | 9 - -          |
| To the Judge for Decree of Settlemt &c                                                     | 1 - -          |
| To ye Regr for writing and recording sd } Decree 20/-                                      | 1 - -          |
| To Examg, allowing & Recording this acct                                                   | 1 10 -         |
|                                                                                            | <u>168 2 -</u> |

Errors. Excepted Jos Willson Admr

York, SS. At a Court of Probate held at York May 16, 1749 Joseph Willson above named appeared and made Oath to the Truth of the above Accot which being well vouched. Ordered that he be allowed the further sum of one Hund<sup>d</sup> sixty eight pounds two shillings Bills of the old Tenor out of said Estate in full Discharge thereof

Recorded liby 7. Fol<sup>o</sup> 250 p Simon Frost Regr

Mrs Hannah Willfon unto John Norton Dr.—  
1736 Contra Cr.

|                                            | £ | s  | d |
|--------------------------------------------|---|----|---|
| Octobr 15 due upon the ballance of an Acct | 6 | 6  | 0 |
| 1737. To one Bushell of Corn at 10/-       | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| To one ditto ———                           | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| To one ditto ———                           | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| To ½ Bushell of Wheat att 9s               | 0 | 9  | 0 |
| To ½ Bushell of Meal att 5s                | 0 | 5  | 0 |
| To 1 Bushell of Meal att 10s               | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| To ½ Bushell of Meal att 5s                | 0 | 5  | 0 |
| To 1 Bushell of Meal att 10s               | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| To ½ Bushell of Meal att 5s                | 0 | 5  | 0 |
| To ½ Bushell of Meal att 5s                | 0 | 5  | 0 |
| To 1 Bushell ditto                         | 0 | 10 | 0 |



|      |         |                      |         |     |    |   |
|------|---------|----------------------|---------|-----|----|---|
| 1738 | May 5th | To ½ Bushell of Meal |         | 0   | 5  | 0 |
|      |         | To ditto             | att 5s  | 0   | 5  | 0 |
|      |         | To 1 Bushell         | att 10s | 0   | 10 | 0 |
|      |         | To ½ Bushell         | att 5s  | 0   | 5  | 0 |
|      |         | To ½ Bushell of Meal | att 5s  | 0   | 5  | 0 |
|      |         | To 1 Bushell of Do   |         | 0   | 10 | - |
|      |         | To ½ Bushell Do      |         | 0   | 5  | - |
|      |         | To ½ Bushell of Meal | ---     | -   | 5  | - |
|      |         | To Ditto             | att 5s  | 0   | 5  | 0 |
|      |         | To Ditto             | att Do  | 0   | 5  | - |
|      |         |                      | Sum     | £13 | 15 | 0 |
|      |         |                      |         |     | 3  | 3 |
|      |         |                      |         |     |    |   |
|      |         | Errors excepted pr   |         | 10  | 12 | 0 |

Jno Norton.

York fs York May 16. 1749.

John Norton above named appeared & made oath to the Truth of the above acc<sup>t</sup>

Before Simon Frost J. pea.

|      |                                                                     |  |    |    |   |  |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----|----|---|--|
| 1720 | My Honor <sup>d</sup> Mother Mrs Hannah Willfon Dr                  |  |    |    |   |  |
|      | to 22 days work on your Barn at 8s                                  |  | £8 | 16 | 0 |  |
|      | to 6 days of Andrew Lewis on ye Barn }<br>at 6s                     |  | 1  | 16 | 0 |  |
|      | to 1 thousand of Bords                                              |  | 3  | 00 | 0 |  |
| 1731 | to 39 foot of Timber & Silling yr house                             |  | 2  | 04 | 0 |  |
|      | to 2 men & 4 oxen 2 days halling wood                               |  | 2  | 00 | 0 |  |
| 1733 | to 3 days work of my self & S of my son }<br>and 2 oxen 3 days      |  | 2  | 02 | 0 |  |
| 1734 | to 4 Cord of wood                                                   |  | 2  | 08 | 0 |  |
|      | to 2 " Ditto                                                        |  | 1  | 06 | 0 |  |
|      | to myself & 2 Sons 1 day cutting wood                               |  |    | 12 | 0 |  |
|      | to myself & 2 Sons and oxen 2 days }<br>cutting & halling wood      |  | 2  | 04 | 0 |  |
| 1735 | to myself with 2 Sons & 4 oxen Cutting }<br>& halling house fencing |  | 1  | 18 | 0 |  |
|      | to 2 days of my Self & 2 Sons making fence                          |  | 1  | 00 | 0 |  |
|      | to 13 days work a mowing and making hay                             |  | 3  | 05 | 0 |  |
|      | to 1 day of self 2 Sons and oxen                                    |  | 1  | 01 | 0 |  |
| 1739 | to 5 Cord of wood                                                   |  | 6  | 05 | 0 |  |
| 1740 | to 6 Cord Ditto                                                     |  | 7  | 10 | 0 |  |



## THE KITTERY WILSONS.

|                 |                                                      |                  |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1741            | to 5 Cord Ditto                                      | 6 05 0           |
| 1742            | to 7 Cord Ditto                                      | 10 10 0          |
|                 | to 1 gallond of oyle 10s to 1 Busll of }<br>Corn 10s | 1 00 0           |
| 1743            | to 5 Quarts of Rum 15s to 20 topriders 15s           | 1 10 0           |
|                 | to 1 day Cutting and halling wood                    | 1 00 0           |
|                 | to 2 days of self & man & 4 oxen                     | 2 00 0           |
|                 | to 1 Quart of Rum and 1 Gallond of Melases           | 0 13 0           |
| 1744            | to 6 Cord of Wood                                    | 9 00 0           |
|                 | to 2 Buslls of Corn and one of Barley                | 1 14 0           |
| 1744            | to 9 Cord of wood                                    | 13 10 0          |
| 1746            | to 8 Cord Ditto                                      | 16 00 0          |
| 1747            | to 1 bushel of Barley                                | 0 15 0           |
|                 | to 2 Bushels of Corn 40s to half Busll of salt       | 3 00 0           |
|                 | to 5 Cord of wood                                    | 24 00 0          |
|                 | to halfe a Bushel of Salt                            | 1 00 0           |
|                 | to 3 Quarts of Rum 24s & 4 pound of Shuger           | 2 00 0           |
|                 |                                                      | <u>£141 04 0</u> |
|                 |                                                      | <u>29 0 0</u>    |
| Errors Excepted | pr. Jos Willison                                     | <u>112 4 0</u>   |

York ff May 17. 1748

Joseph Willison above named made Oath to the Truth of ye above amt & that there is due to him from ye Estate of his said Mother £111: 14: Old Tenr

Att<sup>st</sup> Simon Frost Jus. pea.

pr Contra Cr.

|                                           |                 |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| By Cash Received for timber sold on my }  | } £29 0 0       |
| Mothers Comon Rites that belongd to her } |                 |
| Brother Richard Endel                     | By Cash 00 10 - |

The dower of Hannah Wilson seems to have been a subject of dispute — evidently between the two sons, Joseph and John. In May, 1748, a committee of three was appointed to view the estate and see if it would conveniently accommodate more than one son of the deceased, and also to make an inventory of the property. The papers relating to the work of this committee read as follows:



York. ff.

Seal To Mefs<sup>rs</sup> Thomas Cutt, Joseph Weeks  
and John Godsoe — all of Kittery in  
said County Greeting

You are hereby appointed a Committee to view that part of the Real Estate of Joseph Wilson late of Kittery aforesaid Dec<sup>d</sup> which was set of to his relict widow Hannah Wilson also Dec<sup>d</sup> and consider the Circumstances thereof whether it will conveniently accommodate more of the Children of the Dec<sup>d</sup> than one without prejudice to or spoiling of the whole and also make a just and true Apprize-ment of the same in order to a Division or Distribution thereof as the law Directs. And you are also empowered to make a just & true apprize-ment of the Good Chattels Rights and Credits of the said Hannah Wilson, which she died siezed of in her own Right as her Estate in Fee Simple, and exhibit an Inventory of the same as a also a Report of your Doings in the Premises together with this warrant into the Registry of the Court of Probate foresaid County at or before the first Monday of July next under oath. Dated at York the 7th Day of May Anno Domini 1748.

By order of the Judge

Simon Frost, Regr.

Pursuant to the within Warrant we have view<sup>d</sup> that Part of the Real Estate of Joseph Willson — late of Kittery Dec<sup>d</sup> which was sett of To his relict widdow Hannah Willson — late of Kittery also Dec<sup>d</sup> and Considered the Circumstances thereof and are of opinion that it will not Conveniently Accomodate any more than one of the Children — without Prejudice to or spoiling of the whole — and have made a Just apprize-ment of the same as follows viz to 30 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres of Land with the Buildings thereon — Old ten<sup>r</sup> £947.00.00

Thomas Cutt  
Joseph Weeks  
John Godsoe

We have alsoe Purfuant to the within warrant made a Just and True apprize-ment of the Goods





## THE KITTERY WILSONS.

and Chattels, Rights and Credits of the above sd Hannah Willson Dec<sup>d</sup> as Show<sup>d</sup> to us p as p ye following Inventory

|                                                                 |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| To three acres of land ye decd Purchased of }<br>Samll Skilling | } 84 00 00        |
| To sixty acres of land lying in Burwick                         | 90 00 00          |
| To a bed and furniture belonging to it                          | 30 00 00          |
| To some old Pewter 6os and a Spinning }<br>wheel 12s            | } 03 12 00        |
| To an old Pr of hand Irons 69s & a iron Pot }<br>& hook 20s     | } 04 09 00        |
| Old Tenr                                                        | <u>£212 00 00</u> |

Appriz<sup>d</sup> att Kittery afores<sup>d</sup> ye 1<sup>st</sup> Day of July A.D. 1748. By us ye Subscrbr<sup>s</sup> und oath.

Thomas Cutt  
Joseph Weeks  
John Godsoe

At a Court of Probt held at York July 4 1748

Ordered that ye foregoing Report be refer<sup>d</sup> to ye 3<sup>d</sup> Tuesday of Oct<sup>r</sup> next for Consideration  
Recorded Lib<sup>ry</sup> 7. Fol<sup>o</sup> 178.

Att<sup>st</sup> Simon Frost, Reg<sup>r</sup>

It will be noticed that this report was referred to an October Court for consideration. On October 18th, 1748, a new committee, consisting of five men, was chosen to go over the work again, as the following papers show :

York. ff.

To Capt Nathan Bartlet, Capt John Shapleigh Mef<sup>rs</sup> Tobias Leighton, John Dennett & James Gowen of Kittery in ye County of York, Greeting

You are hereby appointed a Committee to view that Part of the real Estate of Joseph Willson late of Kittery afores<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup> which was set off to his relict Widow Hannah Willson also Dec<sup>d</sup> and consider the circumstances thereof whether it will conveniently accomodate more of the Children of the Dec<sup>d</sup>, than one without prejudice to or Spoiling of the whole and also make a just and true apprise-ment of the same in order to a Division or



Distribution thereof as the Law directs and make an Inventory of the same and report of the Premises under your hands, or any three of your hands upon oath at or before the first Monday of Jan<sup>ry</sup> next.

Dated at York the eighteenth Day of October Anno Domini 1748.

By order of the Judge.

Simon Frost Regr

Recorded Lib<sup>ry</sup> 7. Fol<sup>o</sup> 249.

p Simon Frost Regr

Memorandum of ye Comittees time & Expence

|                                |                                                                 |        |          |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| 13 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> | Old Tenor                                                       | £9 0 0 |          |
| 26                             |                                                                 |        |          |
| —                              | real Estate viz—Below the way                                   |        | £418 —   |
| 78                             |                                                                 |        |          |
| 26                             | 13 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> acres above ye way to Joseph att |        |          |
| —                              | £26 p                                                           |        | 357.10.— |
| 338                            |                                                                 |        |          |
| 19.10                          | 7 acres above 2d way to John att                                |        | 775.10   |
| —                              | £26 p                                                           |        | 182. —   |
| 357.10                         |                                                                 |        |          |
| 13                             | N.B.                                                            |        | 957.10.— |
| 26                             | Each share of £775.10. is £64.12.6                              |        |          |
| —                              | 418                                                             |        |          |
| 78                             | 338                                                             |        |          |
| 26                             | —                                                               |        |          |
| —                              | 12)756(63                                                       |        |          |
| 338                            | 126                                                             |        | 487.10   |
| —                              | 630                                                             |        | 19.10    |
|                                |                                                                 |        | 26       |
| 36                             |                                                                 |        | 208      |
| 20                             |                                                                 |        | —        |
| —                              |                                                                 |        | 18       |
| 520                            |                                                                 |        | 26       |

We the Subscribers appointed a Committee by the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Jer Moulton Esqr Judge of the Probate for the County of York to view that part of the Real Estate of Joseph Willson late of Kittery Dec<sup>d</sup> wch<sup>h</sup> was set off to his relict widow Hannah Willson also Dec<sup>d</sup> & consider whether it will conveniently accomodate more than one of the Children of s<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup> w<sup>th</sup> out Prijudice to or Spoiling of the whole and also to make an apprisem<sup>t</sup> of the same in order to a Division or Distribution thereof. Have attend<sup>d</sup> that service and find that it will accomodate two



of the Sons of the s<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup>, they paying out to the other Children of y<sup>e</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup> or their legal Represent<sup>ves</sup> their repective parts (after the said two sons part be deducted) out of the apprized value viz :

|                                                                                                                                                                                                        |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| There being below the Road from Spruce<br>Creek to Kittery Point so called 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres with<br>the Buildings thereon, we value at Four<br>Hundred & Eighteen pounds Bills of ye Old<br>Tenr | } £418.— |
| And above or upon the N. East side of sd<br>Road there being 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres we value at Twenty<br>six pounds. Bills of ye old Tenr p cese                                                      |          |

It is our opinion that there be set of to John Willson a Son of y<sup>e</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup> Seven acres next adjoining to his home Lot, the said Seven acres to be laid out to him & extend to y<sup>e</sup> whole length of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Eighteen acres and reckons to him at Twenty six pounds p acre as afores<sup>d</sup> and so much as it shall amount to more than his proportion of the Widows dower, apprized as above s<sup>d</sup> that he pay the overplus to y<sup>e</sup> other Children. And that the Remaining part of said Dower or Widow Thirds viz the remaining part of the Eighteen acres & three Quarters above the way, and the said Nine acres and half below the way and valued as afores<sup>d</sup> be set off to Joseph Willson, the Eldest Son of the Dec<sup>d</sup> he paying to the other Children their proportionable parts of their Interest therein as above mentioned. All which is submitted by

|                                                  |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Nathan Bartlet<br>John Shapsleigh<br>James Gowen | } Com <sup>tee</sup> |
|                                                  |                      |
|                                                  |                      |

Kittery March 28. 1749.

York. fs. Kittery March 28 1749.

Mef<sup>s</sup> Nathan Bartlet, John Shapleigh & James Gowen appeared & made oath that the above written Report is just and true according to their best skill and judgment.

Simon Frost Jus<sup>ce</sup> Peas

Kittery York. fs. At a Court of Probate held at  
York May 16 1749.

Read & Ordered that the above Report be  
accepted & That John Willson have the Seven



acres of the Dec<sup>d</sup> real Estate assigned to & set off to him as above mentioned by a Surv<sup>r</sup> & Chainmen under oath. The appriz<sup>d</sup> value thereof amounting to the sum of one hundred Eighty two pounds in Bills of the Old Tenor. For which it is hereby ordered that he pay to the other Heirs & legal Representat<sup>ves</sup> of such as are Dec<sup>d</sup> their respective parts as follows viz.

|                                                                            |                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| To Joseph Willson Thirty pounds 6s 8d                                      | £30 6 8         |
| To William Willson Fifteen pounds 3s 4d                                    | 15 3 4          |
| To Gowen Willson Fifteen pounds 3s 4d                                      | 15 3 4          |
| To Hannah the wife of Joseph Billing                                       | 15 3 4          |
| To the legal Representves of Ruth decd the }<br>wife of Elihu Parsons Decd | 15 3 4          |
| To Rebecca the wife of John Norton                                         | 15 3 4          |
| To Deborah the wife of John Moore                                          | 15 3 4          |
| To Mary the wife of John Bennet                                            | 15 3 4          |
| To Anne Willson                                                            | 15 3 4          |
| To ye Heirs of Elizabeth the wife of Benjamin }<br>Weeks                   | 15 3 4          |
| The Remainder being his own part is                                        | 15 3 4          |
|                                                                            | <u>£182 - -</u> |

The remainder of the said Dower viz<sup>t</sup> nine acres & half below the way with the Buildings thereon and Thirteen acres adjoining to John's part above the way amounting by the s<sup>d</sup> apprizers, to the sum of Seven hundred and fifty six pounds. Bills of y<sup>e</sup> Old Tenor and it is hereby decreed that the same be set off & assigned to Joseph the Eldest son, for which he is hereby ordered to pay to y<sup>e</sup> other Heirs & legal represent<sup>ves</sup> of such as are Dec<sup>d</sup> their respective parts viz<sup>t</sup>

|                                                                            |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| To William Willson £63. —                                                  | To Gowen Willson £63 - |
| To John Willson Sixty three pounds                                         | 63                     |
| To Hannah the wife of Joseph Billing                                       | £63                    |
| To the legal Representves of Ruth Decd the }<br>wife of Elihu Parsons Decd | 63                     |
| To Rebecca the wife of John Norton                                         | £63 -                  |
| To Deborah the wife of John Moore                                          | 63 -                   |
| To Mary the wife of John Bennet                                            | 63 -                   |





## THE KITTERY WILSONS.

|                                                  |             |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| To Anne Willson                                  | 63 -        |
| To ye Heirs of Elizabeth the wife of Benjn Weeks | 63 -        |
| The Remainder being his own part                 | 126 -       |
|                                                  | <hr/>       |
|                                                  | £756 -      |
|                                                  | <hr/> <hr/> |

And the said Dower is hereby settled accordingly

Jer. Moulton Judge Probat

Recorded Lib<sup>ry</sup> 7. Fol<sup>o</sup> 149.

p Simon Frost Reg<sup>r</sup>

A list of y<sup>e</sup> Children of Jos Willson Dec<sup>d</sup> viz.

- 1 Jos Willson
- 2 W<sup>m</sup> „
- 3 Gowen „
- 4 John „
- 5 Hannah Billings wife Jos Billings
- 6 Ruth Dec<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> wife of Elihu Parsons <sup>dec</sup>
- 7 Rebecca Norton wife of Jno Norton
- 8 Deborah y<sup>e</sup> wife John Moore
- 9 Mary Bennet y<sup>e</sup> wife of John Ben<sup>nt</sup>
- 10 Anne Willson
- 11 Eliza Weeks wife of Benj<sup>n</sup> Weeks



## CHAPTER IV.

## HISTORICAL.

KITTERY was incorporated as a town, October 20th, 1647. At that time the following forty-two persons were admitted to the town :

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| John Andrews        | Philip Babb        |
| Mary Baylie         | John Barsley       |
| Humphrey Chadbourne | Wm. Chadbourne     |
| Abraham Cunley      | Daniel Davis       |
| John Diamond        | Dennis Downing     |
| Thomas Durston      | James Emery        |
| Anthony Emery       | Wm. Everett        |
| Nicholas Frost      | Charles Frost      |
| John Green          | Hugh Gunnison      |
| John Hoord          | Reynold Jenkins    |
| Thomas Jones        | George Leader      |
| Nathaniel Lord      | Antepas Maverricke |
| Robert Mendam       | Joseph Mill        |
| Hughbert Mattone    | Richard Nason      |
| William Palmer      | Daniel Paule       |
| Christian Remick    | Nicholas Shapleigh |
| Jemina Shores       | Thomas Spencer     |
| Thomas Spinney      | Jonathan Symonds   |
| Richard Thomas      | Robert Weighmouth  |
| John White          | Gowen Wilson       |
| John Wincohr        | Thomas Withers     |

For eighty years after its settlement there was only one schoolmaster in Kittery — during most of which time the town contained the present towns of Kittery, Eliot and North and South Berwick. For at least one year during this time there was no provision made for any schoolmaster. On August 26th, 1715, the Selectmen of Kittery were arraigned before Judge Samuel Sewall to answer why they did not have a schoolmaster.<sup>1</sup> The master usually taught a term in each part of the town as laid out by the Selectmen or by a committee chosen for the purpose. As a result children really could attend school but a very few weeks

<sup>1</sup> Sewall Papers. Mass. Hist. Soc. Collections.



in each year. In 1734 there were two schoolmasters, but only for a year, after which they continued as before up to 1761 when there seems to have been a permanent movement for better schools.

Provision was made for a parsonage in 1669; but there is no evidence that any minister was ordained or preached stably there for thirty years afterwards when Rev. John Newmarch was employed by the town. Mr. Newmarch was graduated at Harvard College about 1690. In 1699 he married Mary, widow of Mr. Mark Hunking, and settled in Kittery. His family numbered seven sons and two daughters, descendants of whom are living in Kittery at the present time. He died in Kittery Jan. 15th, 1754. He was the first preacher in the Second Congregational Church in Kittery, which was called the "Church in the Lower Parish in Kittery." It was formed in 1714 and still lives as the Congregational Church at Kittery Point.

In 1674 Rev. William Screven, a Baptist, married Bridget, daughter of Robert and Mary (Hoel) Cutt. He held meetings in his own house until 1681 when he got a license to preach from the church in Boston. This caused his persecution in Kittery — even as the Baptists had suffered in Boston. Those who attended his meetings were strongly reprimanded and threatened with a fine. The minister and part of his congregation finally were so hectorred that they fled to South Carolina.

A leader in the persecution of the Baptists was a Mr. Woodbridge, who is mentioned in one account as "The Priest of the Place." But little is known about Mr. Woodbridge's ministry in Kittery. He did not settle there, and probably did not preach there more than a few years. He is known to have preached in other places and was, perhaps, working somewhat in the same way as do modern missionaries.

There was another minister in Kittery in those early times. His gravestone bears the following inscription:

"Here lyes Buried the Body of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr.  
John Eveleth, who Departed this Life Aug<sup>t</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>  
Anno: Dom: 1734: Aged 65 Years.



There is said to have been a meeting house in which he preached, and which, not being used after his decease, fell rapidly into decay. It does not seem likely that he had any established parish. It has been stated that he was an Episcopalian.

Records of churches and preachers were kept by the town until the regular establishment of the Congregational Society at Kittery Point. The records of this "Lower Parish in the Town of Kittery" commence with a meeting held March 14th, 1714. At another meeting a few days later it was "voted that Mr. John Newmarch have a call to be our settled minister in this parish." The parish voted him a salary of "one hundred pounds money for every year after, during his natural life, he finding himself a house." The church was formed in November, 1714, with forty-three members. The meetings were held in what even then was called the "Old Meeting House." In 1724, it was voted that Mr. Newmarch preach one-half of his time in Joseph Curtis's old house or in some other convenient place near the head of Spruce Creek. Now began a discussion over a new meeting house, where it should be and whether there should not be one on each side of the creek. It ended in the building of a new house on the Point, probably near the place where the present church stands. This was finished in 1727. In 1728, a parish ferryman was appointed to convey people to and from meetings, across the creek, and this appointment seems to have been renewed for over a hundred years. The new meeting house burned down about 1731 — tradition says it was during a tremendous thunderstorm, so severe that no one knew when it was burning. The parish immediately voted to rebuild, and about 1732 the building at present standing and in use was finished. In the mean time a house of worship had been built at Spruce Creek and a separate congregation, called the Spruce Creek Congregational Church, was established there in 1735. Fifty years ago this building was in existence, but was owned by another society.

Quakers were persecuted in Kittery, as elsewhere. The following extract from the town records<sup>1</sup> is a good illustration :

---

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 60.





“Whereas that at a County Court held at York July y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1669 Majr Nicholas Shapleigh James Heard and Richard Nason were dismiss by y<sup>e</sup> Court for being Selectmen And in Obedience to an order of Court they at a generell town Meeting — made Choyce of three persons here mentioned for Selectmen in their roomes for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> persons being Quakers

Mr Thomas Withers  
Robert Mendum  
James Emery”

Of all the troubles which beset our ancestors none were so fearful as the Indian wars — repeated attempts to exterminate the white man. Their deadly hatred, their hideous barbarities, and the quickness and shrewdness of their often unexpected attacks made them more to be feared than any foe the white man ever met before.

The name given to the several tribes living between the Penobscot and Piscataqua Rivers was the Abenagues. There were four tribes of the Abenagues. Farther North was another powerful tribe called the Etechemins. The Etechemins were divided into three smaller tribes. The Abenagues could bring five thousand warriors into the field and the Etechemins six thousand; thus they had an army of eleven thousand men.<sup>1</sup> They were all good marksmen, and could obtain ample supplies from the French. This was the power which was brought against the settlers scattered through the forests of Maine, the whole white population being not over six thousand.<sup>2</sup>

These Indians were generally indolent — having no ambitions. The crimes and kidnapping of Weymouth and others; the cheating by unprincipled traders; the practice of getting chiefs drunk in order to obtain deeds of extensive territories for trifles; all of these things aroused them. Indians have no historians but white men say their wrongs were unendurable. Their first hostile act was in September, 1675, and a few months later, in small demoniac bands, they were raging over the whole

<sup>1</sup> Willamson's Maine. Vol. I., p. 483.

<sup>2</sup> Willamson's Maine. Vol. I., p. 447.



Province of Maine, from the Piscataqua to the Androscoggin. It is useless, in the space of these present pages, to try to describe individual scenes of violence, outrage and misery which ensued. The settlements at Saco were especially distressed. Sixteen men under Captain Wincoln, of Kittery, volunteered for the protection of this place, and in one fight drove off ten times as many assailants. The settlement at Wells was soon in ashes. On the 7th of October, 1675, a man and two boys were shot at Berwick, then a part of Kittery. A few days later a hundred Indians burned the house of Richard Tozier, killed the owner, and carried his son into captivity; and all of this was done within sight of the garrison house. Lieut. Roger Plaisted, who was in command, sent nine men to reconnoitre and they were mostly slain in ambush, into which they deliberately walked — as English soldiers often did, even down to the time of Braddock and St. Clair. Lieut. Plaisted and two sons were killed here. The Indians followed the line of settlements, burning and killing, and always vanishing into the interior forests whenever met by a worthy foe. The following is a letter dated September 26, 1676, and addressed to Major-General Denison, at Ipswich:†

“ This serves to cover a letter from Captatin Hathorn, from Casco Bay, in which you will understand their want of bread, which want I hope is well supplied before this time; for we sent them more than two thousand weight, which I suppose they had last Lord’s Day night. The boat that brought the letter brings also word that Saturday night the Indians burnt Mr. Munjoy’s house and seven persons in it. On sabbath day a man and his wife, one Gouge, were shod dead and stripped by the Indians at Wells. Yesterday at two o’clock, Cape Nedick was wholly cut off; only two men and a woman, with two or three children, escaped. So we expect now to hear of farther mischief every day. They send to us for help, both from Wells and York; but we had so many men out of town, that we know not how to spare any more.”

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† Abbot’s History of Malne.



From time to time throughout the succeeding years agreements for peace were made; but they were quickly broken for reasons various and faults of both sides. From all the feebler garrisons people took refuge in the stronger, to which reinforcements sometimes were sent. In 1690 all the settlements in Maine except four were devastated. These were Wells, York, Kittery and the Isles of Shoals. In 1692 a large band of French and Indians attacked York, killed or took captive more than one-half of the inhabitants, and destroyed the whole village except the garrison houses. This raid was in February, chosen by the Indians because vigilance was relaxed in winter. In June of the same year five hundred French and Indians attacked Wells. The garrison then contained only thirty men; but after a fight of some days the leaders of the Indians were killed and the enemy withdrew. The following extracts from the journal of Rev. John Pike of Dover<sup>1</sup> refer to people of Kittery:

Aug. 20 1694. "The Indians killed Henry Barns, Edward Hammonds and his wife as y<sup>e</sup> were w<sup>o</sup>rk in a field at Spruce Creek — and the same day Dan Leviston with a lad at York."

Aug. 24 1694. "Eight persons killed and Cap<sup>t</sup>ivated at Long Reach, 5 at Downings and 3 at Tobys."

July 6 1695. "Capt Hammonds taken by the Indians as he was seeking a Cow in Kittery woods."

May 9 1698. "Enoch Hutchins was killed by the Indians at Spruce Creek as he was at work in his field and three of his sons carried away. The same day Joseph Pray of York was wounded it is likely by the same Indians w<sup>m</sup> he supposed to be 15 in number."

May 4 1705. "Many persons surprised by the Indians at Spruce Creek and York. John Brawn, Henry Barns, a child of Dodivah Curtis, and a child of Enoch Hutchins slain. Rest carried captive by 10 or a dozen Indians. Also Mrs Hoel Running up the hill to discern the outcry fell into y<sup>r</sup> hands and was slain."

<sup>1</sup> Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll. Vol. XIV., p. 129.



Jun. 6. 1706 "Lt. John Shapley of Kittery was slain by the Indians and his son Nicholas carried away as they were returning from y<sup>r</sup> mill at Spruce Creek. This was done by (y<sup>r</sup> good friends) the Hegans. Nicholas is come home again."

Jun. 16 1707. "Philip Carpenter wife and 3 or 4 children slain by Indians at Spruce Creek."

Sep. 19 1708. "One Reed and David Hutchins slain by Indians."

In 1696, the white men and savages were alike wretched. The Indians, without homes or harvests, were starving. The white man hardly could leave his own door without danger. Major Charles Frost was in command at Kittery. The Indians especially hated him, and shot him about five miles from his house, while on his way to church, on a Sunday morning in June, 1697.

This long series of Indian wars ended in 1713. The Indians had long desired peace and great was their joy when the treaty of peace between France and England was signed. Hutchinson, in the history of Massachusetts, estimates that in the thirty-eight years between 1675 and 1713 six thousand of the youth of New England had perished from the casualties of war. Many families had become extinct and nearly all mourned members lost. Fields, long uncultivated, presented a revolting aspect of briars and thorns. The fur trade had become entirely extinct. Lumbering and fishing were at an end. Maine was in a state of impoverishment hardly conceivable. One-third of the Indian warriors of Maine had been killed. Several tribes had become so enfeebled as to have lost their individual character. The terms of their treaty with the whitemen were so abasing that the Indians never would have accepted them, had they not been forced to do so by poverty, suffering and helplessness. In 1713, Berwick was incorporated as a town, being the ninth town in the state. The others were Kittery, York, Wells, Cape Porpoise, Saco, Scarboro, Falmouth and North Yarmouth. Emigrants began slowly to return to the dilapidated towns. North Yarmouth was the last one to be re-established.





In 1722, war with the Indians was again brought on, but they were too weak to give blow for blow as they had done before. After three years, peace was arranged again. York and Falmouth (now Portland) had become the principal towns in Maine — York the shire-town, and Falmouth the commercial centre. In 1727, thirty vessels rode at anchor in Falmouth harbor, and there were over sixty families living in the town. Two years later this number had increased to about two hundred.



## CHAPTER V.

## THE ENDLE FAMILY.

THE life of Richard Endle is of more than ordinary interest to Kittery Wilsons; for he is the ancestor of all descendants of Gowen Wilson, except the Haleys. His daughter, Hannah, married Sergt. Wilson about 1684.

Richard Endle settled first at the Isles of Shoals; probably about 1661. These islands were occupied as early as any part of the mainland, being especially convenient for fishermen. They were accounted one of the settlements of Maine, and were undoubtedly much more thickly settled than at the present time. The following deed<sup>1</sup> is the earliest mention of Richard Endle; it shows that he was a fisherman:

Bee it known vnto all men by these psents that I Stephen Ford of the Yles of Shoales In the County of Yorke, haue barganed sould & sett over & by these psents do bargan sell & sett ouer vnto Richard Endle of the Yle of Shoales and County aforesd, all my right title & Interest, that I the sd Stephen Ford haue, or hereafter should haue, In one fishing boate Commonly called by the name of a Shallope, with all things necessary to him belonging, & halfe in deale of a Cable and anker, and moring place as now lyeth in its proper place, & the house that now I the sd Stephen do live in, with all the priuidges y<sup>r</sup> to belonging, & six flakes with there liyng Roume and one Trayue fatt with one Connow, for & in consideration of the valew of Seauenty fwe pounds to mee the sd Stephen in hand payd for the which Some I the sd Stephen my heyres executors Administrators & assigns, exonerate, acquitt, and discharge the aforesd Richd

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



Endell, his heyres executors Administrators & assigns for euer more To haue to hould the aforesd Richd Endle quietly to Injoy to him or to his assignes for euer: And Stephen Ford doth for him selfe his heyres, executors, & assignes, here by promisse & agree to and with the aforesd Richd Endle, that hee the sd Stephen shall & will from tyme to tyme keepe the sd Richd Endle quiett, harmelesse, to Inioy the aforesd demised p<sup>r</sup>misses, from all men w<sup>h</sup>soeuer & for the True pformance here of I the sd Stephen Ford haue here vnto sett my hand & seale this 21th day of June in the thirteenth yeare of our Soueraigne Lord Charles by the grace of god, of England, Scotland, France & Ireland, King defend<sup>r</sup> of the faith, one thousand six hundred sixty one Stephen Forde (<sup>his</sup> seale) sealed, signed & Delivered In

the psence of vs

Arthur Chappome  
Robert Taprill  
Fortunatus Home  
Michell Endle

Stephen ford dooth  
acknowledge this  
Instrument to bee his  
Act & dede befor  
mee this 3d July  
61 Edw: Rishworth  
In Court

memorandue that possession of the house within written was quietly & pesably taken the two & twentieth day of June 1661

In ye psence of vs  
Arthur Chapham  
John Daus  
John Redmen:

vera Copia  
Transcribed out  
of the originall  
& y<sup>r</sup> with  
Compared this  
4th of July 61:  
p Edw: Rishworth  
Re: Cor:

Michael Endle witnessed this deed. It is not known who he was. The next mention of Richard Endle is in 1665 when, according to the following deed,<sup>1</sup> he obtained sixty acres of land on the East side of Spruce Creek:


<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



Francis Morgan & Richd Endle Articles of agreement between Francis Morgan & Richard Endle for Three scoore acres of land In spruce Creeke on the East side beginning at Gowse Cove Northerly, & to come down South towards the Creke, towards the Marshee Cove, & soe backwards by the Same breadth North East till the threescore acres be accomplished, according to a Town grant, & In Consideration I Richard Endle do Ingage myself my heyres executors or assignes to pay or cause to be payd unto the sd Francis Morgan Three Scoore pounds in Mrchandable & refuge fish & Macharell halfe this fall, & the other In fish & Macharell In July or August at the next Fall, as Witness my hand the 14th of October 1665:

Tester

Richard Endle

The mark of  
James Leach   
Hugh Allward

A true copy of  
above written  
transcribed out  
of ye originall &  
there with Com-  
pared this 24th  
January 1666:  
p Edw: Rishworth  
Re Cor:

In 1652 Hugh Gunnison was granted three hundred acres "in Spruce Creek, on the East Side, beginning at Goose Creek Northerly and to come South down the Creek to a marshy cove and so backward until three hundred acres be accomplished."<sup>1</sup> This is the land which was described in the records in 1697 by a map, to which reference already has been made. The land which Morgan sold to Richard Endle is included in this grant. It would be interesting to know how Morgan could sell in 1665 land granted to Gunnison in 1652. His claim seems to have been a good one, however, for although it was a part of the Gunnison estate, Richard Endle lived upon it and so also did his son. In March, 1701 Elihu Gunnison conveyed to Richard Endle Jr.,

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, folio 4. The first part of these old records was transcribed about forty years ago. Hence the modern wording and spelling.





“that tract of land lying in Spruce Creek containing 60 acres and is part of that 300 acres that was granted to my father Hugh Gunnison, at Bryans Point and is that tract of land whereon the said Endle now dwells and long possessed by his father Richard Endle Sr. deceased, and takes its beginning at the north side of my mill on the north side of my land, and to run in breadth, southeast, towards John Ingarson’s land 19 poles, and from that extent of 19 poles in breadth to run northeast back into the woods as far as my land extends in length that way. And also that tract of land that lies on the south side of said Endles house, bounded by the creek and Ingarson’s lane and the old highway, as the said tract of land is now fenced. And also free liberty of 30 feet square of land where the said Endle’s father and mother were buried, for a burying place for the said Endle and his family forever, the same not to be plowed.”<sup>1</sup>

In January, 1709 Richard Jr. mortgaged this land to Wm. Pepperell<sup>1</sup> and it is described as that land said Endle lives on and was bought by his father of Morgan, and by said Endle of Elihu Gunnison. After the death of Richard Endle Jr. Gowen Wilson (son of Sergt. Wilson) came into possession of this property, as is shown by a mortgage deed from Gowen to William Pepperell, dated July, 1719, of “60 acres of upland and meadow, more or less, being all the tract of land that Richard Endle deceased, formerly purchased of Elihu Gunnison, it being all that land which said Endle formerly lived upon and possessed, which land takes its beginning at the north side of a mill formerly said Gunnison’s and on the north side of said Gunnison’s land, and to run in breadth southeast towards John Engersons land 19 poles, and from the extent of 19 poles in breadth to run northeast back into the woods to the former bounds, and also that tract of land that lies on the south side of said Endle’s former dwelling house, bounded by the creek and Ingarson’s lane and the old highway as it is now fenced. Together with all houses, Barns, orchards, trees, wood, water and water courses” &c &c.<sup>1</sup>

It is not clear how Gowen Wilson came into possession of this property. If Richard Endle Jr. died without heirs except his

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



sister Hannah, mother of Gowen, it would be reasonable to assume that Hannah conveyed this land to her son. But although she did deed to him all of her share in her father's estate (in October, 1719),<sup>1</sup> there is no record of any transference of her interest in her brother's property. A search probably would show whether or not Richard Endle Jr. did die without heirs except his sister. The Endle name soon disappears from Kittery records, which leads to the inference that the family either died out or settled elsewhere.

It has been shown that Richard Endle Sr. had undisputed possession of the land—the Endle home lot—on the East side of Spruce Creek. This land was on the South East side of what is now the Norton Road and extended from the shore into the woods in a North Easterly direction, containing about sixty acres. In October, 1682, there was laid out to Richard Endle twenty acres of land the June before.<sup>2</sup> It was near “ye mast way leading to Spruce Creek” and was eighty rods long North and South and forty rods wide East and West. Sergt. Wilson and Andrew Haley owned land adjoining on the South, and the lot is bounded on the other three sides by town commons. This lot was near Curtis's Creek. The “mast way” may have been the creek itself, which very likely was used for floating heavy timbers and ships' masts and spars down to the deeper water where vessels could be loaded.

These two lots comprise all of the land Richard Endle Sr. owned in Kittery. He sold his property at the Isles of Shoals to Francis Wainwright, who in turn sold out to Roger Kelly in June, 1686.<sup>1</sup> Richard Endle Sr. died before 1695, for under the date Sept. 14, 1695, Richard Endle Jr. sold to Samuel Penhallow two lots of land, one of which is described as ten acres of the twenty acre lot granted to his father Richard Endle June 24, 1682.

There are records of three children of Richard Endle—Richard, John, and Hannah. John Endle died in 1690. Richard, his brother, was appointed administrator of his estate in July,

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<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds—see published volumes.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 35.



1690. Richard Endle Jr. lived for some years in Kittery, but there is very little of record about him excepting some deeds and grants. He was granted twenty acres in 1684, which was one of the two lots just mentioned as deeded to Samuel Penhallow in 1695. In 1699 he was granted twenty acres the right to which he apparently sold to Wm. Pepperrell before it was laid out.<sup>1</sup> By a deed dated Dec. 1, 1707,<sup>2</sup> he sold to Elisha Ingerson, a nephew of Elihu Gunnison herein mentioned, a lot of land at Goose Creek. Undoubtedly this was the piece mentioned in the 1701 deed from Elihu Gunnison to Richard Endle as "that tract of land that lies on the South side of said Endle's house, bounded by the creek and Ingerson's lane and the old highway, as the said tract of land is now fenced."<sup>3</sup> The next mention of Richard Endle is in January, 1711, when he sold to his brother-in-law, Sergt. Wilson, ten acres of land by Curtis's Creek.<sup>4</sup> This was a part of the twenty acres granted to his father in June, 1682. This sale apparently disposes of all of his land excepting the home lot at Goose Creek, and this was mortgaged to Wm. Pepperrell. Richard Endle died previous to 1719 as is shown in the extract, already quoted, of the mortgage from Gowen Wilson to Wm. Pepperrell dated in 1719 and containing the words: "the tract of land that Richard Endle deceased formerly purchased of Elihu Gunnison."

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<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 68.

<sup>2</sup> York County deeds — see published volumes.

<sup>3</sup> A longer extract from this paper is given a few pages back.

<sup>4</sup> See page 33 of this book.



## CHAPTER VI.

## THIRD GENERATION — THE FAMILY OF SARGT. JOSEPH WILSON.

THE twelve children of Sergt. Joseph and Hannah (Endle) Wilson are here given again :

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Hannah,    | born Nov. 19, 1683. |
| Joseph,    | “ Oct. 28, 1684.    |
| William,   | “ Aug. 28, 1686.    |
| Ruth,      | “ Apr. 19, 1688.    |
| Gowen,     | “ Jan. 29, 1690.    |
| Agnes,     | “ Mar. 1, 1692.     |
| John,      | “ Jan. 13, 1694. ✓  |
| Rebecca,   | “ Feb. 16, 1696.    |
| Deborah,   | “ Apr. 19, 1698.    |
| Mary,      | “ Feb. 25, 1700.    |
| Anna,      | “ Mar. 29, 1702.    |
| Elizabeth, | “ Sept. 23, 1705.   |

After the death of their father five of these children chose their mother to be their legal guardian, as appears by the following paper : †

41°001 Kittery March 4<sup>o</sup> 25th. 1714  
 61°0  
 0°02  
 81°6L This may scertifie whome itt doth or may  
 Concern that Wee the Subscribers do De-  
 fire our Mother Mrs Hannah Willson to be our  
 Gardian to our part of ye Estate of our Hon<sup>d</sup> Father  
 Mr Joseph Willson Deceafed.

In Witnefs hereof We Sett to our hands

Witnefs  
 Geo Jackson  
 Jos Curtis

John <sup>his</sup> X Willson  
 mark  
 Debreath <sup>her</sup> X Willson  
 mark  
 Mary <sup>her</sup> X Willson  
 mark  
 Anna <sup>her</sup> X Willson  
 mark  
 Elizabeth <sup>her</sup> X Willson  
 mark

† Probate Records, York County.





Yorke ff Barwick March 26. 1714

The above written request being read, it is allowed that Mrs Hannah Wilson to be Guardian of the Severall minors above named. She entering into Bond with Security for the faithfull discharge of her trust according to law

Ichabod Plaisted J. Probate.

The bond for the "faithful discharge of her trust" was signed by Joseph Curtis and her own son Joseph Wilson.<sup>1</sup> It is dated March 26, 1714, and on the same day she was appointed guardian.

Hannah, the oldest child, married Joseph Billing Nov. 29, 1716.<sup>2</sup> This is the first Billing (or Billings) mentioned in the vital records of the town. There is later mention of several of the name, of whom Joseph, John and Mary were without doubt children of the above. Joseph Billing married Joanna Norton in 1742; John married Sarah Sellers in 1742; and Mary married John Hutchins Jr. in 1748.

Ruth, the next daughter of Sergt. Wilson married Elihu Parsons of York about 1709. Elihu was one of seven children of John and Elizabeth Parsons of York, and was born about 1684. The following were the children of Elihu and Ruth (Wilson) Parsons: <sup>3</sup>

|            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Ruth,      | born Nov. 5, 1711             |
| Hannah,    | " May 21, 1713                |
| John,      | " June 26, 1715               |
| Elizabeth, | " Sept. 11, 1717              |
| Joseph,    | " Feb. 20, 171 $\frac{9}{20}$ |
| Elihu,     | " June 3, 1722                |
| Mary,      | " Dec. 21, 1726               |
| Susanna,   | " Jan. 15, 172 $\frac{9}{30}$ |

There is no record of the marriage of Agnes Wilson. The records of the old Congregational Church of Kittery show that in 1742 one Agnes Wilson was admitted to full communion. She

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 2. These records are in two volumes and are written from each end of the books towards the middle. There is no page or folio number for a part of these.

<sup>3</sup> From a letter by Mr. Geo. A. Gordon of the N. E. Hist. Gen. Soc., a descendant of the Parsons family.



evidently died before 1748, leaving no family, as her name is not on the list of children of Joseph Wilson deceased which is attached to the partition paper of widow Wilson's dower.

Rebecca Wilson married John Norton July 11, 1717.<sup>1</sup> The vital records of the town contain no further mention of this man, although the name Norton was quite common in Kittery a few generations later.

Deborah Wilson married Capt. John More in 1744, the intention of marriage being published on Feb. 2d. Capt. More probably was born in 1696, the son of John and Sarah More.

Mary Wilson married John Bennet Sept. 16, 1722.<sup>2</sup> There is a marriage recorded of John Bennett to Ruth Voden in 1728; perhaps this is a second marriage of this same man.

There is no mention of Anna Wilson in any Kittery records.

Elizabeth Wilson married Benjamin Weeks Feb. 1, 1728.<sup>3</sup> He was a son of Joseph and Eadah Weeks, born in July, 1701.

This information about the daughters of Sergt. Joseph Wilson is based chiefly upon the vital records of the town. Probably a study of the deeds, wills and other papers of the families into which these children married would reveal further facts. The names of the husbands also are recorded in another way. At a Court of Probate held at Wells Apr. 18, 1738, it was ordered and decreed that the Common Rights which belonged to the Estate Sergt. Jos. Wilson, late of Kittery, should be settled on Joseph Wilson the eldest son of the deceased. John Norton, son-in-law of the deceased, in behalf of his wife Rebecah, Joseph Billing in behalf of his wife Hannah, John Bennett in behalf of his wife Mary, Benjamin Weeks in behalf of his wife Elizabeth, and Deborah Wilson and Anna Wilson appealed from this decree of the Court.<sup>4</sup>

The lands belonging to Sergt. Joseph Wilson probably were divided among the four sons. There are no indications that the daughters obtained any land in their shares of the estate. Joseph was the only one of the four sons who was married before his

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<sup>1</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 27.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 30.

<sup>3</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 37.

<sup>4</sup> Probate Records. Book 5, p. 127.



father's death, and he settled near the head of Eastern Creek. He had fifty acres of land granted to him in May 1703.<sup>1</sup> This land is not located by the record, but it is likely that it was near Eastern Creek, and that it was upon this piece that he settled. His share of his father's estate seems to have been the greater part of the Eastern Creek property. His will gives land evidently his home lot to his son Joseph Willson (4th generation), and it is known in the family to-day that the latter lived at Eastern Creek.

William, the second son of Sergt. Wilson, settled, and always lived, on or near the estate on the West side of Spruce Creek, of which a description already has been given. The first record of land owned by William Wilson is dated 1709, and is the following deed from William Lewis to William Wilson: <sup>2</sup>

Know All men by these psents that I William Lewis of Kittery in y<sup>e</sup> County of york yeoman for & in Consideration of a valluable Sum of money to me in hand paid by Mr William Wilson of y<sup>e</sup> Same place before y<sup>e</sup> Sealing here-of have bargained & Sold all my right Title & Interest I have unto that Fifty Acre grant of land given unto me by y<sup>e</sup> Town of Kittery May y<sup>e</sup> 10th 1703 to him & his heirs for ever To have & To hold All y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Grant as it was Given unto me s<sup>d</sup> Lewis unto y<sup>e</sup> only and Sole use of him y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Wilson his heirs or assigns forever & that it Shall & may be Lawfull for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Wilson or his heirs or Assigns to Take use & Occupy y<sup>e</sup> Same for evermore Witness my hand & Seale this Twenty Ninth of December Anno Domini 1709

|                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Signed Sealed & Delivered | William Lewis ( <sup>a</sup> Seal ) |
| In psence of              | Mary Lewis ( <sup>a</sup> Seale )   |
| John Morgrage             | her mark & Seale                    |
| George Fenix              |                                     |
| his mark                  |                                     |

William Lewis & Mary his wife Appeared before me y<sup>e</sup> Subscrib<sup>r</sup> one of her Maj<sup>ty</sup>s Justices of

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 1 of grants, fol. 102. See also York Deeds.

<sup>2</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



y<sup>e</sup> peace for y<sup>e</sup> County of York Shire & Acknowledged y<sup>e</sup> Above Instrum<sup>t</sup> to be their free Act & Deed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of April 1713 in y<sup>e</sup> Twelfth year of Queen Anne Ouer Great Brittain &ct

John Plaisted

A True Copie of y<sup>e</sup> Original Transcribed & Compared April 10<sup>th</sup> 1713

p Jos: Hammond Reg<sup>r</sup>

The wording of this deed indicates that it is a sale of Lewis's right to this town grant, and not of the land itself. The grant was not laid out at this time. In 1710 the town laid out twenty-three acres of it, as follows: <sup>1</sup>

“Kittery March 14<sup>th</sup> 1710/ Measured and laid out for William Wilson Twenty three acres of land being part of a grant of fifty acres of land granted unto William Lewis by the town of Kittery May 10<sup>th</sup> 1703 and purchased of s<sup>d</sup> Lewis by y<sup>e</sup> abov s<sup>d</sup> William Wilson & lyes at y<sup>e</sup> head of his fathers old lot layd out by me Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1700 by Mr Curtises Milpond in length North & South Seventy Six pole & in breadth East and West forty Seven pole which lines bounds out y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Twenty three acres of land and lyes within y<sup>e</sup> old boundaryes of his fathers three old lots

p me William Godsoe Surv<sup>r</sup>

A True Copsy of y<sup>e</sup> Original Transcribed & Compared Nov<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1712

p Jos: Hamond Clerk

This shows that William Wilson owned land on the West side of Spruce Creek adjoining his father's estate, perhaps before the latter's decease. Whether William — then unmarried — built his house there, or whether he settled upon his father's land, is not known. The inventory of Sergt. Wilson's estate has this entry: “To his Interest in a house on the land by Captain Fernalds farm.” It seems likely that this was William's house — perhaps he had settled there with the understanding that that property was to be his by inheritance.

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records of Grants. Book 2, fol. 20.





There is a map of this estate recorded in 1715, when it was divided between William and his brother Gowen: <sup>1</sup>

Kittery January 7th 1714/5.

We the subscribers being mutually chosen by Mrs. Hannah Wilson, widow, and her two sons, William Wilson and Gowen Wilson all of Kittery, to divide a piece or parcel of land between the above two sons, William and Gowen Wilson, which lyeth on west side of Curtises mill pond as in the figure annexed and accordingly we have done it as this plat showeth, and both parties agreeing thereunto, they, the said Wilsons, having entered into bonds this day assined, to stand and abide this division or award.

Assined this day.

John Thompson.  
John Staples.  
Daniel Emery.

York se/ Kittery May ye 7th 1718/

William Wilson & Gowen Wilson personally appearing and acknowledged ye division of land mentioned and demonstrated in this figure to be their vulluntary act and agreement.

Coram Jos: Hamond J peace.

Recorded according to the original, May 7th 1718.

p Jos: Hamond Regr

The accompanying map shows a piece of land nearly rectangular in shape, being one hundred and twenty rods long North and South and about eighty-eight rods wide East and West. It contains by calculation something more than sixty acres. The inventory of the Sergeant's estate call's for sixty-one acres. The map shows the land North of it as owned by William Wilson, the Eastern boundary is Curtis's mill pond, and Captain Fernald's farm is on the South. The dividing line between the two brothers runs, in general, North and South, making two equal lots. William's part is on the East and includes a building which is located by the map and which is undoubtedly the house mentioned in the Sergt. Wilson inventory.

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



There is no evidence that Gowen Wilson ever was permanently located in Kittery. In 1748 he sold out his interest in the property on the West side of Spruce Creek to his brother William, as appears by the following deed :

Know all Men by these presents that I Gowen Wilson Gentleman of Falmouth in the County of York & in the Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England in Consideration of Fifteen Pounds Old Town Bills of Public Credit to him in hand paid before the Delivery hereof by William Willson of Kittery Yeoman the receipt Whereof I Do hereby acknow<sup>d</sup> & My self therewith fully satisfied and Contented & paid have given granted Bargained & Sold aliened Conveyed & Confirmed & by these Presents Do freely & absolutely Give Grant Bargain & Sell alien Convey & Confirm unto him y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Willson his Heirs & assigns for Ever all my Right title & Interest that I have or ought to have of in or unto four Rights or Shares Which is called Endles Rites & my part of my Hon<sup>d</sup> fathers Joseph Willson Late of Kittery Deceased Which I have or ogt to have In the land Called Puddinghole Commons in Kittery afors<sup>d</sup> as y<sup>e</sup> same is Shared or Proportioned to me in y<sup>e</sup> same With all the Priviledges to s<sup>d</sup> Right or Share Belonging.

To Have & Hold all the granted & Bargained Premises together With all the Appurces free from all Encumbrances What so Ever to him the said William Willson his heirs and assigns as an absolute Estate of Inheritance in fee Simple 'for Ever & I the said Gowen Wilson for myself or my heirs Exec<sup>rs</sup> & Admin<sup>rs</sup> Do Covenant & engage the above Demised Premises to him the s<sup>d</sup> William Willson his heirs and assigns against the Lawful Claims & Demands of any person or Persons What so Ever for Ever hereafter To Warrant Secure & Defend by these presents in witness Where of I Do here unto Set my hand and Seal this 26th Day of October anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and forty Eight & in the twenty first year of Reign of our Sovereign Lord george y<sup>e</sup> second.

Signed sealed & Deliv<sup>d</sup> Gowen Wilson (a seal)  
in presence of us

John Norton  
Anne Wilson



York ss/ Octr 27th 1748 Gowen Willson Personally appearing acknow<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Within Instrumt to be his act & Deed befor Jer: Moulton Jus pace.

York ss/ Rec<sup>d</sup> Octr.-27 1748 and Recorded with the Record for Deeds in s<sup>d</sup> County Lib<sup>o</sup> 28 fol<sup>o</sup> 10  
Att<sup>s</sup> Dan<sup>l</sup> Moulton Reg<sup>r</sup>.

This deed made William Wilson the owner of the whole of Sergt. Wilson's estate at this place. It has been seen that he bought fifty acres of William Lewis, of which twenty-three acres were laid out in 1710. In 1714 he had thirty acres laid out to him which is described only as being near Mr. Curtis's sawmill.<sup>1</sup> In 1718 he received another grant from the town, this time of nine acres, bounded on the North with land formerly Endle's.<sup>2</sup> This must have been Endle's land on the West side of the creek, and consequently this grant was probably adjacent to land already owned by William. William also owned land at Eastern Creek, for in 1719 Joseph Wilson was granted seven acres there which is described as being adjacent to his brother William Wilson's land. It seems likely that Gowen also inherited a part of this Eastern Creek property.

About thirty acres of the Goose Creek estate was reserved for the use of Sergt. Wilson's widow, Hannah Wilson. Another part of it was allotted to John — the youngest of the four sons — who settled upon it. It is not known how much he received, but one would not suppose he got more than sixteen or seventeen acres; for this would be his proportional part reckoning the land at the prices named in the inventory. There are some evidences that he did not get more than nine or ten acres at this place. The inventory of his estate taken after his decease credits him with fifteen and three-quarter acres of land, and of this amount seven acres were allotted to him as his share of his mother's dower.

The foregoing account of the distribution of Sergt. Wilson's estate is as complete as information will allow — although it does not by any means show the disposal of all of his property.

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Records. Book 2 of grants, fols. 27 and 28.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Records. Book 2 of grants, fol. 37.



The oldest son of Sergt. Wilson was Joseph, born in October, 1684. He was married three times. On Aug. 27, 1707, he married Elizabeth Chapman.<sup>1</sup> There are several marriage records of Chapmans in Kittery — all later than 1700 — but there is no evidence at all concerning the parents of any of these. Perhaps the family moved to Kittery about that time. Joseph Wilson married Mary Clear in 1733. The records give the intention of marriage as published Aug. 29th, 1730, and the date of marriage as July 3d, 1733.<sup>2</sup> Nothing is known about this family. On April 2d, 1751, "Joseph Wilson Senr" and Judith Richardson were married.<sup>3</sup> The intention of marriage is recorded March 23d of the same year.

On October 14th, 1722, there were baptized Joseph, Moses, Elizabeth and Mary, children of Joseph and Elizabeth Wilson.<sup>4</sup> The town records name the children of "Joseph Wilson and Mary his second wife,"<sup>5</sup> as

|         |                     |
|---------|---------------------|
| David,  | born Dec. 19, 1739. |
| Gowin,  | " Apr. 22, 1741.    |
| Hannah, | " July 8, 1743.     |

There were no children by the third wife. This probably was also her third marriage. It seems likely that she was Judith Weeks, but it can not be said whether she was Judith the daughter of Joseph and Eadah Weeks, born in June, 1696,<sup>6</sup> or Judith the daughter of Nicholas and Priscilla Weeks, born in May, 1705.<sup>6</sup> In 1728 she married Thomas Gribble,<sup>6</sup> and in 1741 she married Joseph Richardson.<sup>5</sup> Joseph Wilson's will, given here in full, mentions his wife Judith and children Joseph, Moses, David, Gowen and Hannah. Elizabeth and Mary, not being named, probably were deceased; there are no further records of them.

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 26. Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll. Vol. XIV., p. 129.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 52.

<sup>3</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 2, fol. 15. See also Records of Spruce Creek Congregational Church.

<sup>4</sup> Kittery Old Cong. Church records. See No. 323.

<sup>5</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 2.

<sup>6</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1.





In the Name of God Amen. The Second Day of January Anno Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty eight, I Joseph Willson of Kittery in the County of York & Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Housewright, being aged and weak in Body but of perfect Mind and Memory, Thanks be given unto God. Therefore calling unto mind the Mortality of my Body & knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die Do make and ordain this my last Will & Testam<sup>t</sup> That is to Say: principally and first of all, I give and recommend my Soul into the Hands of God that gave it, and my Body I recommend to the Earth to be buried in decent Christian Manner at y<sup>e</sup> Discretion of my Executors hereafter named, Nothing doubting but at the General Resurrection I shall receive y<sup>e</sup> Same again by the Mighty Power of God. And as touching Such Worldy Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this Life, I give demise and dispose of the Same in y<sup>e</sup> following Maner & form.

Imp<sup>r</sup> My Will is that my just Debts & funeral Charges be raised & paid out of my Estate as Soon as may be conveniently after my Decease by my Execut<sup>rs</sup> hereafter named.

Item. I give & bequeath unto Judith my dearly beloved Wife y<sup>e</sup> Use and Improvem<sup>t</sup> of the one third part of my real Estate in Manner as the Law directs in Case of Intestate Estates.

Item. I give & bequeath unto my Well beloved Son Joseph Willson his Heirs & Assigns part of my Land as follows Viz<sup>t</sup> one part thereof beginning at a Bunch of pair Trees about Six Rods Eastwardly from my Barn on y<sup>e</sup> Northerly Side of a Lane that Leads from my Barn, on y<sup>e</sup> Northerly Side of my Orchard towards Thomas Hutchins Land, and to run from Said Pear Trees Northerly Straight to two Small Elmn Trees mark'd, and then continuing the Same Course to the Cart Path that leads from my Barn to the head of my Mowing Ground and then to run Northeasterly as the Path goes to the Head of my Mowing Ground at the Bars in the Stone Wall; And then running Southwardly as the Wall runs next the Pasture to the Corner thereof; And then running South westerly by the Wall and



Fence to the turn of the Lane and then running as ye Lane Runs to the beginning; And also give to my Son Joseph Liberty to pasture three Cows eight sheep & two Calves in my Pasture Land during his life; and also give unto my said son Joseph Six Bushels of Winter Apples, and Six Barrells of Cyder per year during his life to be made out of the Orchard on my lands during his Life; And also the Privilege of living in & improving that part of the House he now lives in, And the Same Priviledge in the Barn he now improves.

Item. I confirm unto my well beloved Son Moses Willson what I have already conveyed to him by Deeds which is for his full Portion of my Estate.

Item. I give & bequeath unto my well beloved Sons David Willson & Gowen Willson all the remaining part of my Lands & Buildings whatsoever & wheresoever the Same is or my be found to them their Heirs & Assigns forever to be divided between them in equal Shares.

Item. I will & bequeath unto my well beloved Daughter Hannah Willson Thirteen pounds Six Shillings & eight pence lawful Money or the Value thereof out of my Stock of Creatures And also Six pounds thirteen Shillings and four pence or the Value thereof out of my Household Goods all at the then Curr<sup>t</sup> price as such things go at.

And further my Will is that if my Said Son Joseph Shall haue need to Sell or dispose of the Land or any part thereof that I haue given him he Shall Sell it to one of his Brothers, if the See Cause to purchase and will give as much as another person. And all remaining part of my personal Estate I give unto Judith my Wife, whom I make and ordain my Execut<sup>x</sup> and David my afores<sup>d</sup> Son whom I make & ordain my Executor with his Mother of this my last Will and Testament to pay my Debts and funeral Charges. And I do hereby utterly disallow revoke & disannull all and every other former Testaments Wills Legacys & Bequests & Executors by me any ways before named willed & bequeathed ratifying & confirming this & no other to be my last Will & Testam<sup>t</sup>.



In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand and Seal the Day & Year above written after y<sup>e</sup> Words (David Willson and Gowen Willson) were interlined, Mem<sup>o</sup> that y<sup>e</sup> Words (to pay my Debts & funeral Charges) were interlined before Signing & Sealing.

Joseph Willson (Seal)

Signed Sealed & published pronounced & declared by the Said Joseph Willson as his last Will & Testam<sup>t</sup> in the presence of us the Subscribers.

Thomas Hutchins Joseph Weeks Andrew <sup>his</sup> X  
Lewis 3d John Godsoe. <sub>mark</sub>

Probated 3 April 1758. Inventory returned 2d March, 1758, at £396: 15: 1, by Thomas Cutt, Samuel Haley and James Fernald, appraisers.

William Wilson, the second son of Sergt. Wilson, married Hopewell (Furbish) Hutchings, the widow of Enoch Hutchins Jr., on April 25, 1711.<sup>1</sup> Furbish was not a Kittery name at this time, and it is not known who were her parents. She married Enoch Hutchins May 13th, 1693. He died April 3d, 1706.<sup>2</sup> Hopewell Hutchings was taken prisoner by the Indians during one of their raids, and carried in captivity to Canada. This took place during the spring of 1705. The Rev. John Pike in his journal — quoted elsewhere — says that the date of the Kittery ravages was May 4th. His accounts read as follows:

“Many persons surprised by the Indians at Spruce Creek and York. John Brawn, Henry Barns, a child of Dodivah Curtices and a child of Enoch Hutchins slain — Rest carried captive by ten or a dozen Indians. Also Mrs. Hoel Running up the hill to discern the outcry fell into y<sup>r</sup> hands and was slain.”

There were two Enoch Hutchins — father and son — who were killed by the Indians. They both lived near the head of Eastern Creek, on land lying, at the present time, South East

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 21.

<sup>2</sup> These two dates and the records of the children are from Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 15.



from the Post Road and North East from the Kittery Point Road. The Hutchins' holdings probably included the farm of Ervin I. Wilson, and extended backwards from the shore on an East North East line nearly a mile. Enoch Hutchins Sr. was killed by the Indians in 1698 as he was at work in his field.<sup>1</sup> His will is dated 1693,<sup>2</sup> and contains evidence that he was then an old man. Enoch Hutchins Jr. died in April, 1706, almost a year after the raid in which his wife and children were carried away. There is a tradition surrounding this captive of the Indians, Mrs. Hopewell (Furbish) Hutchins, which is known as the story of the wooden shoe. This seems to have been most particularly handed down in the Hutchins family, although Mrs. Hutchins, through her marriage to William Wilson, is the ancestor of a long line of Wilsons.

The tradition says that Mrs. Hutchins and one son, a boy of ten or twelve years, were carried off by the Indians. The savages had brutally killed her youngest child before her eyes, and had killed — or fatally wounded — her husband. The boy was bare-footed, as was customary in warm weather, and tramping over the stubbly undergrowth of the woods injured his feet. His captors gave him wooden shoes to wear — an article often seen in the colonies in those days. The story as told might be of the actions of a few days, but other evidence shows that Mrs. Hutchins was in captivity for a number of months. One day the boy's shoes pinched him, and in his exasperation he seized a tomahawk and with a single blow split one of them from his foot. The adroitness with which he dealt the blow, without touching his foot with the weapon, so pleased his captors that they finally released him and his mother.

The boy kept the mate to his broken shoe, which has been handed down in the Wilson family and is in existence to-day. This story has some points of variance with others, and always has been looked upon as possibly chiefly mythical. The fact of a raid in this part of the town at this time makes the tradition easily a possible one. It is only very recently that the signifi-

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<sup>1</sup> See Extracts from John Pike's Journal, given elsewhere.

<sup>2</sup> See "Maine Wills."





cance of the following entry in the town records, as applied to this story, has been fully appreciated: <sup>1</sup>

“ Enoch Hutchins married to Hopewell Furbish  
May 13 1693. William, son, born Aug. 1. 1694.  
Thomas, son, born Sept. 20. 1696. Enoch, son,  
born Sept. 11. 1697. Mary Katherine, daughter,  
born in Soriel in Canada, Sept. 1705. Mr. Enoch  
Hutchins died Apr. 3. 1706.”

This record proves that Mrs. Hutchins was in Canada, and it was a trip which would not have been made in those days, and under the circumstances, except by compulsion. Thus it has been shown that the main facts of the tradition about the wooden shoe are truth. It can not be said which boy is the hero of this story. The shoe is a small one and could hardly have been worn by a child more than seven or eight years old; but of course a statement deduced from this would be only guesswork.

The children of William and Hopewell Wilson were as follows: <sup>2</sup>

|           |                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| William,  | born Jan. 27, 171 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Daniel,   | “ Feb. 22, 171 $\frac{3}{4}$    |
| John,     | “ Aug. 19, 1715                 |
| Mary,     | “ Sept. 1717 (died in infancy)  |
| Benjamin, | “ Dec. 22, 1718                 |

William Wilson Sr. died intestate and his son Benjamin was appointed administrator on Feb. 9, 1770.

The third son of Sergt. Joseph and Hannah Wilson was Gowen, born Jan. 29, 1690. There is no record in Kittery of his marriage, but on Oct. 10, 1730,<sup>3</sup> “Anne the wife of Gowen Wilson owned y<sup>e</sup> Covenant, and Baptized” seven children,—Gowen, Mark, Icabod, Hannah, Sarah, Joanna and Olive. Gowen Wilson moved from Kittery to Falmouth sometime between the years 1730 and 1736. In 1730 his children were baptized in Kittery, and in 1736 there is a deed to Joseph Fernald from “Gowen Wilson of Falmouth” of thirteen and

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 15. This is not a verbatim copy.

<sup>2</sup> Kittery Vital Records. Book 1, fol. 21.

<sup>3</sup> Kittery Old Cong. Church Records. See No. 469.



three quarters acres of land.<sup>1</sup> Gowen seems to have been quite a dealer in real estate in Kittery, for the records show that his transactions were not in the nature of acquisitions for his own personal use. They seem rather to have been for investment only. At the time of his removal to Falmouth he still owned a considerable quantity of land in his home town, but during the succeeding ten years he sold it all—or very nearly all. The records of Cumberland County were so damaged in the great Portland fire of 1866, that it is very difficult to get any official knowledge of the doings of this man in Falmouth. For a number of years it seemed as if there were absolutely no traces which were of any value. There are several unimportant letters from him in Falmouth to people in Kittery, as well as the deeds of sale of his Kittery property. His occupation in Falmouth is named in one of these deeds as “carpenter.” In another he is called “gentleman.”

There are numerous descendants of Gowen Wilson now living in Cumberland County. There is a record in an old Bible owned by one of these families which reads in part as follows:

“Gowen Wilson, from England, he being my great-grandfather, was born in England in 1692. He was the master-workman of the first mill on Presumpscott Falls in Falmouth, Me. He died in 1773. His elder son, my grandfather, Gowen Wilson was born in 1716 and died in 1754. My father, Maj. Nathaniel Wilson, was born in Falmouth, Nov. 28, 1740 and died Oct 28, 1818. I, Nathaniel Wilson, Jr., was born Aug. 22, 1763, was married to Sarah Pride Novem. 1788.”

This record was long regarded as correct, but now investigators of the Kittery Wilsons and interested members of the above family are agreed that this Gowen Wilson was born in Kittery in 1690. The error in the above quoted record is by no means an impossible one. The author was writing about his great-grandfather, of whom he could have had no personal recollections. It was natural for him, or some of his family, knowing that Gowen

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



was the first of the family in Falmouth, to make an assumption — amounting almost to conviction — that he came from England. The possibility of this error becomes more apparent when it is thought how little most persons really know about their great grand parents.

The second Gowen named in the Bible record was born in 1716. This agrees, as nearly as can be told, with the date of birth of Gowen, son of the Gowen of Kittery who moved to Falmouth. The Kittery church record, already quoted, shows seven children baptized in 1730, of whom Gowen is first mentioned and probably the oldest. There are further evidences that Gowen Wilson first named in the above Bible record was born in Kittery. Gowen is an uncommon name, but frequently is found among the Kittery Wilsons. Gowen Wilson of Kittery moved to Falmouth with at least seven children, but there are no known descendants except they be of the family named in this Bible record. Again, certain of the names of these children of Gowen Wilson of Kittery have been common names among the descendants of Gowen Wilson of this Bible record.

There is evidence of another child of Gowen and Anna Wilson named Joseph, born in 1725. He is not among those who were baptized in 1730, but some temporary ailment might have been the reason of this. The family Bible of this Joseph Wilson, which is now owned by a descendant, records that Joseph Wilson was born in Kittery, July 5th, 1725, and married Mary Swatt of Falmouth in 1751. There were seven children: Mary, Joseph, Ichabod, Gowen, Nathaniel, Anna Sheppard and Phebe. There was a sister Olive, born in 1727, who married Benjamin Godfrey.

It is significant that many of the names in the families of this Joseph and Gowen (his supposed father) are the same. Gowen and Ichabod are repeated, while Joseph's daughter Anna would be named for her mother, Gowen's wife. Joseph's sister Olive was born in 1727, about the same time as Gowen's daughter Olive. Joseph's son Nathaniel would be an uncle of Major Nathaniel Wilson. Again, Joseph married in Falmouth, which would be only natural, if his father moved there. Joseph, who



afterwards became Capt. Joseph Wilson, moved to Pleasant River — now Columbia Falls — and there is a tradition that his mother and father lived there with him and died there. The Bible record, already quoted, says that Gowen Wilson died in 1773. There is nothing to show who were the parents of his wife Anna. It may be noticed, however, that if one of Capt. Joseph's children was named for his mother, her name was Anna Sheppard. There was a Sheppard family in Kittery in 1712, and Phebe, the name of another of Capt. Joseph's daughters, was a common name in that family.

The youngest son of Sergt. Joseph Wilson was John. Less is known about him than about any of the others, although this may be chiefly because he did not have a large family. He was born in 1694, and before 1721 had married Mary, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Johnson of York, as the following abstract shows: †

“Articles of agreement made & fully agreed to this 30th day of May A.D 1721, Between the widow & children of Samuel Johnson late of York in the County of York, deceased, in the quiet & peaceable settlement of the estate of the said deceased, each for themselves. Viz.—Elizabeth Johnson widow & relict of the said Sam'l Johnson deceased, all of the said deceased, his debts being paid, answered and allowed to be paid, some of the real and some of the personal estate, the widow's thirds is allowed to stand in full without any division to and amongst the children or the said representatives of them or either of them hereafter named, until the death of their mother above named and then to be equally divided according to law. Now know all men by these presents, that we the children of the said Samuel Johnson deceased, above named, Viz.—John Wilson who married Mary Johnson one of the daughters of said deceased, and Benaiah Young in marrying Ruth Johnson a daughter of said Sam'l Johnson deceased, Sarah Johnson and Kesiah Johnson send greeting, Know ye, the said John Wilson Benaiah Young, Sarah Johnson and Keziah Johnson in consideration” etc., and proceeds to sell to their brother Samuel Johnson the two thirds part of the said estate not covered by the widow's thirds.

† York County Deeds — see published volumes.





There is evidence that John Wilson moved to Falmouth in or before 1739. In that year "John Wilson and Mary his wife" of Falmouth, deeded to Hezekiah and Thomas Adams their rights in all the real and personal estate of their grandfather and grandmother, Philip and Elizabeth Adams of York.<sup>1</sup> In 1742 he sold to Joseph Wilson

"A Certain Tract or Parcel of Land Scituate lying and being in Kittery afores<sup>d</sup> Together with all the Buildings thereon Containing by estimations Eight Acres and three Quarters of an Acre it being all my Lands and Buildings Where I Now Dwell and Possess Bounded Westerly by the Road that Leads from the Head of Spruce Creek Down to Kittery Point and Bounded Southwardly by the Land of Joseph Hutchins," etc.<sup>1</sup>

It would seem from this that he was then living in Kittery. Perhaps he had returned from Falmouth to his old home, and finally sold that and went back to Falmouth again. There is no mention of him in Kittery until 1747, when he buys of Joseph Wilson

"All that Tract or Parcel of Land lying and being in Kittery aforesaid where the said John Willson now liveth on cont<sup>d</sup> by estimation about nine acres be the same more or less it being the whole of that Tract of Land which I the said Joseph Willson purchased of the said John Willson as appears by a Deed under the said John Willson's hand and Seal Dated the 12th Day of February Anno Domini 1742 as on record appear," etc.

Whatever may have been the details of John Wilson's life at this time, he apparently sold his home and left Kittery, and returned after some years.

There are records of only one child, a son John. No mention of him is to be found in the records in Kittery, although it seems probable that he was born in that town. He was of age in 1757, being chosen an administrator of his father's estate.

<sup>1</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.



Administration on the estate of John Wilson Sr. was granted March 18th, 1757. His widow and his son were appointed administrators. The following is the inventory of his estate :<sup>1</sup>

A True Inventory of the Estate of John Willson Late of Kittery Dec<sup>d</sup> Taken and aprifed at Kittery afores<sup>d</sup> The first Day of April Anno Domini 1757 by us The Subscribers as The Same was Shew<sup>d</sup> to us, who were appointed by ord<sup>r</sup> of the Judge of Probate for the same Purpose as follows viz —

|                                                                                                                      | £ s d   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| To his wareing apparrel 60s his Dwelling house & Dary 13£ 6s 8d                                                      | 16 6 8  |
| To 15½ acres & 26 poles of Land being his home Lott at 5s 8d p acre                                                  | 46 13 6 |
| To an old Barn 30s one Yoke of Steers Coming in 4 years 56s 8d                                                       | 4 6 8   |
| To 2 Cows each 41s 8d one huffer Coming in two years 15s                                                             | 4 18 4  |
| To a mair 80s Three Sheep and their Lambs 24s                                                                        | 5 4 0   |
| To 1 Shoat 10s 8s To a Scyder mill 12s & half a Grindstone 8s                                                        | 1 10 8  |
| { To The wid <sup>o</sup> Bed and Bedsted Curtains and other furnitur to it belonging 4£ 13s 4d and a warming Pan 2s | 4 15 4  |
| To a Large Pott weight 44lbs 11s a small Pott wt 23lbs 5s 9d                                                         | 0 16 9  |
| To a small Kettle 15lbs 3s 11d and 17½lbs of old Pewter 11s 10                                                       | 0 14 9  |
| To a Trammel wt 7½lbs 3s 9d & hook, 1 in The Chimney for Potts 1s 4d                                                 | 0 5 1   |
| To 6 wooden milk Vessels 2s 8d & two washing tubbs 10d                                                               | 0 3 6   |
| To 1 Pair And jrons wt 15½lbs 6s 5d & a frying Pan 2s 3d                                                             | 0 8 8   |
| To a wolling wheel 2s 8d Some Earthenware 1s 4d                                                                      | 0 4 0   |
| To 5 Scyder Cask in the Seller 18s 4d & two Larg tubs 2s 8d                                                          | 0 16 0  |
| To a Chest with a Lock 6s 8d and a Square table 2s                                                                   | 0 8 8   |
| To 5 Old Chairs 2s 8d & Chest without a Lock 4s                                                                      | 0 6 8   |
| To a old Sewing Wheel 3s 4d and a flax Comb 6s                                                                       | 0 9 4   |
| To a mortar & Pestle Iron Candle Stick and tin-ware & bellows                                                        | 0 3 4   |

<sup>1</sup> Probate Records, York County.



## THE KITTERY WILSONS.

|                                                                                          |   |                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| To a hand saw square 3 augars, 2 hammers, 1<br>Chizel, adze 3 axes one hoe Scyth & Sneed | } | 1 10 0          |
| To his Gun 26s 8d & Sword 2s an old Saddle<br>& Bridle 2s 8d                             |   | 1 11 4          |
| To a Cannew 10s 8d Meat Barrel 1s 4d 223<br>Clabbords 12s                                |   | 1 4 0           |
| the sum                                                                                  |   | <u>£90 17 7</u> |

The above articles were appriz<sup>d</sup> according to  
the best of our Skill and Judgment under oath

Peter Lewes  
John Godsoe  
Charles Smith

May 17 1757.

The articles above marked thus & were allow<sup>d</sup>  
to ye Widow of s<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>d</sup> as necessarys.

York fs. At a Court of Probate held at York  
April 25, 1757, Mary Willson, & John Willson  
Admin<sup>rs</sup> of ye Estate of John Wilson within named  
Dec<sup>d</sup> appeared & made Oath that the several Ar-  
ticles mentioned in the within Inventory are all the  
Estate belonging to the said Dec<sup>d</sup> that has come to  
their Hands, and that if any thing more hereafter  
appear they will give it into the Registers Office.  
The appraizers being sworn.

Jer Moulton Judge

Recorded Lib<sup>r</sup> 9. Fol<sup>o</sup> 208

p Simon Frost Reg<sup>tr</sup>



## CHAPTER VII.

LATER GENERATIONS — CONNECTING LINKS TO PRESENT  
GENERATIONS.

It is beyond the limits of this present work to undertake to follow the fortunes of another generation of this family. The four grandsons of the original Gowen Wilson had thirteen or fourteen sons, of whom only four or five settled permanently in Kittery. As Kittery is now, and always will be, interesting as the scene of action of the early generations of the family, those branches which remained in Kittery will be roughly and incompletely traced down to the present time.

It has been seen that Joseph Wilson<sub>3</sub><sup>1</sup> had four sons, Joseph, Moses, David and Gowen. Gowen<sub>4</sub> went to Falmouth, and so probably did David<sub>4</sub>, while Joseph<sub>4</sub> and Moses<sub>4</sub> came into possession of their father's property. Joseph<sub>4</sub> was born somewhere about 1709 and died in 1785. He married Mary Mansfield on August 9, 1750. There were seven children:<sup>2</sup>

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Moses,     | - born in 1751      |
| Elizabeth, | " 1754              |
| Anna,      | " 1757              |
| John,      | " 1758 <sup>1</sup> |
| Hannah,    | " 1760              |
| Joseph,    | " 1763              |
| Mary,      | " 1765              |

Joseph Wilson<sub>5</sub>, one of the above children, was born April 2d, 1763, and died July 9, 1834. He married Eunice (Fernald) Hutchings, widow of James Hutchings, son of Enoch Hutchings Jr., in 1784. It was about this time that the home place of this

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this chapter the numeral indicating the generation of the person will be placed against the name where necessary for complete and easy identification. For instance: "Joseph Wilson 3" means Joseph Wilson in the third generation of Wilsons in Kittery, the other two being Gowen Wilson and Sargt. Joseph Wilson 2.

<sup>2</sup> In part from Kittery Vital Records and in part from family papers.





branch of the Wilson family was transferred to land originally granted to the Hutchings family, although Joseph<sub>5</sub> retained possession of a part of his father's land. There were eight children of Joseph and Eunice Wilson<sub>5</sub> :<sup>1</sup>

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Eunice,   | born in 1785 |
| James,    | " 1787       |
| Joseph,   | " 1788       |
| Lucretia, | " 1790       |
| William,  | " 1793       |
| Lydia,    | " 1795       |
| Martha,   | " 1798       |
| Tobias,   | " 1800       |

Two of these children, James and Joseph, have descendants living in Kittery at the present time. James Wilson<sub>6</sub> was twice married. In 1816 he married Dorothy, daughter of Foxwell and Dorothy (Lewis) Curtis; and in 1836 he married Betsey F. Wentworth. He died in Kittery in 1864. There were three children :

|                |                     |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Mary Ann,      | born in 1818        |
| Nancy,         | " 1820 <sup>2</sup> |
| Foxwell Curtis | " 1823              |

Foxwell Curtis Wilson<sub>7</sub> married Hannah Drew of Newfield, in 1849, and had one son, Ervin Ijah Wilson, who now owns and occupies the old home farm in Kittery, at the corner of the Post Road and the road down to Kittery Point. This land was, as has been seen, originally granted to the Hutchins family.

Joseph Wilson<sub>6</sub>, son of Joseph Wilson<sub>5</sub>, was born in Kittery in December, 1788. He married Betsey, daughter of Joel and Lucy (Allen) Haley in 1814. There were five children :<sup>1</sup>

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Oliver,    | born in 1815 |
| Jane,      | " 1816       |
| Charles,   | " 1818       |
| Joel,      | " 1820       |
| Elizabeth, | " 1822       |

<sup>1</sup> Family Records.

<sup>2</sup> Died in infancy.



One of these — the Rev. Joel Wilson — is living in Kittery at the present time. His home place never belonged in the Wilson family until his occupancy of it.

Moses Wilson<sub>4</sub>, son of Joseph Wilson<sub>3</sub>, was born in Kittery about 1712, and died in 1783. About 1737 he married his first cousin, Elizabeth, daughter of Elihu and Ruth (Wilson) Parsons, said Ruth being a daughter of Sergt. Joseph and Hannah Wilson<sub>2</sub>. There were eight children: <sup>1</sup>

|            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| Elizabeth, | born in 1738                       |
| Samuel,    | “ 1740                             |
| Ruth,      | “ 1743                             |
| Elihu,     | “ 1745                             |
| Aaron,     | “ 1747                             |
| Joseph,    | “ 174 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>50</sub> |
| Mary,      | “ 1751                             |
| Sarah,     | “ 1753                             |

One of these—Aaron Wilson<sub>5</sub> — who died in Kittery in 1828, married Betsey Hutchins in 1776. She was born in 1758 and died in 1841. There were several children who survived their parents.<sup>2</sup>

Three daughters of Aaron Wilson<sub>5</sub> always lived upon land at the corner of the main road to Kittery Point and the Norton Road. There are many who remember the late Jane and Betsey Wilson<sub>6</sub> and their nephew, the late Hiram D. Briggs, who kept a store at this place. This land was acquired by purchase, chiefly by Aaron Wilson<sub>5</sub>, who bought of Samuel Hutchings in 1807.<sup>3</sup> It is from this Briggs that this locality gets its name of Briggs' Corner.

Another son of Moses Wilson<sub>4</sub> was Elihu Wilson<sub>5</sub> who was born Aug. 26, 1745, and died about 1803. Apparently he was married twice. His first wife was Joanna Mitchell and his second was Hannah Weeks. There are records of two children, both by his first wife: <sup>4</sup>

Elihu Parsons, born in 1769  
Joanna,

<sup>1</sup> Kittery Vital Records.

<sup>2</sup> Family Records.

<sup>3</sup> York County Deeds — see published volumes.

<sup>4</sup> See Will of Elihu Wilson in County Probate Records. See also family records.



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THE KITTERY WILSONS.

Elihu Parsons Wilson<sub>6</sub> was born in Kittery, Aug. 18, 1769, and died April 21, 1834. He married Mary, daughter of Josiah and Susannah (Hanscom) Haley, on Nov. 4, 1793. She was born in Kittery, Feb. 18, 1773, and died Feb. 26, 1851. There were nine children: <sup>1</sup>

|               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Aaron,        | born 1794, died 1840 |
| Josiah Haley, | " 1796, " 1876       |
| Benning,      | " 1799, " 1870       |
| Thomas,       | " 1801, " 1820       |
| Mary,         | " 1803, " 1858       |
| Elihu,        | " 1806, " 1819       |
| Abigail,      | " 1811, " 1886       |
| William.      | " 1814, " 1885       |

William Wilson<sub>7</sub>, the youngest son in this family, married Mary, daughter of Eben and Hannah (Junkins) Simpson. There were four children of whom two are living at the present time. One of these, William Howe Wilson<sub>8</sub>, owns and occupies land which was first granted to Gowen Wilson<sub>1</sub> in 1658. This land not only never has been owned outside of the Wilson family, but it has come down to its present owner by direct inheritance.

The four children of William and Hopewell Wilson<sub>3</sub> were William, Daniel, John and Benjamin. Through William Wilson<sub>4</sub> runs the line down to the present owners of the Wilson property on the Western side of Spruce Creek. William Wilson<sub>4</sub> married Edah, daughter of William and Mary (Cutt) Bryar in 1733.<sup>2</sup> She was born in Kittery in 1712. There were five children—Edmund, Daniel, Anne, Hannah and Sarah. Edmund<sub>5</sub>, (or Edmond<sub>5</sub>), was born May 20, 1743, and died Mar. 14, 1825. On Oct. 27, 1764, he married Susannah, daughter of Samuel and Jane (Fernald) Gunnison. She was born Dec. 4, 1746, and died Jan. 30, 1834. There were twelve children: <sup>1</sup>

|          |                      |
|----------|----------------------|
| William, | born 1767, died 1834 |
| Richard, | " 1768, " 1848       |
| Jane,    | " 1770, " 1847       |
| Eady,    | " 1772, " 1856       |

<sup>1</sup> Family Records.

<sup>2</sup> Cutt Genealogy. The Town Vital Records record William Bryar's wife's name as Sarah.

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