



Our Wilson Ancestors

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Last Revised at

<https://www.retson.ca/wilson.pdf>

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Wilson Context

1. William Wilson of Donington, Lincolnshire,
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Wilson-16327>

2. William Wilson, b. abt.1609 Donington, Lincolnshire, m. Patience (Grindall) Trustram, widow of James Trustram d. bet. 1 Oct 1645 and 7 Oct 1646

2. William Wilson 1609-1645/46 Patience Grindall Trustram Grindall

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Wilson-2749> William Wilson (abt. 1588 - 1646)

William Wilson, son of William Wilson was born about 1609 Donington, Lincolnshire, NEHGR 155: 219.

He married Patience Trustram, widow of James Trustram. (nee Grindall). October 6, 1634. He served as a Prison keeper.

He arrived at Boston in 1635 based on the birth of child at Boston Church on August 6, 1635 (NEHGR155:219).

He was admitted to the Boston church with his wife Patience, on September 6, 1635 and as freeman on May 25, 1636 (BCHR 19)

They had 5 children,

- i. Shoreborne Wilson b. 6 Aug 635 m. Mary Osgood 9 Sep 1657 Ipswich, d.
- ii. Mary Wilson b. 11 Jan. 1637/38 Boston, m. Roger Wheeler 7 Dec 1653 Newbury
3. iii. Joseph Wilson b. 10 Sep 1643 Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British Colonial America, m. (1) Mary Lovejoy 04 Jul 1670 Andover, Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Bay Colony, m. (2) Sarah Lord 24 Apr 1678 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, d. 02 Apr 1718 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British Colonial America
- iv. Newgrace Wilson. B.&d. Mar abt 23 Mar 1644/5

On November 20 1637, William Wilson was on of the Boston men disarmed because of their support for Anne Hutchinson and John Wheelwright.

He died between October 1, 1645, and October 7, 1646

3. Joseph Wilson 1643 – 1718 Sarah Lord 1648 - 1727

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Wilson-8078> Joseph Wilson (1643 - 1718)

Joseph Wilson, son of William Wilson and Patience, was born September 10 1643 Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British Colonial America.

He married Mary Lovejoy July 04, 1670, at Andover, Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Bay Colony, They had two children,

- i. Mary Wilson b. 29 Sep 1673 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, d. 31 Mar 1674 Andover,
- ii. Joseph Wilson b. 06 Jun 1677 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, d. 1742 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts

Mary Lovejoy died 18 Jun 1677 at Andover, Essex, Massachusetts.

Joseph then married Sarah Lord 24 Apr 1678 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, Lord, daughter of Robert Lord and Mary Waite, was born 1648 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts. On April 24, 1678, Sarah Lord married the widower Joseph Wilson of Andover. Joseph Wilson

Sarah was one of the many women in Andover, Massachusetts who were arrested after the infamous “touch test” examination conducted by the Reverend Thomas Barnard on September 7, 1692.¹ In 1692 when the infamous witch hysteria began, Joseph and Sarah were living with their children in the south part of Andover and were active members of the Andover church.

On September 7, 1692, the Reverend Thomas Barnard called certain members of Andover’s elite to the meetinghouse. At the meeting, several of the Salem Village “afflicted girls” were present. After a short prayer,

Reverend Barnard launched into a sermon describing the evils of witchcraft. He then began to conduct the “Touch Test,” one of the most diabolical schemes of the witch trials.

The touch test worked on the idea that victims of sorcery would have a special reaction to physical contact with their evildoer. In cases where a possessed person fell into spells or fits, the suspected witch would be brought into the room and asked to lay a hand on them. A non-reaction signaled innocence, but if the victim came out of their fit, it was seen as proof that the suspect had placed them under a spell.

The afflicted girls had been suffering from fits that left their fists clenched so tightly that even a strong man could not pry their fingers apart. Sometimes the children were blindfolded and touched by other members of the court to test their credibility. The girls unclenched their fists anyway, which suggested they were faking, but even this was not enough to prove some women’s innocence.

After these tests were conducted, Justice of the Peace Dudley Bradstreet dutifully wrote out the arrest warrants for 18 men and women who had been accused in the touch test. These warrants included both Sarah Lord Wilson and her 14-year-old daughter, Sarah, Jr. After all these people were imprisoned and awaiting trial, the Reverend Francis Dane formed a resistance movement against the madness. On October 15th, a number of Andover children, including Sarah Wilson, Jr. were released on bail. The Reverend Dane would continue to work for the release of the other jailed members and on January 13, 1693, Sarah Lord Wilson was also released on bond. On May 10, 1693, both mother and daughter appeared at the Superior Court of Judicature at Ipswich and were cleared.

Notwithstanding they were found not guilty, they were still required to pay for their maintenance in jail as was the norm for all prisoners.

The family remained in Andover after the witchcraft scare subsided. Joseph Wilson died on April 2, 1718. Sarah died in Andover on May 21, 1727.

Their children included,

4. i. Sarah Wilson b. 31 Dec 1678 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British Colonial America, m. 17 Jun 1702 Jacob Preston, d. 1720
 - ii. John Wilson b. 23 Feb 1682/83 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, m. Marah, d. 24 Dec 1759 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts
 - iii. Mehitable Wilson, b. abt. 1685 m. John Holt

Joseph died April 02 Apr 1718 at Andover, Essex, Massachusetts. Sarah died May 21, 1727, Andover, Essex, Massachusetts.

4. Sarah Wilson 1678 – 1720 Jacob Preston 1681 -1742

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Wilson-23189> Sarah (Wilson) Preston (1678 - 1720)

Sarah Wilson, daughter of Joseph Wilson and Sarah Lord was born December 31, 1678, at Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British Colonial America.

At the age of 14-year-old, She and her mother were arrested for witchcraft on September 7, 1692, after the Reverend Thomas Barnard conducted his infamous “touch test.” After spending six weeks in prison, she was released on bail on October 15th. Later, in January 1693, her mother was also released. On May 10, 1693, both mother and daughter appeared at the Superior Court of Judicature at Ipswich and were cleared.

She went on to marry Jacob Preston on June 17, 1702, and couple moved to Ashford, Connecticut.

5. i. David Preston b. Abt 1703 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, United States, m. Elizabeth Martin 02 Aug 1726 Windham, Connecticut, British Colonial America, d. Bef. Oct 1755 Oblong, Dutchess, New York, United States
- ii. Benjamin Preston b. 20 Apr 1705 Andover, Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, United States, m. Deborah Holt 25 May 1727 Windham, Windham, Connecticut, d. 26 Apr 1784 Willington, Tolland, Connecticut, United States
- iii. Jacob Preston b. 21 Sep 1707 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, United States, m. Sarah Foster 21 Sep 1730 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, USA, d. 14 Apr 1765 Woodstock, Windham, Connecticut, United States
- iv. William Preston b. 01 Oct 1710 Andover, Essex, Colony of Massachusetts, British Colonial America, m. Lois Simonsd. 20 Aug 1778 Windham, Connecticut, United States, d. 20 Aug 1778 Windham, Connecticut, United States
- v. Joseph Preston b. Sep 1712 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Bay Colony, British Colonial America, m. Elizabeth Robbins 23 Apr 1734 Windham, Windham, Colony of Connecticut, British Colonial America, d. Mar 1791 Coventry, Tolland, Colony of Connecticut. British Colonial America
- vi. John Preston b. 19 Jan 1716 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts, United States, m. Mary Ford 09 Dec 1736 Hampton, Windham County, Connecticut, d. 04 Jan 1776 Ashford, Windham, Connecticut, United States

She died in 1720 at Ashford, Windham, Connecticut, USA and was buried at the Westford Cemetery, Ashford, Windham, Connecticut. Her husband Jacob Preston lived another 22 years dying on 13 Jun 1742 at Ashford, Windham, Colony of Connecticut, British Colonial America

Appendices

Warrant for arrest

That on the Thirteenth day of January 1692 In the fourth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord & Lady William & Mary by the Grace of God of England &c: King & Queen defenders of the faith &c: Personally appeared before W'm Stoughton Esqr chief Justice of their Maj'ies Province of the Massachusetts bay in New England John Osgood of the Town of Andover in the County of Essex husbandman & Joseph Wilson of the same Towne and acknowledged themselves to be Joyntly and Severally Indebted unto our s'd Sovereign Lord & Lady and the Survivor of them their Heirs & Successors in the sum of One Hundred Pounds to be levied on their or either of their Lands and Tenements, goods and chattels for the use of our said Sovereign Lord & Lady the King & Queen or Survivor of them On Condition that Sarah Wilson the wife of Joseph Wilson and Sarah her daughter having stood committed for suspicion of Witchcraft shall make their Personal appearance before the Justices of our s'd Lord & Lady the King & Queen at the next Court of Assizes & Generall Goal Delivery to be holden for the County of Essex then and there to answer to all such matters & things as shall in their Maj'ies behalf be alleged against them and to doe & receive that which by the s'd Court shall be then & there enjoined them & thence not to depart with out licence SWP No. 173.42

Petition of Joseph Wilson for Restitution for Sarah Wilson, Sr. and Sarah Wilson, Jr.

To the Honourable Committee. An Account of what was paid by Joseph Wilson of Andover for his wife Sarah and Daughter Sarah who Suffered Imprisonment at Salem, upon an Accusation of Witchcraft in the year 1692. the one was Imprisoned fifteen weeks the other Six weeks

Viz money and Provisions expended while they were in Prison 2-10-0 it For Bail Bonds, to the Clerk 0- 8-0 it To the Deputy Sheriffe for Court Charges 1-17-4

p'r *Joseph willson I Desire Capt Jno Barker to give in this Account to the Honorable Committe

(Reverse) Joseph Wilsons account Sarah Willson Sen'r Sarah Willson Jun'r

Imprisoned not Condemned.

(Mass. Archives Vol. 135 No. 145, Massachusetts State Archives, Boston, MA.)

Transcript of Sarah Wilson as to her confession

Goodwife Wilson said that she was in the dark as to some things in her confession; yet she asserted that knowingly she never had familiarity with the devil; that knowingly she never consented to the afflicting of any person, &c. However, she said that truly she was in the dark as to the matter of her being a witch; and being asked how she was in the dark, she replied that the afflicted persons crying out of her as afflicting them made her fearful of herself, and that was all that made her say that she was in the dark.

Abbreviations

Abt about aft. After b. born BChR see Sources Bef. Before Bp baptism bur
buried d. died m. married.

Calendar Old Style-New Style, Julian & Georgian¹

The old calendar used up to about 1752 in Protestant countries was the Julian Calendar based on 365.25 days. In 1952 Great Britain and empire switched to the Julian Calendar and since the actual year is 365.2422 days long the switch over caused a 11 day out of synch problem. To solve this problem, it was proclaimed that September 2 would be followed by September 14. As well the old-style calendar the calendar year began on Lady Day 25th of March i.e., the year ran from 25 March to 24 March. Hence January 24, 1712, old-style would-be January 24, 1713, new style. The correct way to describe a date in the “overlap” period from January 1 to March 24 is to state the Old/New Style as 1712 /1713 which means

“January 24, 1712 old style is what we call January 24, 1713”

Also, since the calendar began in March the months if numbered are as follows

March 1, April 2, May 3, June 4, July 5, August 6, September 7
October 8, November 9, December 10, January 11, February 12

¹ Greenwood, Val D. The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy, 3rd Ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co Inc 2000

List of Freeman²

The status of freeman was primarily of political importance, for it gave one the right to vote for colony officers. In some colonies, though, freeman was tied to church membership, and so the meaning was somewhat different. Massachusetts Bay and New Haven, the most Puritan of the Puritan colonies, made church membership a prerequisite for foremanship, while the rest of the New England colonies did not.

List of freemen may be used for a number of purposes beyond proving biographical information about an immigrant. Like tax lists later, a list of freeman provides basic information about the presence or absence of a person on a given date. And, as noted above, freemanship in Massachusetts Bay and New Haven supplies information about church membership, from which we can learn not just whether this individual was a church member at a given time; we can also reconstruct some of the history of churches whose records have been lost by studying the lists over a period of years.

Selectmen and Board of Selectman

In most New England towns, the adult voting population gathered annually in a town meeting to act as the local legislature, approving budgets and laws. Day-to-day operations were originally left to individual oversight, but when towns became too large for individuals to handle such work loads, they would elect an executive board of, literally, select(ed) men to run things for them.

The board typically consists of three or five members, with or without staggered terms. Three is the most common number, historically. In some places, a first selectman is appointed to head the board, often by election.

These men had charge of the day-to-day operations; selectmen were important in legislating policies central to a community's police force, highway supervisors, pound keepers, field drivers, and other officials. However, the larger towns grew, the more power would be distributed among other elected boards, such as fire wardens and police departments. For example, population increases led to the need for actual police departments, of which selectmen typically became the commissioners.

Source

Anderson, Robert Charles, "Robert Long", *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, Volume IV I-L*, Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, Pages 325 – 330

Anderson, Robert Charles, "William Wilson", *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, Volume VII T-Y*, Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, Pages 450-453

The Record of the First Church in Boston, 1630-1868, Publication of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, Volume 39, 40 and 41, Richard D. Pierce, ed. Boston 1961 abbreviated BChR

Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts ay in New England, 1628-1686, Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed, 5 volumes in 6 Boston 1853-1854 abbreviated MBCR

² Anderson, Robert Charles, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England 1634-1635, Volume VII, T-Y* Boston, MA: New England Historical and Genealogical Society, 2011

Website

<http://salem.lib.virginia.edu/n139.html>

http://salem.lib.virginia.edu/tag/wilson_sarah_sr.html

<https://www.legendsofamerica.com/ma-witches-u-z/> (Look for entry on Sarah Wilson)

<https://www.americanantiquarian.org/proceedings/44539519.pdf>

Relationship of Wilsons to Author

9th great grandfather



William Wilson

b: 1609

d: 1646

Braintree, Norfolk County, Massa

8th great grandfather



Joseph Wilson

b: 10 Sep 1643

Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts B

d: 02 Apr 1718

Andover, Essex, Massachsuetts

7th great grandfather



Sarah Wilson

b: 31 Dec 1678

Andover, Essex, Massachusetts

d: 1720

Ashford, Windham, Connecticut,

6th great grandfather



David Preston

b: Abt. 1703

Andover, Essex, Massachusetts,

d: Bef. Oct 1755

Oblong, Dutchess, New York, Uni

5th great grandmother



Elizabeth Preston

b: 30 Oct 1733

Windham, Windham, Connecticut

d: 1766

Cambridge, Washington, New Yor

4th great grandfather



Hezekiah "Ki" Mosher

b: 18 Oct 1756

Quaker Hill, Beekman, Dutchess

d: Aug 1821

Augusta, Ontario, Canada

3rd great grandmother



Sophia Mosher

b: 18 Apr 1799

Augusta Twp, 1654301, Ontario,

d: 18 May 1880

Augusta Twp., Leeds & Grenville

2nd great grandfather



Robert Nicholson Spicer

b: 11 Aug 1832

Augusta, Grenville, Ontario, Cana

d: 26 Nov 1904

Maynard, Augusta, Grenville, Ont

Great grandmother



Abigail Almeda Spicer

b: 13 Sep 1860

Prescott, Ontario, Canada

d: 10 Jul 1940

Merrickville, Ontario, Canada

Maternal grandfather



Edward Elbert Atkinson

b: 26 Feb 1887

Merrickville, Merrickville-Wolford,

d: 14 Jan 1957

Vancouver, British Columbia

Mother



Grace Elizabeth Atkinson

b: 11 Dec 1916

Waskada, Manitoba, Canada

d: 04 Jun 2008

Truro, Colchester County, Nova S

Self



James Clifford Retson

b: 28 Jul 1948

Truro, Colchester County, Nova S

d:

ⁱ <https://www.legendsofamerica.com/ma-witches-u-z/>