

Ancestors of Alexander Wilson

Generation 1

1. **Alexander Wilson** son of Robert Wilson and Sarah Ainslic was born in 1735 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He died about 1771 in USA, NY, New York.

Notes for Alexander Wilson:

General Notes:

Genealogy of the Wilson Family

Started by Eunice Eleanor "Ellen" (Wilson) Capen, in 1926

"Our forefather, Alexander Wilson, Sr., married Jane Armour or Armer in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is a family tradition that the Armours were a branch of the Cameron family, who changed their name for political reasons.

"Alexander Wilson, Sr. and wife, Jane Armour Wilson, appeared in New York City sometime prior to the year 1764. Tradition says he came to recover property of a brother, who recently died and that he brought his goods in a wheelbarrow. If so, he must have first located in some other place. He died soon after his arrival in New York City. His widow then moved to Lansingburg, New York and married, Mr. Robert Moffit, who was Editor and Publisher of the first newspaper published in Troy. "The Troy Budget". Moffit was a Tory and an Irishman. One son was born to them, Robert Jr. He went to the Sandwich Islands about 1831, where he married a King's daughter. He died on the Islands.

"Alexander Wilson Sr. was a Presbyterian and of Scotch-Irish decent. Our forefather is buried in a New York City churchyard, so tradition says. He died sometime in the latter part of the 18th century and certainly before 1800. (Jan/Feb.12, 1771)

"Two children were born to Alexander, Sr., and Jane Armour Wilson. Alexander, Jr., born Mar. 25, 1764 -d. Sep. 29, 1848, (moved from New York City and settled on a farm in Ballston, Saratoga Co., and in 1838 moved to the town of Wilson, Niag. Co. NY) and Jane, born August 12, 1767.

"Jane married Levi Pawling.

"Alexander, Jr., married Eunice Seeley, b. May 4, 1780, daughter of Stephen Seeley. She was 16 years of age and he was 27. They were married in Saratoga Co. New York, May 4, 1797, where his mother Jane (Armour) Wilson had moved after the death of her second husband, Robert Moffit. Alexander, Jr., was educated to be a Presbyterian minister, married a Quaker girl and turned Quaker. They had 9 children. 1. Cynthia, 2. Stephen, 3. Ruth, 4. Robert, 5. Jane, 6. William A., 7. Sally Ann, 8. Eunice Charlotte, 9. Sarah Ann.

"Alexander Jr. and Eunice (Seeley) Wilson's home was in Charleson, Saratoga Co. New York but they must have lived in Albany sometime about 1826, for when William A. was 18 years of age, he took a load of flour from Albany to Boston and returning brought back a load of codfish in the year 1826. This was done by horse power and he had to change his wagon for sleighs on the return trip. I, Ellen, also have a distinct recollection of William A. telling of renting Reuseler Island, consisting of thirty acres for \$300,00, and growing garden truck. He use to ferry to and from this island in the Hudson River. He also told about going to escort his sisters home at night, for they worked in a glove factory in Albany, New York. William A. had the honor of riding on the DeWilt Clinton steam train from Albany to Schenectady on it's initial trip.

"Alexander Jr., his wife Eunice (Seeley) Wilson and their son William A. came to Niagara Co. in the year 1838, where he died at the home of his son, William A., on September 29, 1848. His wife, Eunice, died at the same home on September 10, 1855.

"Her mother, Stephen Seeley's wife, whose maiden name was Odell, died at the home of Cynthia and Philonzo Chamberlain in Somersat, Hillsdale Co. Michigan in the year 1840 at the age of 94 years.

"The different branches of the Wilson family: Wilsons, Armours, Pawlings, Odells, Moreys, Seeleys, Chamberlains, Bivins, Woods, Chapmans, Hargers, Farnsworth, Meads, Bradleys, Bakers, Hills, Campbells, and many more!

"The Wilsons, Armours, Odells, Meads are from Scotch-Irish descent. The Pawlings are Hollanders. Seeleys, Chamberlains, Hargers and Morleys are English.

"Chamberlains came first, between the years 1621-1640. Seeleys, 1630. Moreys about the same year and were classed as Puritans. The Scotch-Irish came from 1740 to 1765 and were Presbyterians. They settled in the western part of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey,

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and took an active part in the French and Indian also Revolutionary Wars.

"All the ancestors of the several families came by the way of New York City, up the Hudson to Saratoga Co. and hence to Niagara Co. where they were pioneers in 1825 to 1838. Our forefathers came a little later. Stephen came in 1826, Alexander Jr., wife and William came in 1838. Wm. A. went back to Saratoga Co. in 1840, was married to Lamira Tappin of Charleston, and came to Niagara Co. First settled on the old Dan Carter farm on the Slash Road (Maple Rd.) in the spring of 1845 moved onto old place with ten acres cleared of forty, bought at \$15.00 per acre and a frame house. Traded place at Charleston for upper place of seventy-five acres then bought strip on south side of forty consisting of twenty acres for \$300.00. He then owned 135 acres. Built stone house to replace the frame one."

From *Western New York*, page 157, "[t]he progenitor of the Wilson family of Lockport was a native of Scotland. Little can be told of his early life or of his family, but the numerous family he founded has formed an association and is sending a representative to Scotland who will thoroughly investigate all sources of information and it is believed will clear away any uncertainty that now exists concerning his early life. Alexander Wilson, born in Edinburgh, Scotland, came to the American colonies before the revolutionary war and settled in New York city, where he became prominent in business and in the church. He was an active member of old Trinity, where his memory is perpetuated by a stone placed in the church wall. He is buried in the old churchyard surrounding Trinity on lower Broadway. Ebenezer Wilson, probably a son of Alexander Wilson, was vestryman of Trinity from 1797 to 1805. Alexander Wilson married Jane Armour and had issue."

This is the only mention of a son of Alexander Wilson and Jane Armour named Ebenezer. Furthermore, the will of Alexander Wilson, found by Robert Walter Wilson and reproduced below, states that Alexander had two children: Alexander and Jane.

The same article on the family of Alexander Wilson appears in *Genealogical and Family History of New York*, pages 157-158.

From *De Kalb County*, page 648, Alexander Wilson was a cousin of Alexander Hamilton, and the Wilsons were connected to Governor James Clinton by marriage through Col. Albert Pawling, the brother of Levi (2) Pawling.

Much of the information on the ancestors of Alexander Wilson comes from Loretta Rae Barnes, a 6th great-grand-daughter of John Burgess Wilson.

From Robert Walter Wilson:

Written by Robert Walter Wilson 3rd great grandson June, 1996: "Before Alexander, Sr came to New York the Dutch had not owned the Manhattan Island for almost one hundred years. In the decade before (1760) the Revolution, the city that had begun as a little Dutch village had a population close to twenty thousand. Old Trinity church located at Broadway and Wall Streets was built in 1697 and was destroyed in the Battle for Manhattan on September 21, 1776. The records of burial prior to that time are destroyed. Since it is known that [Alexander Wilson] died in the year 1771 it seems unlikely that unless new evidence is found his birth and death date will remain a mystery. At the head of Wall Street just off Broadway stood the Presbyterian Church with its tall steeple and little burying ground in front. It may be possible that he is buried there and Pat Rice [Patricia Ann (Wilson) Rice] has written to get any records from this church. [There are no records of his belonging to or buried at this church. Letter from the church dated 9/96) The information above is from Olga Hall-Quest's book "From Colony to Nation" 973.3 H181f From the same source. The Stamp Act was passed in November 1, 1765 which required the colonists to purchase a stamp for almost every kind of paper, newspaper,

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ships clearance papers, wills, and deeds, costing from a halfpenny to twenty shillings. "There was such stagnation of business in New York during the summer of 1765 as the city had never known before. Trade in this part of the world, a citizen wrote is come to so wretched a pass that you would imagine the plague had been here, the grass growing in most trading streets". It was not an easy time to be in business and our ancestors surely suffered as did all the residents of New York. They too must have felt and resisted the increasing tax burdens imposed by Mother England."

From *Wills of New York 1763-1771*, page 536: Will of Alexander Wilson, found by Robert Walter Wilson, "translated" by an attorney friend of Robert's:

"In the Name of Lord Amen, I Alexander Wilson of the City of New York Shopkeeper being at present declining in health yet of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding and considering the uncertainty of this frail and transitory life and that it is appointed for all men once to die do therefore make and publish this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following That istosay first and from -dally I commend my Soul to The Hands of Almighty God who gave it me and my body to the Earth from whence it came in sure and certain Hopes of a joyful Resurrection through the Merits of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And asto Such worldly Estate wherewith God hath been pleased to bless me with. I give devise and dispose of as follows. I do hereby order that all my just Debts and funeral Expenses be fully paid and satisfied within some convenient Time after my decease Amen I do hereby give devise and bequeath unto My dearly beloved Wife Jane one third part of -year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy one. /

"Alexander Wilson (As / Sighnce) Sealed published and declared by the said Alexander Wilson as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of John Wilson Alexander Robertson James Gourlay City of New York so Be it remembered that on the twelfth day of February one thousand Seven hundred and Seventy one personally came and appeared before John Bowles thereunto duly authorized Alexander Robertson of the City of New York Shopkeeper and being duly sworn on his Oath declared that he did See Alexander Wilson Sign and Seal The annexed written Instrument purporting to be the Will of said Alexander Wilson bearing Date xx Day of January last And hearing him publish and declare the Same to be and contain his last Will and Testament That at the Time thereof, He the said Alexander Wilson was of Sound disposing mind and Memory to the best of The knowledge and belief. Of him the Deponent And that his Name subscribed to the said Will of his own proper hand writing which he subscribed as a witness to the valid Will in the presence of the testator And that he the despondent likewise saw John Wilson and James Gourlay the other witnesses to the said Will subscribe their names as Witnesses there to the said Will Subscribe their Names as Witnesses thereto in the Testators Presence.

"The Right Hon (vle) John Earl of Dunmore Captain General and Governor Chief in and over The Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America Chancellor and Vice Admiral of the Same To all to whom these Present to Shall come or may concern Greeting Know Ye That at the City of New York on the Day of the Date here of before John Bowles--- ___ - thereunto delegated and appointed the last Will and Testament of Alexander Wilson deceased a Copy whereof is herewith
-___-

annexed of was proved and is approved and allowed of by me The Said deceased having whilst he lived and at the Time of his Death Goods Chattels and Credits within this Province by means whereof. The proving and registering The Said Will and the granting Administration of all and singular The Said _----_

Goods Chattels and Credits and also The auditing allowing and final discharging the Account thereof doth belong unto me And that Administration of all and Singular the Goods Chattels and Credits of the Said deceased and any way concerning. His Will is granted unto Jane Wilson one of the Executors in the Said Will and being first duly sworn well and faithfully to administer the Same and to make and exhibit a true and perfect Inventory of all and Singular the Said Good Chattels and Credits and also to render a just and true account there of when thereunto required. In Testimony where of I have caused affixed at the City of New York the twelfth day of February one Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy one.//"

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Jane Armour was born on 12 Aug 1736 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. She died in USA, NY, Saratoga County.

Notes for Jane Armour:

General Notes:

From *Burhans Genealogy*, page 322: After the death of Alexander Wilson, Jane (Armour) Wilson "moved to Lansingburg, N.Y., where she m. a Mr. Moffitt, editor and proprietor of the first newspaper in Troy, the 'Troy Budget.' The family state that their parents always spoke of Alexander Hamilton as a cousin, but they have not the facts to prove it." From family tradition, Jane (Armour) (Wilson) Moffit and Robert Moffit had one child, Robert Moffit, Jr. See Robert Moffit, Jr., for more information.

From *Niagara County, New York*, page 709, after Alexander's death, Jane "was united with a British officer of the Revolutionary war, named Moffatt. At the time of the invasion of General Burgoyne, the British raided the Wilson homestead in eastern New York, confiscating the household effects and the cattle. A negro slave attached to the Wilson household shortly afterward discovered the cattle herded in the forest, some distance from the Wilson home, and, during the night, succeeded in stampeding them. The next morning they were all found safe on the farm. Great-grandmother Wilson, on the morning following the plundering of her home, mounted a horse and rode courageously into the British army camp, where she secured an interview with the officer in command. She demanded the return of her property and so well and valiantly did she present her claims that full restitution was eventually made."

A different take on what is probably the same event is told in *De Kalb County*, pages 648-49: "Mrs. Wilson, who was a devoted patriot, having lost her husband [Alexander Wilson] in New York city, removed to Salem, Washington County, where she married one Moffat, of Tory sympathies. They carried on a store and farm, and among their employees had several Tories. One day Mrs. Moffat discovered that she had been robbed of some valuables, including a gold watch. The absence of some of her Tory workmen led her to believe them to be the thieves and to suppose that they had sought safety in Burgoyne's camp at Saratoga. Mounting her horse, she rode to the British camp and demanded an audience of Gen. Burgoyne, which was granted, when she demanded a search for her property, which was at first refused, whereupon she threatened to report the General. Burgoyne coolly asked to whom she would report him. Her answer was, "To the Congress of the United Colonies." The General, much amused at this storming of his camp by a patriot in petticoats, he ordered a search. The stolen articles were found and restored to her with the exception of the watch, which an officer pocketed, with the remark that he would keep it for Mr. Moffat."

De Kalb County continues: "At another time her husband, under pretense of danger to her safety in her home, packed their goods, mounted her on a horse with her baby [Robert Moffit, Jr.] in her arms and started for Albany. On the way she surmised, from a mysterious conversation between her husband and some well-known Tories, that she was being taken to the camp of the British army. Watching her opportunity, she ordered her attendants back, while she led them and returned to her home.

De Kalb County concludes: "The tradition of these incidents go to prove the courage and patriotism of this lady ancestor, and is very properly remembered with pride by her descendants."

Alexander Wilson and Jane Armour were married in 1763 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. They had 2 children.

Generation 2

2. **Robert Wilson** son of John Burgess Wilson and Jean Bull was born on 11 Jul 1720 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.

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3. **Sarah Ainslic** was born about 1720 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.

Robert Wilson and Sarah Ainslic were married about 1738 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. They had the following children:

- + 1. i. **Alexander Wilson** was born in 1735 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He married Jane Armour in 1763 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He died about 1771 in USA, NY, New York.

Generation 3

4. **John Burgess Wilson** son of Robert Willson and Jane Lee was born about 1702 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He died about 1773 in USA, VA, Augusta, Middle River.

Notes for John Burgess Wilson:

General Notes:

Two possible sets of parents were found in online family trees for John Burgess Wilson. One set, from Loretta Rae Barnes was John Wilson, b abt 1689 in Carluke, Lanarkshire, Scotland, and Janet Bell, b abt 1693 in Carluke, Lanarkshire, Scotland, mar 28 Nov 1714. The second set, from Gail Morey Clements was Alexander Wilson, b abt 1680 in Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland, and Agnes, b abt 1680 in Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland, d in Carnwath, Lanarkshire, Scotland, mar abt 1700 in Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland. Neither possible set of parents has source citations.

5. **Jean Bull** daughter of Robert Bull and Jean Wright was born on 02 Nov 1695 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.

John Burgess Wilson and Jean Bull were married on 24 Sep 1719 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. They had the following children:

- + 2. i. **Robert Wilson** was born on 11 Jul 1720 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He married Sarah Ainslic about 1738 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.
- ii. **Margaret Wilson** was born on 06 Jan 1723 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.
- iii. **John Wilson** was born on 31 Oct 1724 in Scotland. He married Ann Etherington on 27 Jun 1765. He died on 25 Dec 1808.
- iv. **Williamina Wilson** was born on 17 Jun 1726 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.
- v. **Agnes Wilson** was born on 09 Feb 1728 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.
- vi. **Margaret Wilson** was born on 20 Jul 1729 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.
- vii. **William Wilson** was born on 26 Mar 1731 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He married Mary A Devericks about 1749. He died on 13 Apr 1813 in USA, VA, Pendleton.
- viii. **Jean Wilson** was born on 27 Aug 1732 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.
- ix. **Carmichell Wilson** was born on 29 Jul 1734 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.
- x. **Jane Wilson** was born on 31 Aug 1736 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.

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Generation 4

8. **Robert Willson** was born about 1669 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He died on 03 Nov 1745 in USA, VA, Augusta County.
9. **Jane Lee** was born on 07 Nov 1672 in Ireland, Londonderry, Londonderry. She died about 1746 in USA, VA, Augusta County.

Robert Willson and Jane Lee were married on 28 Nov 1714. They had the following children:

- + 4. i. **John Burgess Wilson** was born about 1702 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He married Jean Bull on 24 Sep 1719 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. He died about 1773 in USA, VA, Augusta, Middle River.
10. **Robert Bull** was born about 1670 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.
11. **Jean Wright** was born about 1673 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.

Robert Bull and Jean Wright married. They had the following children:

- + 5. i. **Jean Bull** was born on 02 Nov 1695 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh. She married John Burgess Wilson on 24 Sep 1719 in Scotland, Midlothian, Edinburgh.