



# John Wilson

of Tattenhall, England and Lincolnville, Maine  
and the Maine Families

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## **John Wilson (1771-1831)**

Tattenhall Parish Records show the birth of John Wilson on September 6, 1771, the third son of John and Rebecca Willson. John Wilson came to America as a young man; his life in Lincolnville was summarized briefly by Joseph Miller in his *Historical Sketch of the Town of Lincolnville, Maine* (1876), published in the *Camden Herald* and later in the *Progressive Age* (Belfast) in 1879, and again in the *Waldo County Herald* in 1910 (a copy is held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston; it has also been reproduced in *Lincolnville: Early Days*, vol.1, published in 1976 by the Lincolnville Historical Society):

John Wilson came to this country direct from England in the latter part of the last century or the first or second year of the present. He was born in Tattenhall, County of Chester, England 6 Sept. 1771. He married Mary Ulmer, daughter of Gen. George Ulmer. He first settled on the east side of the Ducktrap, where he did quite a large business in the mercantile line and shipping. He finally broke down in business and went to Ohio, leaving his family here. After some years of absence he returned, riding all the way on horseback. He came back poor and penniless but not discouraged. He was a man of intelligence and good business qualifications, vigorous and persevering. After he came home from the West he

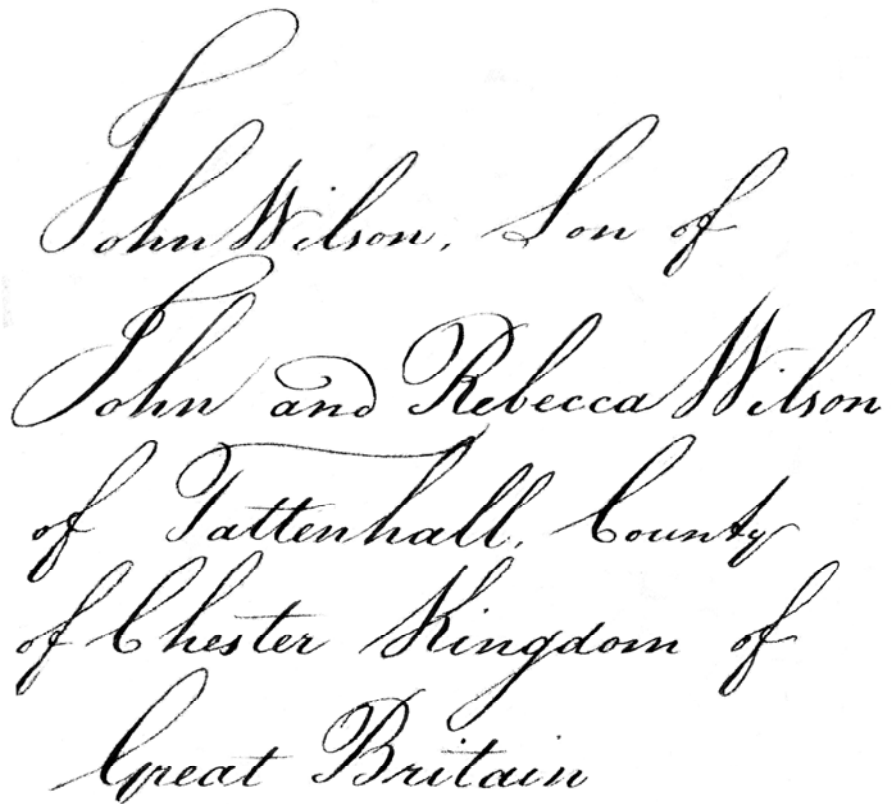
commenced clearing up a new farm where Samuel B. Coleman now lives. There he labored hard in his declining years, and there he died.

Joseph Miller (and his informant) clearly knew nothing of John Wilson's activities in Maine prior to his marriage to Mary Ulmer in 1803, but there are some tantalizing indications in the early records. By the time of the first American census in 1790 a young man named John Wilson (whom I believe to be our John Wilson, then age 19) had settled with his wife in the Little River Plantation area along the present-day Androscoggin River in Androscoggin County, Maine. The Little River settlement, known today as Lisbon Falls, was first settled in 1787, and by 1790 consisted of just 13 families. Timber was the principal natural resource to be harvested, and by 1800 at least six sawmills had been constructed along the river. John Wilson is shown on the 1790 census as having a wife but no children. A search of the marriage indexes for 1785-1790 in Cheshire, England, and especially in John Wilson's home town of Tattenhall, reveals no marriage for him. However, he may have married in Manchester, Lancashire, like his brothers, before emigrating and that possibility is currently under investigation. Or he may have married shortly after his arrival in New England, some years before his marriage to Mary Ulmer.

In any case it is certain that John Wilson was a businessman rather than a laborer, and may well have been involved in the timber business, which was the main industry in that small community. The *Bowdoinham Book* (p. 276) of colonial records from that area makes mention of "John Wilson's estate" in 1795, so (if this is indeed him) it sounds as if he wasn't doing too badly. And this is in keeping with his relative prominence and prosperity after later arriving in Lincolnville ca. 1802; he was not one of the relatively poverty-stricken farmers of that area but instead quickly became one of the town's leading merchants and shippers.

Settlers had been arriving at nearby Bowdoin since around 1740, and by 1788 numbered 40 or 50 families. In 1799 a portion of Bowdoin adjacent to the original Little River Plantation was split off and established as the town of Thompsonborough (renamed Lisbon in 1802). Here in Thompsonborough John Wilson appears again, on the 1800 census (in the 26-45 age bracket; he would have been 29 years old), with his wife and four children (two boys and two girls, all under the age of ten). Living nearby, perhaps right next door (they are listed consecutively in the census records, and the census-takers usually walked or rode from door to door of adjacent homesteads), are the brothers Moses and Jacob Gould who had come from Bath, Maine-- a clue connecting this John Wilson to the John Wilson of Lincolnville.

By the time of the 1810 census we find John Wilson (now age 39) living in Lincolnville, Maine, where also lives Joseph Gould (since before 1800), brother of Moses and Jacob Gould, who had been John Wilson's neighbors in Thompsonville. It would be consistent to suppose that John Wilson had heard about the possibility of acquiring land or timber rights in the Ducktrap [=Lincolnville] area through the Goulds, and had purposely moved there, perhaps with some assistance or guidance from Joseph Gould.



John Wilson, Son of  
John and Rebecca Wilson  
of Tattenhall, County  
of Chester Kingdom of  
Great Britain

**John Wilson's Calligraphy from the Wilson Bible (1803)**

The Ducktrap area, 12 miles south of Belfast (adjacent to Northport township on the north and Canaan Plantation on the west), was originally known as Duck Trap Plantation. It had first been settled around 1770 in what was then Hancock County. It was incorporated as part of Lincolnville township in 1802, and fell within the newly formed Waldo County in 1827.

The 1810 census shows John Wilson living with his wife (Mary Ulmer, whom he had married in 1803, when he was 32 and she just 20), presumably after the death of his first wife. Also shown are John and Mary's three young sons (George, Henry and John) *and* two sons over 16 years old, who are apparently the boys from his first marriage, shown on the 1800 census. The two daughters from his first marriage are not present, and had presumably already married or had died young. Also living with the family in 1810 is an unknown woman over 45 years old, perhaps John's mother-in-law by his first wife.

In such small communities (just 24 families in Thompsonborough in 1800) it is unlikely that the John Wilson who lived near Moses and Jacob Gould in 1800 in Thompsonborough, was not the *same* John Wilson who lived not too far from their brother Joseph in Lincolnville in 1810-1820. The families were close friends, and John Wilson's son, John Sheen Wilson,

married Joseph Gould's daughter Nancy in 1829. Furthermore, there are only four John Wilsons to choose from on the 1800 Maine census -- two of them are easily accounted for on the 1810 census because they were still living in their same respective areas (Kennebec County and Topsham), and the family member numbers of the other (in Great Pond=Palermo) do not correlate at all. That leaves only the Little River/Thompsonborough John Wilson as the one who had moved to Lincolnville by 1803.

Unfortunately, but perhaps understandably, John Wilson's second wife, Mary Ulmer, mentions nothing of John's first wife and children in her handwritten Bible records (it was, after all, *her* Bible and not John's), so their names remain unknown. In a local census of Lincolnville families taken by Town Clerk Jacob Ulmer in 1806, Ulmer states: "Record of the Births of John and Mary Wilson's Children Born in Lincolnville – George Ulmer Wilson born April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1804 – Henry [Neild] Wilson born March 12<sup>th</sup>, 1806." None of the other family entries in that census incorporates the phrase "born in Lincolnville," perhaps implying that John Wilson also had earlier children not born in Lincolnville.

A corroborating tradition exists among the descendants of John Wilson's son, John Sheen Wilson. It is said that John Sheen Wilson had a brother [perhaps actually a half-brother] named York Wilson, who was a "black sheep" of the family and was shunned because of his drinking problem. John Sheen Wilson's great-granddaughters Lovicy and Nelly were said to have still bristled at the mention of York's name even so long after his death. No Wilson by the name of York appears in the early census records, but the name could have been a middle name or a nickname. Then again, perhaps the tradition actual stems from John Sheen Wilson's brother-in-law, Yorick Cunningham, who married his sister Mary Rebecca Wilson. We may never know.

All of the evidence for this Thompsonborough-Lincolnville connection is admittedly circumstantial, but it is entirely consistent. It is difficult to believe that a man of some means, as John Wilson apparently was, would wait until he was 32 to marry for the first time.

**John Wilson's signature, 1807, Lincolnville Town Records  
(compare with his signature in the Family Bible)**

John Wilson does not appear among the resident signatories on the application for incorporation of the Ducktrap settlement as part of the new township of Lincolnville, dated 2 June 1802. This indicates that he had perhaps not yet acquired property in Lincolnville as of that date. However, on 14 July 1803, John Wilson married Mary Ulmer, daughter of General George Ulmer (the leading citizen of the community) and Mary Tanner, in Lincolnville. John Wilson must have been a man of some qualifications in order to marry into such a relatively wealthy and prominent local family. At some time thereafter, General Ulmer presented to Mary a large Bible printed in Philadelphia in 1803. Several generations of Wilson births, deaths and marriages were recorded in this Bible [currently in the possession of the author; see transcriptions and facsimiles which follow in the tables section], written in beautiful script calligraphy. The calligraphy is definitely that of John Wilson himself; the signature matches his signatures in the Lincolnville Town Records, written while he was serving as the second Lincolnville Town Clerk, succeeding Jacob Ulmer (son of Maj. Philip Ulmer, brother of John Wilson's father-in-law George) in 1806-1808. John Wilson was then succeeded in that post by Samuel A. Whitney (1808-1809).

Lincolnville land records show that Gen. George Ulmer had given two huge tracts of land between the Ducktrap Stream and Pitcher Pond [at the time called Picked Hill Pond] to his unmarried daughters Sally and Mary in January 1800. This block of land amounted to at least 800 acres worth several thousand dollars. By January of 1804 both daughters were married, and (for reasons which remain unclear) their husbands, John Russ and John Wilson, deeded the land back to George Ulmer for one dollar. It is likely that they had logged off all the trees on that property and no longer needed it.

John Wilson had acquired a part ownership in George Ulmer's toll bridge, probably by purchase of shares (or perhaps by dowery). The bridge had been divided into 20 shares valued at \$100 per share. In 1806 John Wilson sold three shares in the bridge (all he owned?) to Job Nelson for \$300. The sale was good timing on John's part, as the bridge was destroyed by a flash flood a year later.

The records of John Wilson's earliest land transactions in Lincolnville have not yet been found, but it is known that in June of 1810 he sold 128 acres in Lincolnville (located adjacent to Ephraim Gay's property-- surveyed in November of 1801, perhaps for John) to Enoch Knight for the substantial sum of \$900. In September 1811 John Wilson purchased 30 acres (adjacent on the north to Samuel A. Whitney's property) from Elijah Wentworth for \$300, and two years later sold it back to Wentworth for the same price. Here again, the transaction would seem pointless and without profit, but John Wilson had probably logged off the trees at a significant profit, and Elijah Wentworth may have been buying the property back to convert it to farmland.

In October of 1811 John Wilson bought 90 acres south of Levensellers Pond (at the middle of the northwest boundary line of Lincolnville) for \$405 from three Boston investors: Israel Thorndike, David Sears and William Prescott. And a few days after that he purchased another 90-acre tract south of Levenseller's Pond, this one from William Parkman, for \$500.

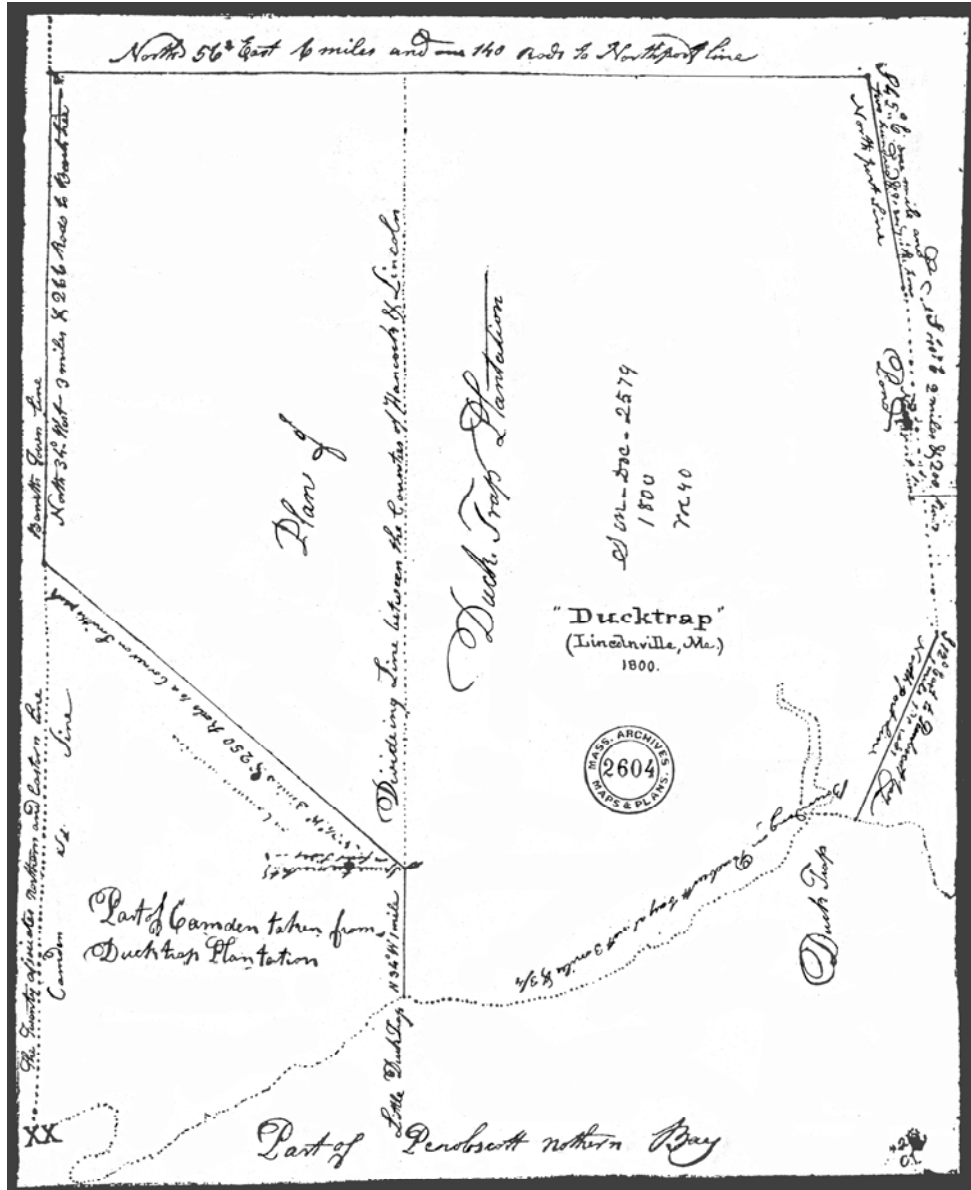
In December 1811 John Wilson purchased a 26-acre tract of land which included Gen. George Ulmer's mansion-house from Noah Miller for \$300. He then resold the property to Jacob Ulmer in 1813 for the same price (after logging it?), then allowed Jacob to mortgage it for \$150. At the time of the 1813 sale Major John Russ, husband of George Ulmer's daughter Sally, was living in the house; he may have been renting it from John Wilson.

John Wilson became a sharp competitor with the former partner of George Ulmer [see further under the Ulmer Family, below], Samuel A. Whitney, who (like John) had moved to Lincolnville between 1800 and 1810. Whitney had bought out Philip Ulmer's share of the Ulmer partnership and gone into business on the west side of the Duck Trap, and John Wilson eventually bought out George Ulmer's properties. For a number of years Wilson and Whitney were the only merchant traders of any note in town. The merchandise handled by John Wilson had to include timber (as it probably had in Thompsonborough), because the Ulmers had been heavily involved in that commodity as well, and it was necessary for shipbuilding. Although there are no specific records of what kind of merchandise John Wilson handled, he doubtlessly dealt in exactly the same local commodities as Whitney: timber, boards, barrel staves and wooden shingles shipped to the West Indies, as well as local coastal trade in materials such as pressed hay, bricks and lime for making mortar. Maine merchants in those days commonly built their own schooners and cargo boats for transporting goods up and down the coast; Whitney is definitely known to have built several ships, and perhaps his competitor John Wilson did too. John's son George is known to have sailed family cargo ships south as far as Florida, and would sometimes sell the ship as well as the cargo before returning home.

One consequence of the tensions leading up to the War of 1812 was an embargo imposed on shipping which was very costly in terms of lost shipping business. Consequently in 1808 the town of Lincolnville appointed their two leading merchant shippers, John Wilson and Samuel Whitney, and also Abner Heal, to write a letter politely petitioning President Thomas Jefferson to partially suspend the embargo, not insofar as it applied to England but only to Spain and Portugal. The letter read as follows:

To his Excellency, the President of the United States.

The inhabitants of the town of Lincolnville in the county of Hancock and district of Maine, in legal town meeting assembled: Respectfully represent that we live in a section of the United States where the hardness of the soil, severity of the climate and newness of the country obliges us to depend chiefly on our lumber, fishing and navigation for support. That by industry and perseverance in their respective avocations, they have in a small degree improved their situation, and indulged the fond belief of soon being able to pay for their lands and supporting themselves in a more comfortable manner, but the laws of the last Congress laying an embargo on the ships and vessels of the United States, has blasted our hopes and imprisoned our energies; the farmer and mechanic who were in a sure state of progression in the support of their families and the payment of their just



Map of Lincolnville, Maine in 1800

The Wilsons and Ulmers lived on the Duck Trap (dotted line, lower right).

debts, are now arrested in their progress; many of the families reduced to want, and their property sacrificed for half its value to satisfy the demands of their creditors. We feel it our duty to submit to the laws of our country; we believe the measure of the administration generally to have been founded in wisdom, and it is with pride and pleasure that we have acted in unison with them. But when the pressure of an act of Government has acted with a paralyzing influence upon us,

we feel it a duty we owe ourselves, our children and our country, respectfully to express our opinion and petition for a redress of grievances. Your memorialists therefore respectfully request of your Excellency that you would, in pursuance of the power vested in you by Congress, suspend the embargo, at least so far as that the citizens of the United States may be permitted to enjoy the benefits of a free commerce with Spain, Portugal and their dependencies, and as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition was unsuccessful, and so in the following year another committee was appointed which produced a second petition, this one not so polite as the first, expressed in “rather harsh and censurable language against the government.” It, too, was unsuccessful, and in 1812, following the inevitable outbreak of the war, the town council voted to obtain 50 guns for the use of the town in defending itself, should British forces arrive on its doorstep. The committee appointed to carry out this task included Philip Ulmer, John Mahoney, James Mahoney, Josiah Stetson and Joseph Gould. The war caused great dissention in the community of Lincolnville. Miller wrote:

Party lines at this time had been rigidly drawn between Republicans and Federalists, as the parties were then called. The Republicans sustained the national administration in prosecuting the war, and the Federalists opposed it. The Republicans were quite largely in the ascendance in Lincolnville at that time. Living in the neighborhood, I was present at this, the first town meeting after war was declared. I have not seen any public meeting from that day to this, characterized by so much bitterness and violence. The whole town, for a time, was in an uproar. At this meeting there was a good deal of heated discussion and sharp talk on each side. The most prominent leaders on the Republican side were Nathaniel Milliken, Ephraim Fletcher and Samuel Miller. On the Federal side, Samuel A. Whitney, Hezekiah French and Johnathan Fletcher. But others of less note and ability were the most excited and boisterous. They gave some hard blows and black eyes as the result. In two or three months the excitement abated and comparative quietness prevailed.

One can't help wondering which side John Wilson, a recent emigrant from England who no doubt spoke with a clear British accent, was on: the side of commerce along with his Federalist competitor Samuel Whitney, or the side of his father-in-law Gen. Ulmer and the hawkish Republicans eager for war against England. John Wilson had co-written (with Whitney) the 1808 letter to the President objecting to the embargo, so one must assume that he was a Federalist. (According to U. S. military records for the War of 1812, a “John Wilson” was among the volunteers recruited by Ulmer to serve in “Ulmer's Battalion” of the Massachusetts Militia. However he gave his town of residence as Sedgwick, Maine, so this is not “our” John Wilson of Lincolnville.)



In May 1812 John Wilson made a major purchase, 146 acres between the Ducktrap Stream and Batchelder (=Kendall) Brook, including a house, barn, gristmill and a new sawmill. This property was to remain in the Wilson family for most of the next 32 years (although the saw mill was acquired at some point by Thomas Kendall). He bought the property for \$2000 from Maj. John Russ of Belfast, and then took out a \$500 mortgage on it from the State Bank (which he paid off within a year). John Wilson was eventually forced, by the decline in his finances, to sell the property to Noah Miller in 1817. Noah Miller then sold it to George Ulmer Russ in 1820, and Russ sold it to his cousin and future brother-in-law (John Wilson's son), George Ulmer Wilson, in 1823. Thus it came back into the family after six years. George, a tanner by trade as well as a ship's captain in the winter, established a tannery there as well, and seven years later sold the property in 1830 to his brother John Sheen Wilson (known in the family as "Sheen"); Sheen then sold part of it to their brother William Faulkner Wilson in 1831. A 97-acre portion was sold to Sarah Witham in 1844, prior to the brothers' move to Illinois, and the remainder was probably sold in 1847 when John Sheen Wilson moved to Belfast.

At some time following 1807 John Wilson is said by Taylor (1985) to have bought out most of the remaining interests of his father-in-law, George Ulmer, following two disastrous flash floods which had destroyed Ulmer's bridge and sawmill at Lincolnville. John and Mary Ulmer Wilson are said to have taken up residence on the east side of the Ducktrap River in Lincolnville where, as Miller (1876) said, he operated a substantial business in the mercantile line and shipping.

Land records show that in January of 1813 John Wilson bought an 85-acre tract (including a house and barn) from Samuel Norton for \$900. This property was probably located west of the Batchelder/Kendall Brook property. Wilson mortgaged it for \$400, then sold it later that year (perhaps after harvesting the timber from the property), with the mortgage still due on it, for \$600, thereby clearing \$1000 and thus a \$100 profit plus whatever he may have made on the sale of timber.

Then, a few days later, he made what was probably the largest purchase of his life: a huge 831-acre tract of land (nearly 1.3 square miles) on the east side of the Ducktrap River from Penobscot Bay to the southern end of Pitcher Pond. The property had originally belonged to George Ulmer, having been acquired by him from Gen. Knox in 1798, but had apparently been sold or foreclosed upon. John Wilson bought it from the Boston investors, Thorndike, Sears and Prescott, for the then-enormous sum of \$6071. He financed this purchase by mortgaging the Parkman and Norton properties, which he had bought for cash in 1811 and 1813, to obtain the \$1071 down payment, and then took a \$5000 mortgage (to be paid off in five annual \$1000 payments plus interest) for the rest. His plans no doubt involved logging the extensive tract for timber to feed his saw mill, as well as facilitating his shipping trade from the harbor. Included in the tract was George Ulmer's mansion-house, which John had originally purchased in 1811 and may have lived in for a time. The mercantile and lumber business must have been booming indeed for him to think that he could pay off such large mortgages from the profits.

The record of the above transaction reads as follows:

*Know all men by these presence* that **Israel Thorndike** of Beverly in the County of Essex, **David Sears** of Boston in the County of Suffolk, and **William Prescott** of Salem in the County of Essex, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Esquires, in consideration of **six thousand and seventy dollars and eighty cents** paid them by **John Wilson of Lincolnville** in the County of Hancock and Commonwealth aforesaid, Trader, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have and hereby do grant, convey, assign and release to the said **John Wilson**, all the right, title, interest and estate of them the said Israel, David and William in and to a certain tract or parcel of land lying and being in said Lincolnville and bounded as follows, to wit: Beginning at a stake and stones standing on the west bank of Penobscot Bay at John Wade's southerly corner; thence North twelve degrees west five hundred & twenty rods, partly on said Wade's land, to a hemlock tree at the side of the bog near Ducktrap Pond (so called) ; thence bounded Northwesterly on the Northwest shore of said Pond and Bog, until a line drawn North forty-seven degrees West three hundred and sixteen rods, shall strike said shore at a stake and stones; thence South forty-nine degrees West two hundred and twenty rods to a stake and stones at Ducktrap River; thence Southwesterly down said River to the Bay aforesaid, thence Eastwardly on said Bay to the place of beginning, containing **eight hundred and thirty-one acres** be the same more or less; excepting and reserving out of the above-described premises, the **land, Saw Mill** and privileges released to **Samuel A. Whitney** by the said Israel, David and William, by two deeds of release, the one dates August the sixteenth eighteen hundred and eight, and the other dated the twenty-eighth day of November eighteen hundred and twelve, the premises hereby conveyed are the same which was contained in the conveyance from the late **General Knox** to **George Ulmer** bearing date the **nineteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & ninety-eight**, with all the houses, barns and other buildings & improvements thereon standing, being or made, together with the privilege of erecting a Dam & flowing derived to said Israel, David and William from the Deed of said Whitney. ...Recorded in the Registry of Deeds for the County of Hancock, Lib. 23, fol. 147, hath hereunto set their several names and seals, this **fourteenth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirteen**.

The big gamble apparently failed to pay off, and John Wilson's finances appear to have gone downhill thereafter. In 1813 he sold off three properties for a total of \$1200, probably to make the first mortgage payment. And he was sued for damages of some kind in the Court of Common Pleas, Boston, by Charles Scudder, a Boston merchant with whom he had probably done business and owed money. A judgement against John Wilson of \$350 was awarded to

Scudder and, since John Wilson had no cash, 66 acres of his 90-acre tract just south of Levensellers Pond was appraised by the Court and siezed to pay the judgement.

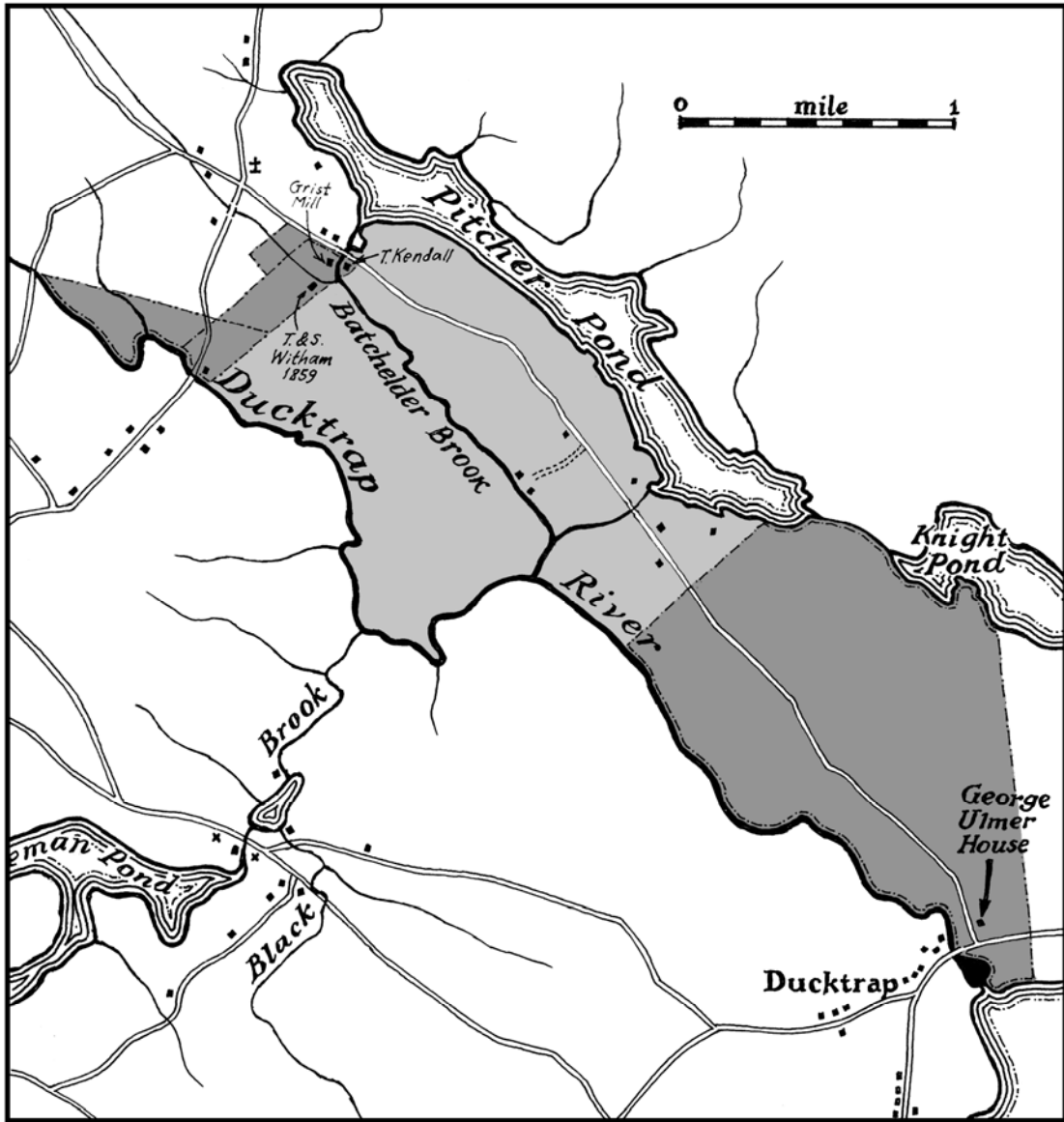
John Wilson still retained the remaining 24 acres of land adjacent on the west to the portion siezed by the Court. And in May of 1814 he traded two properties (at \$270) with Thorndike, Sears and Prescott for a \$370 75-acre farm with house and barn adjacent to William McFarland and Isaac Heal in that same area. According to the Federal Direct Tax records, by 1815 John Wilson was the third richest man in town (Samuel Whitney was the first), based on his property holdings, so he may have been able to meet his mortgage payments at least up until that time.

In 1816 John Wilson submitted a petition to the legislature directed against his father-in-law on behalf of many local citizens, demanding revocation of the onerous tolls that Ulmer was charging people to use his bridge (he still owned a controlling interest) over the Ducktrap stream. The petition was successful in getting George Ulmer to voluntarily rescind the tolls thereafter.

Business declined, however, and in June of 1817 John Wilson was forced to sell his sawmill and gristmill on the Ducktrap Stream to Noah Miller for \$500. This appears to have marked the end of his career as a merchant, lumberman and trader. (It appears that Noah Miller eventually sold the gristmill and surrounding acreage to John Wilson's eldest son, George, and thus it came back into the family.)

However, the closure of his mercantile business did not necessarily mean that John Wilson was bankrupt. With at least the \$500 from the sale of the gristmill and sawmill as seed money, he felt he had enough capital to go looking for new business opportunities. Ohio, at that time, was the American frontier, offering new opportunities to the adventurous. Indian troubles in the area, culminating in the War of 1812, come to an end with the death of Tecumseh in 1813. John Wilson decided that this was a chance to renew his own fortunes. According to handwritten notes passed down with the Family Bible of John Wilson's daughter, Susanna, it was in 1816-1817 that John Wilson left his family in charge of his sons and departed for Ohio to investigate the possibilities. The plan was probably that he would send for his family after he had established himself there in some enterprise.

Exactly what happened in Ohio will remain forever unknown, but John Wilson ultimately returned after about two years, in 1818 or 1819 (according to the above-mentioned notes), traveling all the way on horseback. This must have been by early in 1819, because his son Richard was conceived in early March of that year. His trip had been unsuccessful financially, but he no doubt returned with many stories of the frontier to tell his children. He is said by Miller (1876) to have cleared some land (probably his land south of Levenseller's Pond) and taken up farming for the remainder of his life. On the 5-page 1820 Lincolnville census he is listed on page 5, whereas others known to have lived around the immediate Ducktrap area, such as Samuel A. Whitney, Philip Ulmer and John Wade, are listed together on page 1, confirming that John Wilson was not then living close to the Ducktrap.



### Lands owned in Lincolnvile by John Wilson

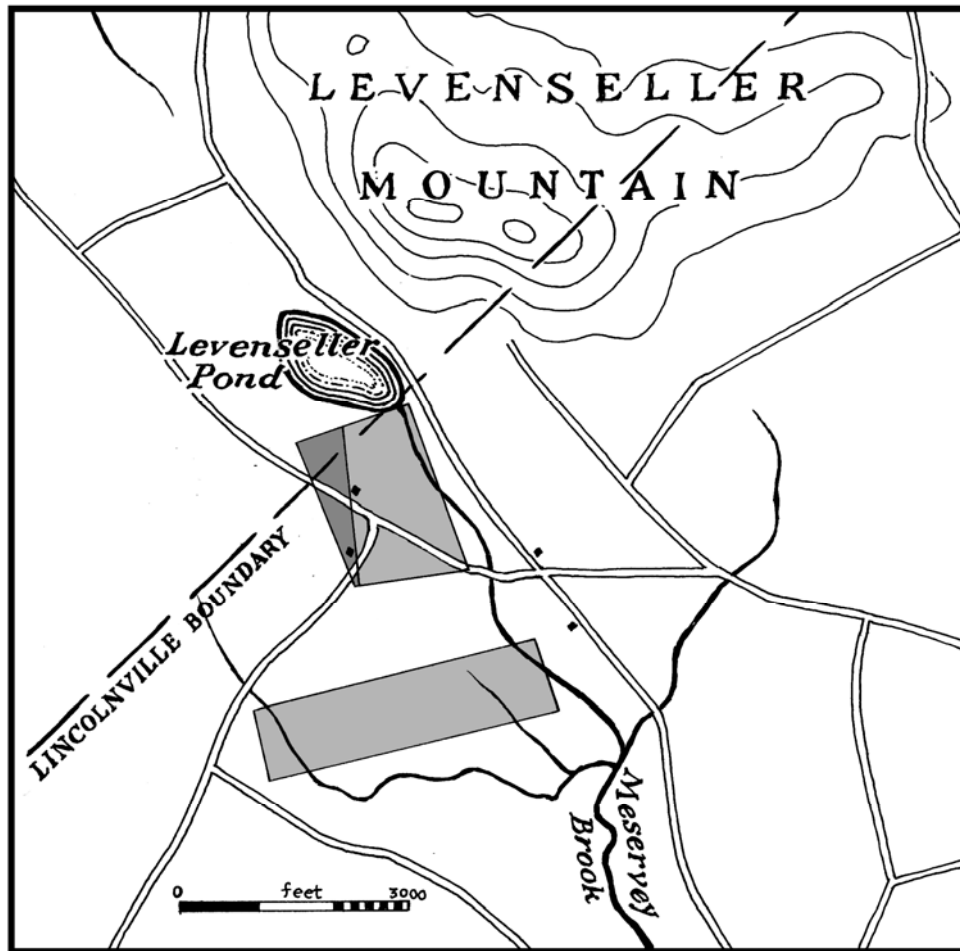
The pale gray area in the center is approximately the land received through his wife Mary Ulmer as her dower; John Wilson deeded it back to George Ulmer in 1804. The dark area at lower right is the 831 acres purchased by John Wilson in 1813. The dark areas at upper left are the Kendall Brook properties originally purchased by John Wilson in 1812 and later owned by his sons George Ulmer Wilson, John Sheen Wilson and William Faulkner Wilson. He also owned properties outside of this map area, south of Levenseller's Pond and elsewhere.

According to Miller (1876), John Wilson built a new house which was later occupied by Samuel B. Coleman and his wife, Mary Calderwood (married 1857). An 1859 map of Lincolnville shows "S. Colman" on the south side of Andrew's Pond (later renamed Coleman Pond), inland a few miles WNW of the Duck Trap. [The 1850 Lincolnville census shows Samuel B. Coleman, b. 1831/2, living in the household of his father Hugh Coleman; on the 1859 map, "H. Colman" is shown living right nextdoor to "S. Colman."] However, in 1852 Hugh Coleman bought the land adjacent to John Wilson's old property south of Levenseller's Pond, and perhaps by 1879 his son Samuel had relocated there. In any case, there are no land records for any purchased by John Wilson in the Andrew's/Coleman Pond area, so his household in the immediate post-1819 period must have been located on his Levenseller's Pond property

In January of 1823 two of Gen. George Ulmer's namesake grandsons provided for their grandfather as part of a transaction involving the sale of John Wilson's former Kendall Brook property with sawmill and gristmill. It had been sold by John Wilson to Noah Miller in 1817, then sold by Miller to George Ulmer Russ in 1820, then sold by Russ to George Ulmer Wilson in 1823. The latter sales agreement states: **"It is hereby understood that my Grandfather George Ulmer, and my Grandmother Mary [Tanner] Ulmer shall have the use of the Grist mill, and Saw mill together with all machinery on the dams, or in the mills, with the use of as much land as they choose to improve during their lives."** Whether George and Mary actually lived on the property of just derived a modest income from the mills is unknown, but they probably did live there. After George Ulmer's death in 1825 His Widow, Mary Tanner Ulmer, lived with her daughter Mary and son-in-law, John Wilson, on that property.

John Wilson and his family (including his mother-in-law Mary Tanner Ulmer) appear on the 1830 Lincolnville census, living in a household on his old Kendall Brook property, nextdoor to the home of his eldest son George, which was nextdoor to Joseph Gould; his son John Sheen Wilson with his wife Nancy and young son Charles lived in the same household. John Wilson, by this time probably too infirm to continue personally farming his land by Levenseller's Pond, spent his final years there. That same year George Wilson sold the Kendall Brook property to his brother John Sheen Wilson and moved back to Belfast. John Wilson no doubt continued to live in his house there until his death a few months later.

John Sheen Wilson and his family continued to live there after his father's death, at least until 1844, when he sold 97 of the 150 acres to Sarah Witham. According to the 1860 census, Sarah was the wife of Thomas Witham, and their house is marked "T Witham" on the 1859 Lincolnville map, situated on the west side of Kendall [=Batchelder] Brook south of the grist mill. This structure may, in fact, be one of the original Wilson houses, perhaps the one that John Wilson lived his last days in. John Sheen Wilson may have lived on the other 53 acres of that property, then sold out no later than 1847 and moved to be with the rest of his family in Belfast, where his son Warren was born on 11 Feb 1847. It was shortly thereafter that he and his family, along with his brother William Faulkner Wilson and his family, moved to Illinois. [See Table 93 for a summary of all of the Wilson land transactions in Lincolnville.]



**Land owner near Levenseller Pond by John Wilson**

Both tracts, 90 acres on the north and 99 acres to the south, were purchased in October of 1811. In 1813 the eastern 66 acres of the north tract were seized by Charles Scudder to pay a judgment for damages. This is apparently the property that John Wilson farmed for some years after returning from Ohio ca. 1819. Levenseller Pond is located about 3 miles west of the Kendall Brook property.

John Wilson died on October 28, 1831, at the age of 59. He may have been buried originally in the Hill cemetery about a mile northwest of the grist mill, and then been moved to City Point Cemetary in Belfast at a later date by request of his family. Since his eldest son George by then lived in Belfast, and his widow and most of his children were soon to relocate there as well, they probably chose Belfast for his burial place so that his grave would be easier for them to visit. John Wilson himself never lived in Belfast.

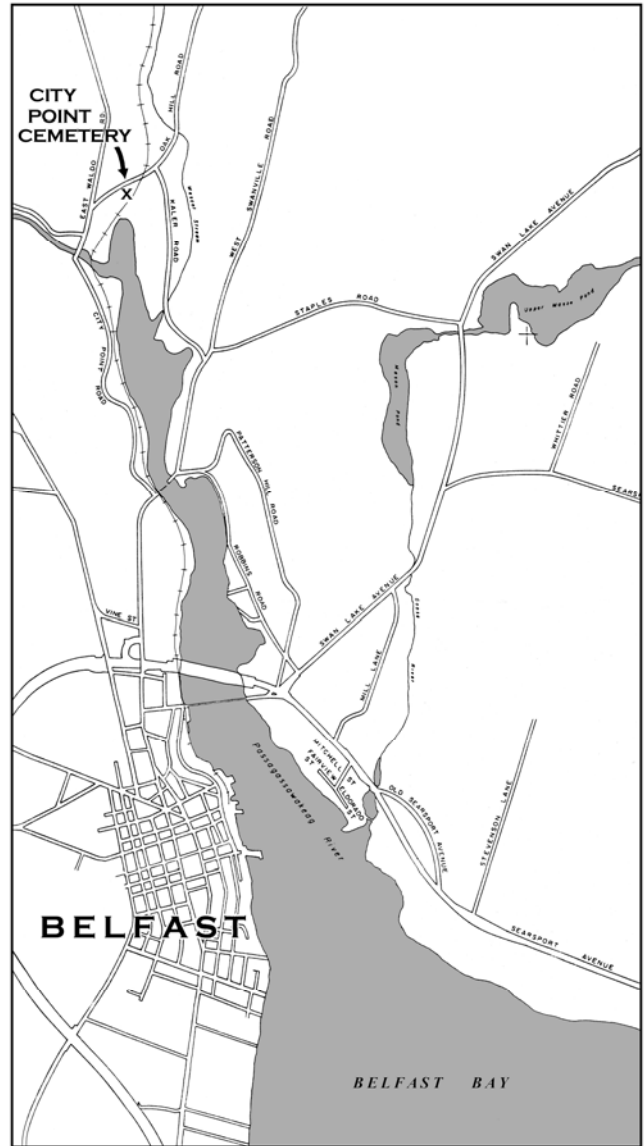


MARY HOLLAND BERNDT PHOTO

Gravestones of John Wilson (1771-1831), his wife Mary Ulmer (1743-1848), and their daughter Maria Antoinette Wilson (1824-1852); City Point Cemetery, Belfast, Maine.

Mary Tanner Ulmer probably continued to live with the Wilson family on Kendall Brook until her death in October 1834. By 1840 her daughter, John Wilson's widow, Mary Ulmer Wilson, had moved most of her family to the town of Belfast. Mary Wilson's married son, John Sheen Wilson, remained with his wife and children in Lincolnville, still on the Kendall Brook property, farming and working his gristmill. Mary's eldest son, George Ulmer Wilson (with his second wife, Sarah Russ, and their three young daughters), having sold the family grist mill and tannery to John Sheen Wilson before their father's death in 1830, now lived nextdoor to Mary Wilson in Belfast. And the family of her daughter Mary Rebecca and her husband Yorrick F. Cunningham also lived in the same neighborhood (on the same page of the 1840 census).

Before daughter Lucy Jane's wedding in 1848, John's widow Mary Ulmer Wilson died on June 23, 1848, at the age of 64, and was buried next to her husband in City Point Cemetery, Belfast. This cemetery, sometimes referred to by family members as the "Wilson Family Cemetery," actually contains only a small section devoted to Wilsons, including several other family members such as John's daughter, Maria Antoinette Wilson, who had married Nathan Whitney Blethen and then died three years later, apparently childless. The cemetery was once in the heart of Belfast, but because of Indian raids the town was moved to a more defensible position on the seacoast, leaving the cemetery behind on higher ground.



Location of City Point Cemetery in Belfast, Maine, where John Wilson (1771-1831), his wife, Mary Ulmer (1743-1848) and other early Wilsons are buried. The cemetery is just behind the old City Point railroad depot.