Benjamin Wilson
3rd Great Grandfather

Summary

Born while Viriginia was still a British colony, Benjamin Wilson saw the United States become a nation while he was a child. He moved from an established colony to the rougher, wilder southwest Viriginia county of Montgomery where he married his wife in 1787 and started a family. He and his wife Sarah Newton had at least 10 children. The area where they settled was near the great wilderness road taken by thousands of families migrating west by stagecoach.

Benjamin was 24 when George Washington became president, and he lived through the terms of at least 11 more United States presidents. Many of his children went west, often settling on virgin land acquired by land patents available after 1820. Later in life, the remaining family moved a bit south to Floyd County where wife Sarah died and he spent his last years living with daughter Chloe. He died in his 90s.

Links

Ancestry – links to my tree
WikiTree
FIndaGrave
FamilySearch

Alternate Spellings and Notes About County Names

Benjamine, Willson
Careful there is a son Benjamin Wilson as well.
Viriginia's county boundaries changed wildly during this time. In a couple of cases, the family didn't move but the county boundaries where their land was located changes names. The county boundaries in the late 1700s and early 1800s are NOT the same as today's boundaries.

Detailed Bio

Benjamin Wilson was born on August 4, 1765 in Loudoun, Virginia when it was still a colony. He was nearly 11 when the United States became an independent nation.

Benjamin's parents are Joshua Wilson and Catherine Hough. Here are some of his brothers and sisters.

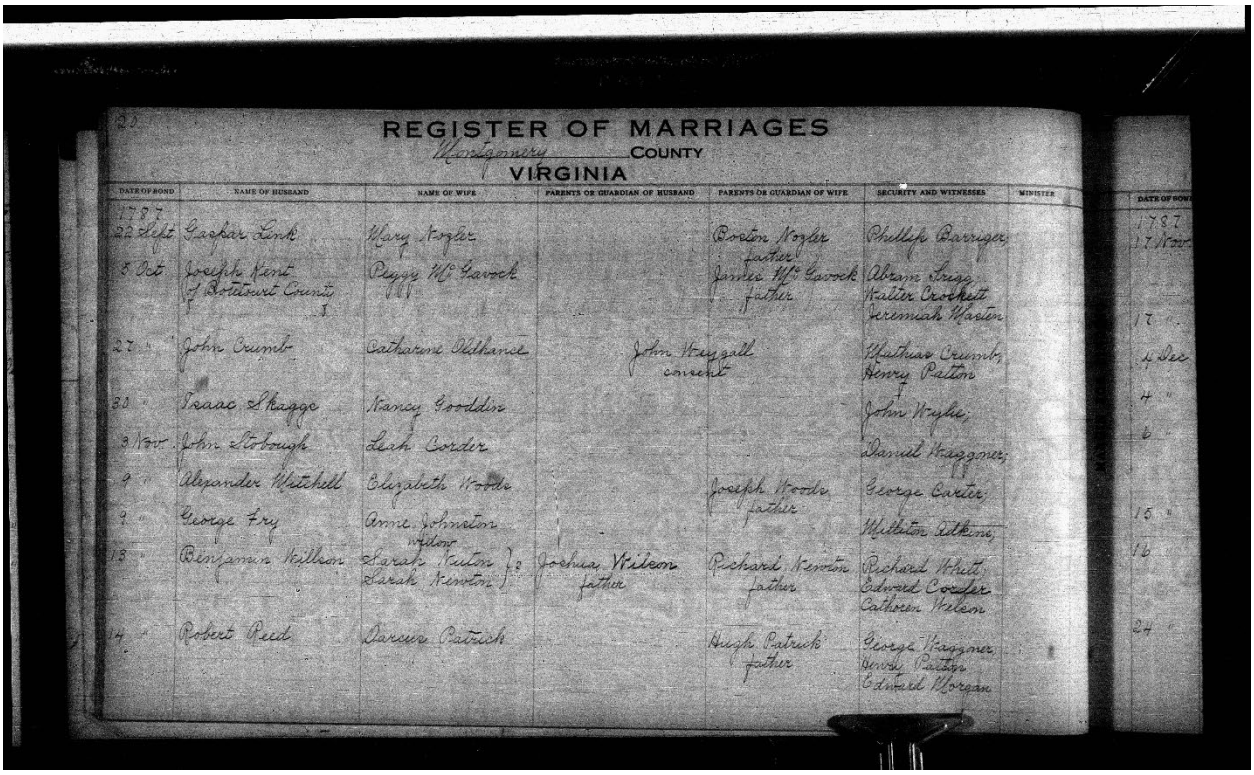
Jonah Durman Wilson (1769-1843)
Joseph Wilson (1771-1826)
Catherine Wilson (1773-1845)

John H. Wilson (1776-1848)
Uriah Wilson (1778-1850)
Stephen Wilson (1781-1826)
Elizabeth Nichols Wilson (1783-1856)

Different on FamilySearch – shows 1767-1835
Joshua Wilson (1793-1835)

In the mid-1770s, Benjamin and his family moved from the well-established colony of Loudoun in northern Virginia to Montgomery in southwest Virginia near the Appalachia's where it was more of a frontier. This migration was led by Benjamin's maternal grandfather, Benjamin Hough, who led his family, his adult children and their spouses, and others 200 miles south and west to Bent Mountain, just southwest of Roanoke. At that time, Bent Mountain was part of Botetourt County, which was incredibly vast, encompassing all of Kentucky and several other states that weren't states yet.

On November 13, 1787, Benjamin married Sarah Newton when he was 22. Sarah was born in 1770 and was 17 when she married. Here is the marriage record.



REGISTER OF MARRIAGES
Montgomery COUNTY
VIRGINIA

DATE OF BOND	NAME OF HUSBAND	NAME OF WIFE	PARENTS OR GUARDIAN OF HUSBAND	PARENTS OR GUARDIAN OF WIFE	SECURITY AND WITNESSES	MINISTER	DATE OF BOND
1787							1787
22 Sept	Gaspar Link	Mary Nogler		Boston Nogler father	Phillip Barriger		17 Nov
8 Oct	Joseph Kent of Botetourt County	Peggy McCavock		James McCavock father	Abram Trigg Walter Crockett Jeremiah Wasten		
27 "	John Crumb	Catharine Oldhame	John Heygall consent		Wfuthus Crumb, Henry Patton		4 Dec
30 "	Isaac Skaggs	Nancy Goodloe			John Wylie,		4 "
3 Nov	John Strobough	Leah Corder			Daniel Waggoner,		6 "
9 "	Alexander Mitchell	Elizabeth Woods		Joseph Woods father	George Carter		
9 "	George Fry	Anne Johnston widow			Milliton Elkins		15 "
13 "	Benjamin Willson	Sarah Patton } o Sarah Newton }	Joshua Wilson father	Richard Newton father	Richard Abbitt Edward Coulter Cathoren Wilson		16 "
14 "	Robert Reed	Darcus Patrick		Hugh Patrick father	George Waggoner Wm. Patton Edward Morgan		24 "

They settled about 9 miles from Christianburg in Montgomery County, Virginia, which is a rugged 20-25 miles due west of Bent Mountain. Christianburg was situated along the historic Great Wilderness Road and became the county seat of Montgomery County in 1792.

In the early to mid-1790s, Benjamin's parents Joshua and Catherine moved again to Kentucky, where they remained until death.

Here are Benjamin's and Sarah's children, all born in Montgomery County, VA. (except Hedgeman which I will research further in the future)

Benjamin Francis Wilson
Birth 26 March 1788 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Death 7 June 1854 • Floyd, Putnam, Indiana, USA

Hiram Wilson
Birth 1789 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Death 1857 • Cannon, Tennessee, USA

John Franklin Wilson
Birth 4 March 1791 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Death 3 June 1869 • New London, Ralls, Missouri, USA

Chloe Ann Wilson
Birth 5 June 1792 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Death 11 May 1856 • Floyd, Floyd, Virginia, USA

Alexander Wilson
Birth 25 March 1795 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Death 1882 • New London, Ralls, Missouri, USA

Amy Naomi Wilson
Birth 1796 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Death Unknown

Frances Wilson
Birth 23 June 1799 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Death Unknown

Hedgeman Wilson
Birth 1802 • Fauquier, Virginia
Death 1869 • New London, Ralls, Missouri, USA

Richard Wilson
Birth 1804 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Death 1820 • Floyd, Virginia, USA

Mary Polly Wilson
Birth 1807 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA

Death about 1858 • Montgomery, Virginia, USA

A FindaGrave researcher found this in the Census & Tax List:
(1) 1790 - "A List of Taxable Property in the District of John Robinson, Commissioner, formerly the upper District of Botetourt Co., VA. & now the lower District of Montgomery Co., VA. for the year 1790"

(2) 1800 - "Missing Census"

(3) 1810 - Christiansburg, Montgomery Co., VA. Census [listed as Benj'n. Willis aged 45 yrs. & upwards]

Name	**Benjn Willis**
Residence Date	6 Aug 1810
Residence Place	Christiansburg, Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Free White Persons - Males - Under 10	1
Free White Persons - Males - 16 thru 25	1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15	1
Free White Persons - Females - 16 thru 25	3
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44	1
Number of Household Members Under 16	3

Number of Household Members Over 25	2
Number of Household Members	9

(4) 1820 - Montgomery Co., VA. Census [listed as aged 45 yrs. & upwards]

Name	**Benjamine Wilson**
Enumeration Date	7 Aug 1820
Home in 1820 (City, County, State)	Christiansburg, Montgomery, Virginia, USA
Free White Persons - Males - 10 thru 15	1
Free White Persons - Males - 45 and over	1
Free White Persons - Females - Under 10	2
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 15	1
Free White Persons - Females - 26 thru 44	1
Number of Persons - Engaged in Agriculture	1
Free White Persons - Under 16	4
Free White Persons - Over 25	2

Total Free White Persons	6
Total All Persons - White, Slaves, Colored, Other	6

As the children became adults, many went west to settle their own lands. Son Benjamin settled in Indiana, and Hiram went to Tennessee. Hedgeman, John F., Alexander, and Frances moved to Bourbon County, Kentucky. Frances married Thomas Foster. After several years, the three brothers moved to Ralls County, Missouri to get land patents and grow their families.

Daughter Chloe married James Lester and they ended up just south in Floyd, VA. Daughter Amy married Claiborne Thompson. Daughter Mary Polly Wilson married John Dobbins. They all remained in Virginia.

(5) 1830 - Montgomery Co., VA. Census [listed as aged 60-70 yrs.]

Name	**Benjamin Wilson**
Home in 1830 (City, County, State)	Newburn, Montgomery, Virginia
Free White Persons - Males - 60 thru 69	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14	1
Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19	1
Free White Persons - Females - 50 thru 59	1
Free White Persons - Under 20	2
Total Free White Persons	4

Total - All Persons (Free White, Slaves, Free Colored)	4

Newburn is just across the way. It competed with Christianburg for commerce and in 1839, separated from Montgomery County to become Pulaski.

Between 1830 and 1840, the Wilsons moved just south to Floyd County, where they remained until their death. (It's possible they didn't move and the county boundaries did.)

(6) 1840 - Floyd Co., VA. Census [listed as aged 70-80 yrs.]

Name	**Benjamin Wilson**
Residence Date	1840
Home in 1840 (City, County, State)	Floyd, Virginia
Free White Persons - Males - 70 thru 79	1
Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14	1
Free White Persons - Females - 70 thru 79	1
Persons Employed in Agriculture	1
No. White Persons over 20 Who Cannot Read and Write	1
Free White Persons - Under 20	1
Total Free White Persons	3

Total All Persons - Free White, Free Colored, Slaves	3

Between 1840 and 1850, wife Sarah died, and Benjamin moved in with his daughter Chloey and husband James Lester.

(7) 1850 - Western District 15, Floyd Co., VA. Census [listed as aged 92 yrs.] He is living with daughter and son-in-law.

Name	**James Lester**
Gender	Male
Race	White
Residence Age	71
Birth Date	abt 1779
Birthplace	Montgomery
Residence Date	1850
Home in 1850	District 15, Floyd, Virginia, USA
Occupation	Farmer
Industry	Agriculture
Real Estate	1500
Line Number	36
Dwelling Number	971
Family Number	971
Inferred Spouse	Cloey Lester

Household members

Name	Age
James Lester	71
Cloey Lester	57
Lewis Lester	23
Cloey Lester	18
Catherine Lester	17
Jubann Lester	14
Benjamin Wilson	12 [92]

Benjamin Wilson died sometime between 1851 and 1859 in Floyd County, VA. His gravesite is unknown.