

DAVID WILSON BRANCH C

David Wilson (C3#1) was born September 8, 1751. He and Mary Miller were married September 24, 1778 by Rev. A. Moffit. Following the death of his father in 1801, they continued to live in Hardy County, Virginia on the 250 acre farm he inherited from his father, till 1805. In the spring of 1805 he and son George, then twenty years of age, came to Licking County (a part of Fairfield County till 1808), Ohio. Here they built a cabin on a portion of what was later known as the "Wilson Section", which at the time belonged to his older brother Colonel Benjamin Wilson (A1#1). Since David did not as yet have a deed for this land, he must have had some kind of purchase agreement with his brother.

The honor of being the "Pioneer" Wilson to locate in Licking County could not be claimed by David as his second son Jacob had preceded him two years by moving there himself.

Upon completion of the cabin, David and George started back to Hardy County by way of Marietta, Ohio, where both became sick and George the son died July 30, 1805, at the home of his uncle Archibald Wilson, then living in Wood County, Virginia, below Marietta, Ohio. The father then continued his journey to the home of his brother Colonel Benjamin at Clarksburg, Va., where he too died, August 12, 1805. During his absence from the home in Hardy County, his baby Enoch (12#2) had also died July 4, 1805.

All of this was a terrible shock to the mother, but with a stout heart she and seven of the children in the autumn of 1805 started for their new home in Ohio. Her possessions consisted of a team and wagon, very meager furniture, a cow trailing or tied to the rear of the wagon and a sow in a crate.

From this humble beginning her family prospered and became prominent citizens-- a grandson Abel Job Wilson, became a banker at Utica, Ohio. At his death December 28- 1910, he was said to be the wealthiest man in Licking County.

An incident in the early life of the family as related by Edward W. Patterson (C4#4), a great grandson who lived at Bellefontaine, Ohio, is worthy of repeating here. After the family's arrival at the new home, they built a pen or sty as they called it for the sow and her brood, which came shortly after their arrival. They kept their trusty rifle handy inside their cabin above the door on holders made from forked sticks. One night a few days after the pigs came, they heard a noise in the sty, whereupon Barbara (past thirteen) seized the gun and Sarah (about eleven) the tin lantern made with holes punched in its sides to let the candle light through, and they started for the sty, whereupon an animal jumped from the sty and ran up a leaning tree. By swinging the lantern back and forth the girls could see the gleaming eyes of the animal, and Barbara taking aim fired into the tree and then ran back to the house. The next morning they found a panther at the foot of the tree, shot squarely between the eyes.

Mrs. Wilson's house stood between Mt. Vernon Road and the North Fork of the Licking River, north of Newark, O. She was known as "Aunt Molly" and died in February, 1837.