



[Wilson history and heraldry](#): Sable, a wolf salient or, in chief three estoiles of the last

“Aut pax, aut bellum”

Wilson Family & Heraldry Notes

Where did they come from? Many came from England and Scotland in the 17th c, most in Ulster. Five lines including descendants from Gunns of Caithness. Also ancient Irish line of Wilsons in north-west Ireland.

Mary Jacob 1773 - ? Married Farmer (Michael?) Wilson 1770- 1850?

From "*Treasures of Tacumshane*": In the early 19th century a family by the name of Heron were said to have lived at the castle. Apparently they had five children, all of whom died very young. At this time the property was still in the ownership of the Jacob family through a son who, it is reported, was 'of a weak mind was cared for by one of his sisters who had married a farmer named Michael Wilson'.

[Valentine Gill Map 1811](#) Shows a "Mr Wilson" associated with "Syganstown": showed people who were connected with the 1798 rebellion. List of subscribers to the map published in Wexford Herald, 7 Sept 1807

1853 Griffith's Valuation record and Map: John Wilson listed in Sigginstown and owns most of the property including land across the street and Sigginstown Island. Andrew Pierce is leased land and plot 6a house and corn mill buildings valued at 9 pounds (most valuable in Sigginstown) Plot number 7 shows the castle area: 7a entry John Murphy occupying 20 acres of land, and a building worth 3 pound 50. 7b shows Henry Ryan being leased 10 Perch ("P") and a building worth 5 shillings (cottage next to the marl pond) "House, office, garden". Small cottage to the north of the castle on the map.

Additional tenants: Michael Cardiff, William Rackard, Arthur Keelan, John Seyton, Patrick & William Sinnott, John & James Meyler, William Gafford, Edward Durville, Michael & Nicholas Devereux, Roger Grendon, James Furlong, Michael Pender, Michael & James Ronan, Anthony Wallace

John Wilson responsible for famine relief / taking care of tenants if they own more than 5 pounds worth of property. Due to famine, this increases land clearances by owners - 1/2 of arable land becomes pasture between 1851 and 1911. From 1841 - 1901 Ireland's population is decreased by half by death and emigration.

1879 Land League protects tenants from rack rents; 1881 (Land Acts, 1881 Gladstone 1885 Ashbourne, 1891 Balfour, 1903 Wyndham, 1909 Barrel) Irish landlord parted with estates - tenants purchased holdings and built cottages

1901 Census: James (61) and Fannie Wilson (54) in House 7 with five children, Frances (22), John (19), Benjamin (17), Lizzie (14) and Katie (5). Roman Catholic

1911 Census: Fannie Wilson in House 16, with Frances (32), Lizzie (24), Kate Mary (18)

Some history of the Castle ownership from Doreen Griffin who has visited several times:

"My grandmother, Mary Kate Wilson is not listed on the census report filed by her father, James Wilson, 1901. Mary Kate was the eldest of their six children. I don't know exactly why, but she lived in Tacumshane with her aunt, a sister of her mother, Fanny Furlong. You probably know that the Furlongs were a Catholic family, whereas the Wilsons, of course, were Church of Ireland.

Of the six children, three married and had children. Mary Kate married my grandfather, Richard Pierce. My mother Sheila, was the third daughter of their eight children. Frances married James Murphy. They had two children. John died at an early age, probably TB, no children. Ben married, five children. My great-aunts Lizzie and Katie, continued living in the house near the castle where their parents had lived, and kept the farm going. Lizzie was a teacher in Tacumshane school - very strict! When we visited Ireland, my mother would do the rounds visiting all the family ...aunts, uncles, cousins, so we knew them all.

Miss Alice Wilson (dates?) was the last person to live at the castle. She was described as very old, and eventually went to live in Wexford town. I believe she was an older sister of James (Wilson, of 1901 survey?). Her brother, Master John, died young of TB. Richard Pierce, who sold the castle, is my first cousin ...son of James Pierce, my mother's youngest brother."

The wonderful thing about the Wilsons, is their descendants still live in Tacumshane. We were

delighted to know that the Carrolls: Mick, Fionn, Robbie and Neil who have worked so hard on the castle are descended through their mother, Betty, from the Wilsons!