

Wilcox History – Joseph to George Jnr.

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(From the earliest known up to Venie's death)

Early history

- See footnote 1*
- The tradition of the family is that they were "Huguenot"¹ of the name Villon", silk weavers from Lyons in France. Then they settled in Spitalfields, London where the Silkies congregated.
The name "Villon" gradually became corrupted or Anglicised to "Willox", "Willcocks", "Wilcox".
- 1770 *Australian History* *Captain Cook claims Australia for Britain.*
- 1775 *See footnote 2* The property at No 13 High Street, St Neots was owned by French Flanders, and early last century by W. Barker, tailor and clothier, who emigrated to Australia.²
Late taken over by Joseph.
- 1788 *Australian History* *First Fleet of convicts to Australia*
Estimated native population 350,000
Australia's white population 2,873
- 1791 *Australian History* *At end 17th century Hugenot's migrated from France*
- 1800 *See footnote No 1* *Australia's white population 5,217*
- 1800 *Australian History* *1st Steamship sails*
- 1807 *World History Notes*
- ? Circa 1780/ **Joseph Wilcocks, a tailor, married Jennens, England. 3 children Joseph, Mary & William**
early 1790
- 1811 **Joseph Wilcox born in England** at Boxhill, Surrey to a Church of England family originating from St Neots, where his grandfather had been a currier.³
See footnote 3
See footnote 4 Joseph became a tailor, the leader of his calling in St. Neots.⁴
- 1813 *Australian History* *Australia's white population 13,957*
- 1813 *Australian History* *Blaxland discovers a way across the Blue Mountains.*
Evans discovers the Bathurst plains.
- 1813 Mary Wilcox born in England
- 1814 *World History Notes* *First steam engine.*
1st permanent white settlement in New Zealand
June 18, Battle of Waterloo
- 1815 *World History Notes*
- 1815 Tradition is that Joseph Wilcocks, a tailor by trade, was a personal batman to the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo. William, the third child, was born in the camp on Waterloo day.
- 1815 William Wilcox born at Waterloo
- 1816
- 1816 *Australian History* *Bank of New South Wales founded.*
- 1824 *Australian History* *Foundation of Brisbane.*
- 1829 *World History Notes* *Typewriter invented, 1930 Sewing machine,*
(1851 Singer sewing machine).
1st major railroad system the US

1 *The Huguenots were members of the Protestant Reformed Church of France (or French Calvinists) from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Since the eighteenth century, Huguenots have been commonly designated "French Protestants", the title being suggested by their German co-religionists or "Calvinists". Protestants in France were inspired by the writings of John Calvin in the 1530s and the name Huguenots was already in use by the 1560s. By the end of the 17th century, roughly 200,000 Huguenots had been driven from France during a series of religious persecutions. They relocated primarily in England, Switzerland, Holland, the German Palatinate, and elsewhere in Northern Europe, as well as to what is now South Africa and to North America. Source - Wikipedia*

2 *The business was then taken over by his great friend, Joseph Wilcox (1816-1894) Quote – St. Neos Chronicle*

3 *A currier is a person who dresses leather.*

4 *The leader of his tribe in St. Neots managing to get all the Gentry jobs. He specialized mainly in uniforms, livery for the Dukes of Manchester and Rutland.*

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1829	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Whole of Australia claimed as British territory.</i>
1830	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>Accession of William IV.</i>
1830	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Act establishing trial by jury in New South Wales.</i>
			<i>Sturt explores the Murray to the sea.</i>
			<i>Perth founded.</i>
1830			<i>Governor Arthur's 'Black Drive' in Tasmania</i>
1831	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>H.M.S. Beagle sails with Charles Darwin</i>
1833	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>1833: Port Arthur opens as a penal settlement in ??</i>
			<i>Tasmania.</i>
?	<i>See footnote 5</i>	Joseph Wilcox⁵ married Sarah Emery – They had 13 children	
1834	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Act to establish Colony of South Australia.</i>
1834		Thomas Wilcox born	
1836	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>Photography invented</i>
1836	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Adelaide founded.</i>
			<i>Lonsdale takes charge of the Port Phillip Settlement.</i>
1836		Mary Wilcox born	
1837	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>Accession of Queen Victoria, June 20 1837</i>
1837	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Melbourne named.</i>
			<i>House of Commons Committee on Transportation.</i>
			<i>Australia's white population 134,488</i>
1838	Oct 3	George (senior) born⁶	
1840			<i>Order in Council discontinuing transportation to Australia.</i>
1840		Emery Wilcox born	
1842		Susannah Wilcox born	
1844		Joseph Wilcox born	
1847		John Wilcox born	
1848		William Wilcox born	
1849		Sarah Wilcox born	
1850	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Gold rush in Australia. University of Sydney founded.</i>
			<i>Western Australia becomes a penal colony.</i>
1850	<i>See footnote 6</i>	George senior first employment	<i>See footnote 6</i>
1851		Henry Wilcox born	
1851	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Separation of Victoria from New South Wales.</i>
1853	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>1st auxiliary steam (with sail) ships. 1st Manned glider</i>
1853		Fanny Wilcox born	
1854	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>The Eureka Stockade.</i>
			<i>Hobson's Bay railway built. First railways in Australia</i>
			<i>Australia's white population 694,917</i>
1855		Murray Wilcox born	
1856		Thomas (age 22) was the first to come to Australia, to Gawler in SA.	
1857		Ernest Wilcox born	
1857		Emery came out to Australia to help Thomas, sent by Joseph. However, Emery was a drunk and made things worse.	

5 The older Joseph Wilcox (Georges father, not brother) was very much involved in local affairs. He was a Deacon of the Congregational Church for 30 years, a member of the Committee of St Neots Gas, Light and Coke Company, founded in 1845, a member of the Local Board from 1876 onwards, and a Director of St Neots Paper Mills Company in 1888. Source – St. Neots Chronicle

6 George Wilcox, born 1838, was first employed at James Paine's office on the Market Square at the age of 12, and afterwards served a five-year apprenticeship with S Bedells, grocer, of 9 High Street, and a year with a Leicester grocer. Source – St. Neots Chronicle

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- 1858 *See footnote 7* George senior (age 20) was sent from St. Neots in England to Gawler, SA⁷
- 1858 George arrived in Melbourne by auxiliary steamer "Great Britain".
- 1858 *See footnotes 8 & 9* George⁸ arrived in Adelaide by coastal steamer "Admella"⁹.
George fired Thomas and Emery. He went into partnership with old Joseph.
- 1858 1859 George opened a grocery business, merging in 1860 with his father's general storekeeping business under the title of J and G Wilcox Merchants.
- 1860 Young Joseph at age 12 was sent to George in Australia at Gawler, SA with Priscilla Heyden who was going to Australia to marry Thomas. (Young Joseph worked for George for 12 years.)
- 1860 George Wilcox was buying wool, skins, gum bark, wheat, flour and gold, or rather taking these products in barter for stores and shipping them for sale to his father, Joseph Wilcox, in England, where the proceeds were used to buy English goods for the storekeeping business. " - Quote from ?
- 1963 *Australian History* **Australia's white population 1,259,292**
- 1863 *See footnote 10* ¹⁰George returned to England to find a wife. He took with him 2 cabins full of birds for sale in London¹¹.
See footnote 11
- 1864 *See footnote 12* 'City of Adelaide' launched.¹²
- 1864 George married Annie Fuller of Manor Farm, St Neots.
- 1864 George and Annie Wilcox on first voyage of the ship "City of Adelaide" to Adelaide.
- 1966 May 12 Edith Wilcox born
- 1867 *World History Notes* *Trans Atlantic cable, 1st modern typewriter*
- 1868 *Australian History* *The last convicts are transported to Australia.*
- 1869 *World History Notes* *Suez canal opened*
- 1869 Aug 25 Sidney Wilcox born
- 1870 *Australian History* *British troops withdrawn from Australia.*
- 1870 Dec 24 Nellie Wilcox born
- 1872 Mar 8 *Betty's mother*¹³ - *Helena Hague-Smith "Nan" born 1872, Auckland, New Zealand*
See footnote 13 (*youngest of 9*)

7 By about 1858 Joseph heard of this further trouble, and gave the second son, George, a free hand to go to Gawler and 'properly clean up the job, fire Thomas and Emery, and Barker, and sell up.'

8 In 1857, at the age of 19, he sailed in the 'Royal Charter' to Australia and, possibly under the wing of W. Barker, got a job as a clerk at one pound a week. In 1858 he joined a small grocery business which a year later amalgamated with an old established drapery shop. This in partnership with his father, he took over under the name of J & W Wilcox, although his father never visited Australia. Quote – St. Neots Chronicle

9 "Admella", a vessel remembered even today by old South Australians, because she struck the rocks in 1859, and only 24 survivors live to tell the tale out of 107 people on board at the time. Steamers passed close by, but did not notice the distress signals of those on the wreck who suffered intensely through lack of food and water. Quote from ?

10 Altogether George made 13 voyages between England and Australia and was joined at Adelaide by his brother Joseph. - Quote from ?

His knowledge of the goods needed in the new colony enabled him, with the assistance of his father, to build up a large import business as well as to arrange the export of wool, hides and frozen meat to England.

In 1899 he was the largest exporter of frozen lamb in Australia. He also practiced farming and in 1908 George senior and partner owned the Koonamore sheep station with 40,000 sheep. 1,000,000 acres at Mannahill Waukaringa, S.A.

11 In 1864 George made a voyage back to England, taking with him some Australian parrots, 2 emus, some kangaroos, and a pingoe (or Pinkie). - Quote from ?

12 "City of Adelaide" a 3 masted composite ship with iron frame and wooden planking, 178' long sailed from London to Adelaide for 23 years taking passengers, but also high valued cargo such as wool..The trip usually took 90-100 days days, but for some time she held the record for the fastest trip, being 65 days. - Quote from ?

13 Norton History

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- 1872 Mr George Wilcox (senior) sold out at Gawler and took his family back to England with the intention of living there.
- 1872 Young Joseph bought the business from George.
- 1872 Sept George and Annie, with Edith, Sidney and Nellie, voyage to England on the ship "City of Adelaide"
- 1873 Jan 28 or 30 **George Seaborn born in Cabin 2, just off Scilly Isles on sailing ship "City of Adelaide"**. Birth registered at Stepney, England.
- 1874 George senior returned to Adelaide as he found the English climate too rigorous.
- 1874 or 1873 William who came to Adelaide, returned to England in 1873/74
- 1874 end May Annie and 4 children (George Seaborn and elder siblings Sidney, Edith and Nelly) They returned on the same ship (City of Adelaide) to return to Adelaide. Ship went aground at Kirkaldie Beach. Passengers floated ashore, With George watching.
- 1874 Aug 25 Annie arrived in Adelaide, George had arrived earlier by P&O Mail. George Seaborn went to school in Adelaide.
- 1874 Nov 10 Murray Wilcox born
- 1874 George Snr. intermittently bought wool, skins, and so on for shipment to England
- 1876 George met William Mofflin. A partnership was entered into, and the firm of William Mofflin and Co established, and carried on until June 1889.
- 1876 *World History Notes* Telephone invented then 1st phonograph
- 1876 *Australian History* The last full blooded Tasmanian aboriginal, Truganini, dies.
Australia's white population 2,231,531
- 1880 June Mr William Mofflin sold out his half share of the partnership to Mr Glen Legoe and Mr Sidney Wilcox¹⁴. *Quote from ?*
- 1880 John Wilcox appointed London agent for George (then William Mofflin & Co.)
- 1880 *Australian History* Capture of the Kelly Gang
- 1885 *World History Notes* 1st practical automobile
- ? to 1887 Sidney Wilcox first employment was with a firm of grocers then he entered the services of the old Commercial Bank of South Australia. He then went into the office of Messrs. George Wilcox & Co., and was the only clerk employed there at the time.
- 1887 Joseph retired from his shop in 1887 and it was taken by W Seward. *St. Neots Chronicle*
- 1887 Mr Sidney Wilcox entered the Adelaide branch.
- 1888 A branch of Wilcox Mofflin was opened in Sydney, and this was the beginning of a chain of offices and branches throughout Australia. A few months later a branch was opened in Melbourne.
- 1889 John moved to London. Company now called George Wilcox & Co.
- See footnote 15* ¹⁵ **George Seaborn**, at age 16, was put into the company, George Wilcox & Co. In his 20's sent to Sydney.
- 1889 He boarded at "Chollerton" (Malcolm's Folly) He and brother Murray ventured into brick works at Bondi. (A failure).

14 Towards the end of 1880 he (Sidney) obtained his first employment with a firm of grocers for a few months, after which he entered the services of the old Commercial Bank of South Australia, in which he remained until 1887. He then went into the office of Messrs. George Wilcox & Co., and was the only clerk employed there at the time.

15 In his 20's George was sent from Adelaide to manage office of Wilcox Mofflin in Street, Sydney. Later big wool store and offices built at Glebe, then Geo Wilcox & Co. wool merchants. Bought grazing property near Harden with Murray called "Bojalana". Not successful. Sold about 1914. Started in a company to make bricks at Bondi (all sand dunes in 1912) but not successful. Very well thought of in Hide and skin trade and known as the 'King of buyers'.

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1893	See footnote 16 See footnote 17	Sidney went to Sydney, and was managing partner (of George Wilcox & Co.) there for about 12 years. ¹⁶¹⁷
1894		the title of William Mofflin & Co ceased to exist. In the same year Mr George Wilcox retired, and gave his share of the business equally to his two sons, George Seabourne and Murray Wilcox, who had joined the Sydney staff.
1897	Apr 13	Annie died of heart trouble.
1898		"Okinya" built.
1899		George was the largest exporter of frozen lamb in Australia.
1899		George (age 27) married Constance Navena (Venie) Welman of Wagga (then living with her grandmother, Martha Susannah Scriven, at Potts point, Sydney). They went to America for their honeymoon.
1900		Mr Mofflin acquired Mr Rickards's interest, and traded until 1908 as W Mofflin & Co. In the same year he converted it into a limited liability company.
1900		Border Preserving Works, founded by Mr G Wilcox, and also the Adelaide Meat Stores
1900		George Wilcox & Co. purchased a small Canning Works at Mt Gambier, S.A. This deal was consummated because George Wilcox & Co. were actively engaged in the export of frozen rabbits
1900	World History Notes	<i>Kodak "Brownie" camera</i>
1900	Aug 15	Rita born
1901	World History Notes	King Edward VII from Jan 22 1901
1901	World History Notes	<i>First trans Atlantic radio signal</i>
1901	Australian History	<i>Australia becomes a commonwealth. 1901 (May 9) First Commonwealth Parliament opened.</i>
1903	Aug 14	Alan born
1903	World History Notes	<i>First Flight at Kitty Hawk. First License Plates Issued in the U.S. First Message to Travel Around the World. First Silent Movie, "The Great Train Robbery"</i>
1903		The early beginnings of the meat business which subsequently grew into a very large factor in the total turnover of the South Australian interests of the company.
1904	World History Notes	<i>Ground Broken on Panama Canal. New York City Subway Opens</i>
1904		George Wilcox & Co extended their interests and opened branches at Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville, and established agency relations in W.A.
1905	June 2	"Poppy" born
1905	World History Notes	<i>1st Cars in Australia. Einstein Proposes His Theory of Relativity</i>
1907		The Torrens-side drying yard of the firm (Wilcox mofflin Ltd.)was completely gutted by fire Ventured into rural property "Bogalara" near Yass. Not a success. Sold at a loss.
1908	See footnote 18	George ¹⁸ owned the "Koonamore" sheep station with 40,000 sheep. <i>St. Neots Chronicle</i>
1908	? 1912	George bought a single seater Renault car, 257. A rubber bulb horn, hand operated windscreen wipers, no hood.

16 After an absence abroad for two years Mr Sidney Wilcox returned to Adelaide, and occupied an office alongside of Mr Glen Legoe, and they proceeded to develop the big business from this end. *Quote from - ?*

17 Sidney is also a member of the firm of Hamilton & Wilcox Limited, owners of Koonamore Station

18 Altogether he (George) made 13 voyages between England and Australia and was joined at Adelaide by his brother Joseph.

His knowledge of the goods needed in the new colony enabled him, with the assistance of his father, to build up a large import business as well as to arrange the export of wool, hides and frozen meat to England.- *St. Neots Chronicle*

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1909	June 14	Jean born	
1909	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>Plastic Is Invented</i>
1910			<i>Australia's white population 4,425,083</i>
1910	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>King George V, from May 6 1910</i>
1910	Aug 25	"Betty" Norton born at Quirindi, NSW on 'Blythswood' a sheep property.	
1911	Jun 15	Jack Wilcox born	
1912		"Okinya" was extended.	
1913		Business was getting difficult and George had a nervous breakdown. He and Venie went to England to see relatives. On the way back war broke out. They returned in the ship "Beltana", (or "Mooltan"?) via Cape Horn, South Africa.	
1913	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>Henry Ford Creates Assembly Line</i>
1914	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Australia's white population 4,971,778</i>
1914	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>World War 1. Panama Canal Officially Opened</i>
1914	to 1915	George's condition got worse on his return and he was in and out of hospital (Venie had to have a nurse to be always with him) and felt himself too big a burden to the family with continuous depression and worry of business and the war.	
1915	July 14 or 15	George Seaborn died by his own hand. He shot himself and was found in the bedroom by Alan. He was buried in the family vault at Waverly Cemetry, Watsons Bay.	
1915	July	George Wilcox & Co was converted into a limited liability company.	
1917		It had become apparent that if the resources of the two concerns were combined and merged into one company, the business be more easy to conduct	
1917	Sept 5	George senior died in great pain. (Phlebitis in both legs.)	
1918		George Wilcox & Co. became Wilcox Mofflin Ltd.	
1918	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>Electric light</i>
			<i>Treaty of Versailles Ends World War I</i>
1919	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>Short wave radio invented</i>
1919	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Ross and Keith Smith fly from England to Australia by airplane.</i>
1920		Jack's sister, Rita went to China returned in 1921 and did medicine at Sydney Uni.	
1920	<i>World History Notes</i>		<i>First Commercial Radio Broadcast Aired</i>
1920		ACELEC (Alan Crook Electrical Company) formed. Jack formed a partnership with Alan and later Greg Kater. The company later became Electrical Equipment of Australia.	
1921	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Australia's white population 5,510,944</i>
1926		Rita Wilcox awarded Bachelor of Medicine & Master of Surgery, 24 th April, from Sydney University	
1927	<i>Australian History</i>		<i>Federal Parliament opened by Duke of York at the Commonwealth capital, Canberra.</i>
1932	July 17	Constance "Venie" Wilcox died in England.	