

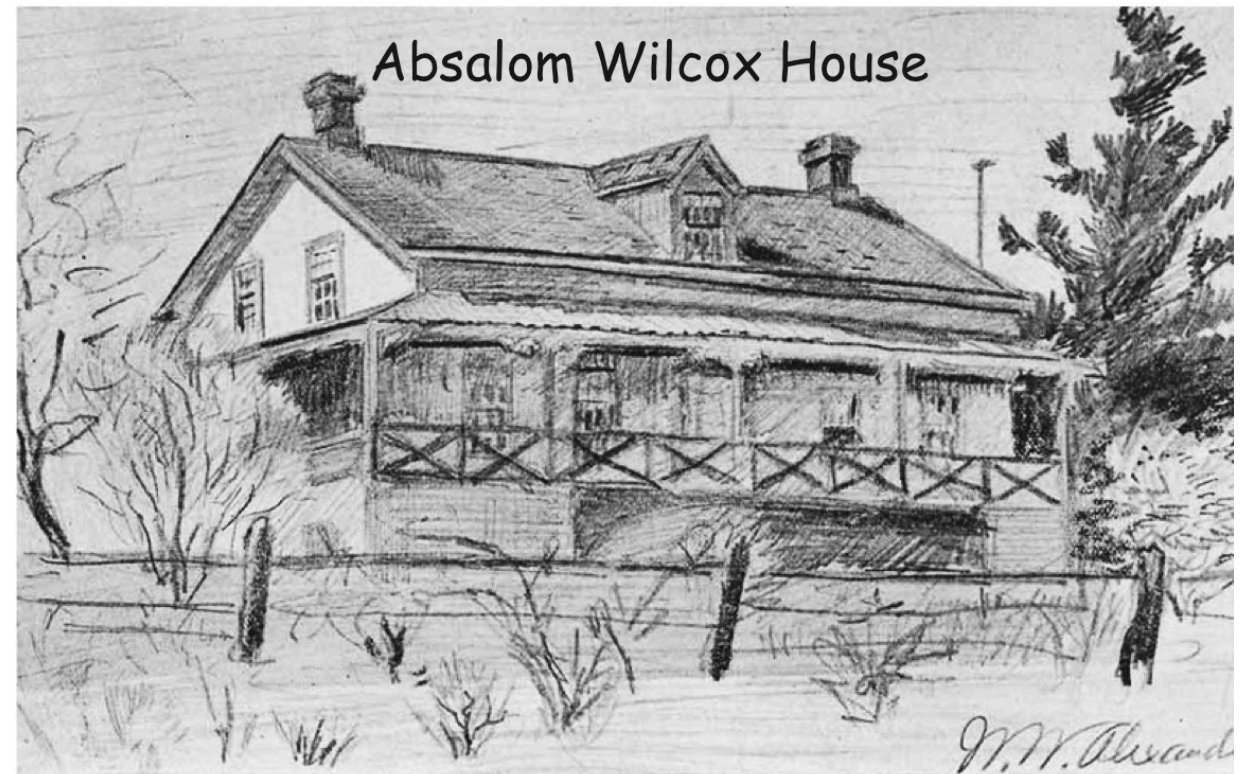
**9. Absalom<sup>7</sup> Wilcox**, son of Benjamin Wilcox and Elsie Lanning, was b. in Dec. 1765, d. 20 Feb. 1841, and was buried at Dixie, U.C.<sup>[71]</sup> He m. *ca.* 1792 at Trenton, New Jersey (suring a return trip to the U.S.), **Barbara Hull**, b. 30 Nov. 1774 in the U.S., d. 15 Feb. 1856, and buried with her husband. Absalom Wilcox was a mason. He came into Canada as a single man in 1787,<sup>[72]</sup> but returned to Trenton, New Jersey before 1793, and was married there. He and his wife lived near Log Gaol, Sussex Co. (now Johnsonburg, Warren Co.), then in 1801 moved to Canada, settling near Grimsby. Around 1806 they moved to Toronto Tp., Peel Co., of which the south part had just been surveyed, and were granted lot 3 in the first concession in 1808 or 1811. They were among the first settlers, and their youngest son Allen is said to have been the first white boy born in the county. Absalom broke his leg while clearing the land for the first church at Dixie, and he had to be carried to Toronto, where his leg was amputated at the knee. Absalom Wilcox was the man who sheltered William Lyon Mackenzie during his escape from Upper Canada following the 1838 rebellion. Mackenzie himself mentions that reaching “the hospitable mansion of a worthy settler on Dundas Street, utterly exhausted with cold and fatigue,” and his biographer comments on this passage, “there can no longer be any reason for withholding the fact ... that the house [was that] of Mr. Absalom Wilcox, who had several sons engaged in the revolt.”<sup>[73]</sup> The local historian Perkins Bulls states, “The rebel leader was sheltered the first night in the home of Absalom Wilcox of Toronto township, where he was cared for by the family. His friends stood guard while he slept.... Mackenzie remained in the Wilcox home only one day; then, accompanied by Allen Wilcox, he set out on horseback towards the Niagara frontier and safety....” Bull also mentions their son “Allen ... who, with his older brother, Richard, was an admirer of Mackenzie and was present at the Gallows Hill engagement.”<sup>[74]</sup>

Issue:<sup>[75]</sup>

1. 16Daniel Wilcox, b. 19 Aug. 1793.
2. 17Sarah Wilcox, b. 30 April 1796. She m. John Burkholder.
3. 18James Wilcox, b. 7 Oct. 1798.
4. 19John Wilcox, b. 14 March 1801.
5. 20Elsie Wilcox, b. 25 J...<sup>[76]</sup>1803.
6. 21Richard Wilcox, b. 18 Aug. 1806.
7. 22Allen Wilcox, b. 15 June 1809.
8. 23Hannah Wilcox, b. 29 Aug. 1811. She m. Thomas Hamilton.
9. Rachel Wilcox, b. 4 Aug. 1813, d. *s.p.* 23 July 1841. She m. 5 Oct. 1840 at Toronto,<sup>[77]</sup> Thomas Wilson Adams, of East Flamborough Township, Wentworth County. We have not found this couple in the 1881 census of Ontario.
10. Mary Wilcox, b. 24 July 1816 in Toronto Tp., d. unmarried 10 April 1900.



*Absalom's grave in Mississauga, On*



The home of Absalom Wilcox (1765-1841) on Dundas Street, Toronto Town Peel County, built ca. 1830, sketched about 1900 by WW Alexander.

There is a strong family oral tradition that a Wilcox hid William Lyon MacKenzie in his home on Dundas St. in 1837. The following is an excerpt from Vol. VI of “The Makers of Canada”, page 383.

#### MACKENZIE'S ESCAPE

before our pursuers were climbing up the steep ascent almost beside me.

“When I overtook Colonel Lount, he had, I think, about ninety men with him, who were partly armed. We took some refreshment at a friendly farmer's near by. Lount was for dispersing. I proposed that we should keep in a body and make for the United States via the head of Lake Ontario, as our enemies had the steamers; but only sixteen persons went with me. I had no other arms than a single-barrel pistol, taken from Captain Duggan during our Tuesday's scuffle, and we were all on foot. Some of my companions had no weapons at all.

“We made for Humber Bridge, through Vaughan, but found it strongly guarded; then went up the river a long way, got some supper at the house of a farmer, crossed the stream on a foot-bridge and by two next morning, the eighth, reached the hospitable mansion of a worthy settler on Dundas Street, utterly exhausted with cold and fatigue.”

“Blankets were hung over the windows to avoid suspicion, food and beds prepared, and, while the Tories were carefully searching for us, we were sleeping soundly. Next morning (Friday) those who had arms buried them, and after sending to inquire whether a friend a mile below had been dangerously wounded, we agreed to separate and