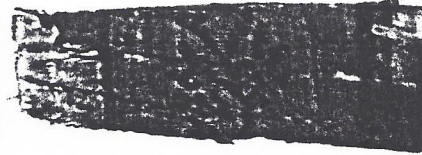
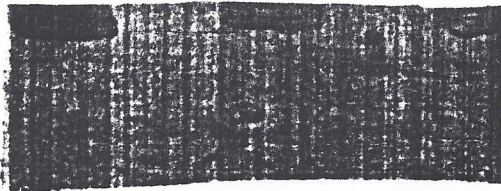


The Ocean Mary House, Henniker, N. H. Built 1720



The story of Mary Wilson Wallace, known as "Ocean-born Mary"

There is an interesting romance connected with Mary Wilson or "Ocean-born Mary" as she was usually called, which is one of the cherished traditions of Londonderry and Henniker, New Hampshire. In 1720 a company of Scotch emigrants on their passage from Ireland to this country were captured by pirates, who bound the officers and crew and proceeded to plunder the ship. The captain while thus engaged came upon Mrs. Wilson lying in bed with her newly born child. He roughly asked her, "Why are you here?" She, very much frightened, showed him her baby's face. The captain, who had a wife and family, was very much moved by this incident and said, "If you will permit me to name the child, I will release this ship and all on board unharmed." She readily assented and he named the child Mary after his wife and at once released the ship and all the captives, and ordered all goods and money restored. The astonished emigrants feeling very grateful that their lives had been spared started on their voyage. But much to their dismay the pirate captain was seen returning to their ship. He came on board alone and presented the mother with silk for a wedding dress for Mary. Pieces of this silk dress can be seen in Henniker and Londonderry today. Mary Wilson's father died soon after they landed in Boston and the mother brought her child to Londonderry, New Hampshire, which had been their destination. For a generation the people of Londonderry held an annual Thanksgiving in commemoration of the deliverance of this emigrant band from the hands of the pirates. In 1722 Mary Wilson was married to James Wallace of Londonderry, wearing the silk given her by the pirate as her wedding dress. Mrs. Mary Wilson Wallace spent the last days of her life with her oldest son, Robert Wallace in the town of Henniker, and died there February 13, 1814. She is buried in Henniker.

The above is a picture of the house at Henniker, New Hampshire, where she lived and died, and a piece of her wedding dress.

Robert M. Wallace of Milford, New Hampshire, is the great great grandson of Ocean-born Mary, and the father of Edward D. Wallace.