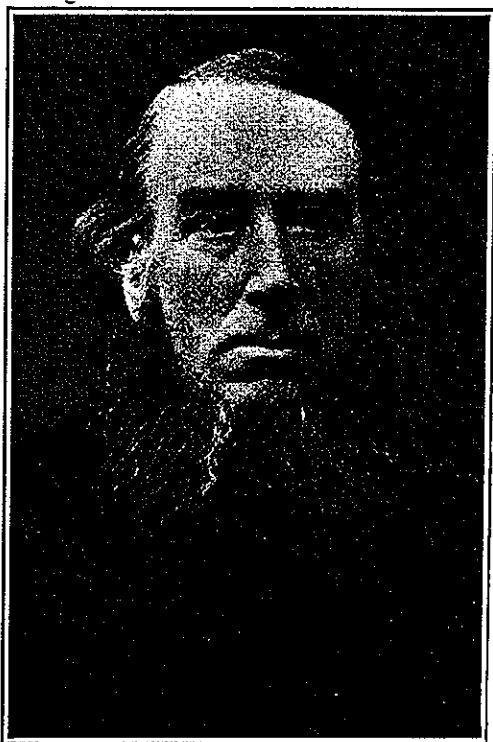


## WILSON CONGER

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David Conger was born at Piscatawua, N.J., in 1731. He was brass founder and silversmith by trade, and it would appear that after the close of the Revolutionary War he was settled upon a small farm, in Ulster County, N.Y. Loyalty



to the British Crown no doubt rendered his position unpleasant after the establishment of the new government, and in 1786, he came to Hallowell and selected a lot with a millsite, situate on the Bay of Quinte, and two miles east of Picton. The next year he returned with his wife and family and brought with him irons and castings for a saw mill, which he had in active operation in 1787.

Conger's next enterprise was to build a grist mill. Until this time the pioneers had to take their corn to be ground at Kingston, and later to Napanee. This was attended by many hardships. They tell how they cautiously paddled around the shores and down

the river, or shiveringly drove across the bleak ice, or laboriously trudged on foot with their sack on their backs. They tell of the loss of life, and the loss of time; of father's danger in going, and the mother's anxiety until his return.

The strong religious tendencies of David Conger led him always to bear in mind the interests of his church. He was a sound adherent of Methodism. One of his gifts to that body was a grant of a site on his lot for a church. It was erected in 1809, and is now the oldest church in actual use in the province. He left property in the States that he could not regain. David Conger did not live to enjoy the fruits of his labour. He died in 1792, aged 61 years. His wife survived him by 25 years, dying at the age of 83.

The ninth child of David was Stephen, who came with his parents, then a boy of fourteen, and helped to drive the cattle which took a month. At the age of 30, Stephen was appointed a Magistrate, and was among the first Magistrates of Prince Edward County. The duties of the justices were in those days invested with an old time prestige, and were of an onerous nature. To be selected a magistrate approved the integrity of the man's character and his good social standing in the community. Among the duties of magistrates was legalizing marriages. He solemnized 67 marriages between 1803 and 1823.

David Conger had eleven children, the eleventh being Wilson, who after coming to Canada, returned to the States and studied Surveying, and returned to Canada and studied under Samuel Wilmot, and became a Land Surveyor on the 7th February, 1811.

Wilson was born in Piscataquey, N.J., on January 20th, 1778, and on March 15th, 1804, he married Sarah Osborn, who was born in the town of Windsor, N.S., on February 13th, 1783, and died in Hallowell in 1867. Eight children were born to them: Rachel Alice, born June 18th, 1805, died May, 1832, married Gilbert French; Samuel Wilmot (son named after Samuel Wilmot, Surveyor, with whom Wilson studied surveying), born September 17th, 1806, died June 25th, 1840, married Martha French; Lavina Wass, born February 22nd, 1808, died October 31, 1888, married Peter Post; Peter Designey, born March 25th, 1810, died—no date; Sarah Chipman, born March 24th, 1815, married Samuel McDonald; Betsey Stapleton, born August 6th, 1816, married Gilbert French; Wilson Osborn, born March 30th, 1818, married Anna Maria Scott, Rebecca Loudon, born November 7th, 1820, married Robert Henry Eyre. Wilson Conger died in Hallowell, August 13th, 1843. He practiced Surveying until his death, in Prince Edward County. He surveyed the Township of Elziver, and the Gore between Hallowell and Sophiasburg, in 1812.

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