

**532 WILSON, JOHN**

**Engraver**

**Martinsburg**

Engraver in Martinsburg in 1810.

The only evidence that this John Wilson was a part of the Virginia print trade is found in a single advertising notice published in the *Martinsburg Gazette* in December 1810, to wit:

**PAINTING, &c.**

THE inhabitants of Berkeley, and the public generally, are respectfully informed that, the subscriber is now following his profession of a Painter, &c. in the town of Martinsburgh, and will be grateful for employment in any of the following branches, viz: House Painting of any description; Sign Painting; Drawing in Oil or dry colours; Papering, Marbleing and Mahogany Painting; Coach Painting, Varnishing and Gilding of any description; Gilt Lettering; ***Engraving of Plates and Letters for printing, in Type metal, Copper or Wood,*** Dutch Letters, Hand-boards, Glazing, &c. Having been regularly brought up to the above business, he is confident of being able to give full satisfaction to his employers. His terms will be reasonable. [*emphasis added*]

John Wilson.

The phrasing of the above notice suggests that Wilson was an itinerant tradesman. Yet with several individuals of that name then living in the lower Shenandoah Valley, he could also have been home-grown. However, the commonality of Wilson's name makes ascertaining his origin, training, and fate unworkable without further evidence.

***No Personal Data Yet Discovered.***

Sources: MEDSA Index no. 44503; *Martinsburg Gazette* (28 Dec 1810).