

THE WILLIAMS STORY

Edwin Lee Williams married Emma Ethleen Riedemann

According to one of the Williams researchers, our Williams family cannot be traced further back than North Carolina in 1791. William White Williams was in Kentucky in 1808 and Morgan County, Illinois by 1831. While a resident of Morgan County William began purchasing land in Greene County. In Jun 1831 William purchased two tracks of land in Greene County, one for 80 ac in Sec 36 and the other 160 ac in Sec 24, which he intended to farm. This was about 5 miles northeast of Greenfield. Dec 1832 he purchased another 20 Ac Sec 25; Oct 1834 41.19 ac Sec 25; 80 ac Sec 24 and 119.92 ac Sec 31; Jul 1835 80 ac Sec 5; Oct 1835 160 ac Sec 4; Dec 1835 80 ac Sec 13; Oct 1836 80 ac Sec 13; 80 ac Sec 19. Sec 4 160 ac; Sec 5 80 Ac; Sec 13 160 ac; Sec 19 121.19 ac; Sec 24 240 ac; Sec 25 20 Ac; Sec. 31 119.92 Ac; Sec 36 80 Ac, so all together the farm was 981.11 ac

William died in Greene County in 1886 at the age of 95. His son, Milton, born in Kentucky, came to Illinois with his father and was also a farmer. Milton's son, Albert Newton, moved his wife, Eloise, and son, Lee, to Citronelle, Mobile County, Alabama before 1898, as Milton is listed as dying in 1898 Citronelle. 1900 Citronelle census lists Mary Ann Williams Tunnel as a widow with her children and Mother, Elmira, on State Street. A. N., Eloise and Lee were listed as living on North St. A. N., or "Newt" as Mother said he was called, has been listed as house carpenter, architect, contractor and builder. Newt died in 1944 at the age of 85. Lee was a partner in his fathers architectural firm in Mobile. Lee died of Typhoid Fever in 1917 at the age of 36, when Mother was only 18 months old. Eloise, or Elo as she was called, died Feb 1944 Mobile, Alabama.

The Williams name comes from the Welsh word 'Gwyllyn' which means Sentinel. The name itself comes from the old German "Willihelm" or Wilhelm", which after the Norman conquest was the most popular first name in Britain until it was superceeded by John. Other variations of the Williams name are Quilliams, Guilliam, Guilliams. The name is first found in Breconshire and Monmouthshire on the English/Welch border from very ancient times. It can be traced back as far as the Domesday Book, with a Robert filius Willeimi recorded in 1086; Richard William lived in Oxfordshire in 1279, and a John Wyllyam is recorded in the Subsidy Rolls in Sussex in 1296. Legend has it that the family Williams is descended from Brychan Brecheiniog who was Lord of Brecknock at the time of King Arthur of the Round Table, and their medieval seat was a Liangibby Castle in County Monmouth. Some of the first settlers of this name or some of it variants were: the Williams settlers in Bull's Bay, Newfoundland, who are traditionally descended from Vaughan's Welsh Colonists and arrived in 1763. David Williams settled in Virginia in 1623, and Edward in Virginia in 1624. Other migrants include: Elizabeth, to Virginia in 1623, Henry and Hugh to Virginia in 1623, Richard Williams to Maine in 1630, Robert Williams, his wife and child, who settled in Virginia in 1622 and many more. Many with this name can be found on the United Empire Loyalist lists, including John, David, Elijah, Henry and Robert Williams. A 1984 edition of the Report of Distribution of Surnames in the Social Security ranks the name Williams as 3rd most popular surnames in the United States. The Coat of Arms contains "Black with a gold lion rampant"; the Crest is a Talbot passant; family motto is "Cywir in gwlad".

Our story begins with **William White Williams**¹ b 9 July 1791 NC; d 26 Dec 1886 Greenfield, Greene Co, IL. The story goes that William was born in North Carolina near the Virginia line in 1791. He was known as "Uncle Billy". NC was called the Scrabble State, as the boundries were always in dispute. It is said that he was orphaned at a youthful age, and at 17 (1808) he moved to Winchester, KY where he m **Lydia Whitehurst** abt 1812, at the age of 21. They moved to Morgan Co, IL during 1831, then to Greene Co. by 1833, where he was a farmer. Lydia, b 13 Aug 1786 NC; d 19 Apr 1858 Greenfield, IL. After Lydia died William married **Mariah Orcutt O'Flyng** on 7 Nov 1860 in Greenfield. Mariah, widow of Felix Clara O'Flyng was b abt 1818 PA; d 12 Jan 1892 in Olcott, Reno Co, KS. She had five children: Enos Rolph O'Flyng b 1840; Mary Ann O'Flyng b 1842; Lucy Naomi O'Flyng b 1844; Orsa O'Flyng b 1847 and Felix Stiles O'Flyng b 1850. Mariah is buried in Turon Cemetery, Turon, Kansas. William died 26 Dec 1884 Rubicon