

JAMES B. WILLIAMS
1821 - 1891

James B., son of Issac and Sabra Brutton Williams, was born in Madison County, Kentucky. He married Sarah Coffey in 1839. She was also Kentucky born. The young couple left immediately as members of a wagon train bound for Texas and led by the father, Issac. Issac's other sons who were members of the train were Kelse, John R. and David. There is evidence that one son, Mason, and a daughter, Charity (Mrs. Wm. Powers), remained in Kentucky.

The wagon train ran into difficulty and halted in Arkansas. Issac became very ill and was unable to continue the journey. It seems all of his family remained with him until he finally died and was buried in Washington County, Arkansas. He may have lived for a while and owned property at Crab Orchard Springs.

After the death of Issac, the wagon train was re-organized under the leadership of James B. and set out once again for Texas. The Williams brothers were known for their appreciation of fine horses and brought a sizeable herd of Kentucky bred stock with them. As they crossed a river, presumably the Trinity, a terrible fight took place between our men and desperadoes who tried to take their horses. The story handed down is that one young man thought to be "addled" received a vicious blow on his head with a gun butt or stick. For days his life hung in the balance but he did recover and after that he was a changed person -- not simple-minded in

the least.

The destination of the family was Central Texas where some kindred had settled earlier. And on Christmas Eve, 1848 they finally reached the Berry's Creek area, a community five miles north of Georgetown in Williamson County. According to Elizabeth, James B.'s oldest daughter, just as the weary travelers had settled down for the night with a feeling of thankfulness in having at last reached the journey's end, the quiet of the night was shattered by the cries of a young mother-to-be. That night a baby girl was born, delivered by Sarah Cooper, mid-wife. The child's name and parentage is not known to us.

Among the relatives who had migrated to Texas earlier was Capt. John Williams, the famous Indian Scout. About this time, he was appointed by Gov. Sam Houston to head a militia of men of his own choosing to protect the settlers from the hostile Indians. The Indians were coming down from the north and west plains of Texas and were raiding the farms and ranches in San Saba, Leon and Burnet Counties. They drove off the ranch stock in great numbers and even took the work stock and milch cows. It was not safe for women and children to be left alone for these were not the friendly Indians of Central Texas but migrants from the plains who delighted in scalping the women and stealing the children. *(These Indians also)* ~~who~~ stole the provisions the settlers had stored for the winter and wrecked and set fire to the houses. There is on record a letter to Gov. Houston signed by 183 citizens in and around Georgetown requesting the appointment of Capt. John.

By October, 1958, Lieut. John Williams had been promoted to Capt. of the Second Company of hand-picked Texas Rangers and stationed in San Saba County. The mustering out rolls showing John Williams, Capt., and dated November 2, 1858, bears the signature of James B. Williams, First Sgt.. We know that James B. first served as private, but we do not know the date he enlisted. His brother, Kelse, enlisted in the same company under Capt. John Williams May 24, 1858, and D. K., (probably David) enlisted October 30, 1858. John R.Williams, the third brother, taught the first school at Cherokee and was post-master there for some time. We are not sure about what happened further to John R. and David nor whether they have living descendants today. But we do know that Kelse met a tragic and untimely death at Cherokee. One version of the story is that he was shot from a-top the first school house in Cherokee. The story goes that the neighbors had met to build the school house and while he was working on top he saw thieves cutting their horses loose from their stakes and the thieves shot him before he could give the warning to the men inside. He left three small girls and a son, Watt. Watt moved to New Mexico and his Descendants still live there.

Capt. John owned a fine white stallion that could out run any thing in that locale. It was his custom to seek out the hostile Indians, make a strike, and then out run them to safety. The very sight of this tall man on his superior white horse frightened the Indians and kept them at a distance. But one day Capt. John, joined by a fellow scout, encountered a group of Indians who stayed to fight. The two men ^{were} out numbered and started to run their horses

home, but the slower horse was shot and Capt. John went back to save his friend. He pulled him up on his white horse, but the two heavy men were too much for the gallant stallion and the Indians were almost upon them. Capt. John was adept at hiding from the Indians, so he dismounted insisting that his friend ride on. He tried to hide under some leaves and brush in a gully, but this time he was found and killed, his body brutally beaten by the savages. This was at Baby Head in Llano County. He is buried at the Mannah Cemetery in Cherokee. On January 16, 1973, we were directed to his grave by Mr. Raymond Gray whose mother was the granddaughter of Capt. John. The original grave stone has crumbled and a nice new one has been erected, apparently within the last few years. The inscription reads:

Capt. Johnny Williams
 Born 1798
 Killed by Indians Oct. 2, 1862
 Donated this cemetery plot to the public
 This stone erected by friends and relatives

We do not know just when James B. moved his family to San Saba County. They lived there for a few years between 1852 and 1862 while he was serving with the Rangers. After the death of Capt. John, James B. moved his family back to Williamson County. It is believed he built the old Williams house in Glasscock Valley, about twelve miles north of Georgetown. The original house has been enlarged and an immense barn stands nearby. His great, great grandson still lives there. It was here that Sarah died in 1862 and here James B. lived out his life among his children and grandchildren. He engaged in stock farming and ranching and was an honored and re-

spected citizen.

A direct quotation from his grandson, Shelley: "He was a good man. He was good to Alvia and me."

And from his daughter-in-law, Anna: "He was a good Christian man."

Sarah, the mother of ten of his children, is buried by his side at Berry's Creek Cemetery.

The marriage records at Georgetown Court House show that James B. Williams and Miss Martha Ward of Glasscock Valley were united in marriage in 1874. They had twin daughters, Etta and Emma, and one son, Lee. Martha was much younger than James B. and lived for many years after his death. In about 1925 she went to Waco to live with her children and she is buried there. I have no record of her children.

Following is a list of and some brief information regarding the children and grandchildren of James B. and Sarah Coffey Williams:

1. Mason - born 1840 in Arkansas. Married Emily Houston, first cousin to Gov. Sam Houston. They lost several infants but raised at least two children to adulthood, ^{MILTON} Mason and Mae.

Mason was a beloved member of the Berry's Creed Community and a minister in the Christian Church. He and most of his family are buried at Berry's Creek.

2. Elizabeth - born 1842 in Arkansas. Married John Mankin/ who was killed in the Civil War. They had one son, James. She then married William S. Howell. They owned and operated the Howell Ranch, fifteen miles northwest of Georgetown. Their only daughter, Ann, married Tom Keener and died in child-

birth. One son, Jackson, died in his youth. The remaining six Howell boys, Spencer, John and Tom (twins), Henry, Kelse and Bennie all grew to old age and were prominent cattlemen and stock farmers. Tom and Henry founded the Howell Commission Company in Fort Worth. They have many well-known descendants in Dallas, Houston, Corpus Christi and San Saba.

3. Issec Madison - born April 19, 1844 in Washington County, Arkansas. He volunteered for service in the Civil War and served in Co. "A", Morgan's Cavalry. He took part in the battle of Gravel Ridge, Cape Girardeau, Old Jackson, White Water, Little Rock, Pine Bluff and others. Two horses were shot from under him but he was never wounded or captured. After the war ended, "Ike" returned to Berry's Creek and resumed stock farming. He married Elizabeth "Sis" Roberts and they raised a large family and became ~~perhaps the largest~~ land owners in Williamson County.

Their first son, William Mason, was accidentally drowned at the age of two years, The other children were: Enzy David, born 1871, married Carrie Hughes who died in 1905. His second wife was Annie Hawthorne.

Sallie - married J. W. Stiles

Lucy - married W. W. Edwards

King - married Medora Thwing

Fannie - married Lawson Sudduth

Willie - married Lore Cobb

Maggie - married J. F. Hausenfluke

The Ike M. Williams Ranch was known as the -M- Ranch. The once beautiful home stands on the north edge of Georgetown. Many of the descendants of this pioneer family live in and around Georgetown. It is to their credit that much of the land acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Williams is still owned and operated by their grandchildren. (Their last living child, Fannie Sudduth, died in 1971.)

I am indebted to Mrs. Beatrice Walker, a granddaughter of Ike M. Williams for much of the information concerning this family and for encouragement in the undertaking to erect an historical marker at the grave of our great grandfather.

4. Sabra Jane - married Evan Mankins, brother to John Mankins, first husband of Elizabeth. They lived in a large farm house east of Georgetown known as the "Mankins' Place". They raised several children. She and her husband are buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery at Georgetown.
5. David - born 1847 in Arkansas. Volunteered for service toward the end of the Civil War. Upon his return there was a party at his father's house to celebrate his homecoming. David fell dead at the party, apparently from a heart attack.
6. Keise Harrison - born 1851 in Texas. Married Anna M. Russell.

Their children:
ALVIA DAVID - married Lizzie Turner - died Age 23
 Shelley W. - Married Catherine Ann Thwing

Della - Married Josephus Green

Claud H. - Married Mary Wilkerson

Hattie - Married John Turner

7. John N. - Married Lizzie Berry. One son, Manley.
8. Mary Ellen - Married George Tackett. They moved to Erath County and raised a large family. They acquired extensive land holdings.
9. Melinda (Lynn) - married Wesley Salyer. She died in childbirth. Lynn was called "our little Indian Aunt" by her brother Kelse's children. She loved to play games with the children and with her dark hair and eyes showed her Indian blood, perhaps handed down from her Maryland ancestors. The story is that in the early or middle 1700's one of the Williams men in Maryland married an Indian princess and every now and then her beautiful black^{hair}~~and~~ and eyes would show up in one of her descendants.
10. Sabra, called Maggie - married Bill Tackett, brother to George Tackett. She also died in childbirth and is buried at Berry's Creek..

*Mr George B. Blomquist, Sr
 Ne: Myrtice Shessey Williams*

Please see attachments

Following is a copy of a news paper clipping and other data copied from records of the State Historical Society in Frankfort, Kentucky in July 1972 by my daughter Ann Brenadise.

Court Records from Madison County, Kentucky
February Court 1788 -

pg 28 A deed from Higginson Grubbs to Isaac Williams was acknowledged and ordered to be recorded.

August Court 1789 -

pg 52 --- Madison County Court House ---
Isaac Williams sworn to Grand Jury

May Court 1790

pg 65 Isaac Williams sworn to Grand Jury

June Court 1790

pg 68 A deed from Higginson Grubbs et ux to Isaac Williams was acknowledged etc

Madison County Pensions - Voluntary
Soldiers

pg 53 Mathias Lambert 79 yrs

Born 15 Mar 1755 - married Jan 27, 1796

Married Elizabeth Williams Son, John Lambert

Applied for pension July 7, 1834

Placed on roll July 23, 1834

Enlisted Augusta County, Va. April 1779

Moved to Kentucky 1782

Issac Williams b. 1735, Father Henry
Evidence strong that Henry was son of
John the immigrant who arrived in old
Rippohannock Co. Va in 1650.

Winnie Williams listed as sixth
to Daniel Boone.

Issac Wms 1810 census Madison Co, Ky
wife and 10 children. [must be same Issac
on tax list of Madison Co 1790]

John Coffey come from Ireland to
Liverpool to Essex Co Va in 1690. Evidence
that this is ancestor of Sarah Coffey wife of
James B Williams.

David M Wms b 1772 in NC - In 1816 was
in Alabama

John R Wms married Sarah Wager who
believed first Williams truly to be born in
Texas - Annas Day 1848 at Berry's Creek.

Mh Jan 29, '73

A.C. 704 only
David
Asheville Hwy
877 3196

David Lobdell

Asheville Hwy 877 3196 - ?
Pisgah Forest N.C.

POWERS FAMILY

Mrs. R. N. Lobdell, Route 1, Pisgah Forest, North Carolina, gives much information on the Williams family.

"It seems that the Williams family were confirmed Baptists. I really got started on them because I wondered if we aren't descendants of Roger Williams or perhaps his brother Robert, who was a New England teacher, as you probably know. Was the Reverend Mason Williams Isaac's son or his grandson Mason H. P. Williams, born in the early 1800's? Mason, Isaac's son, was born 1779 according to our records. Isaac's daughter, Charity Williams Power, had two sons who were Baptist ministers. They both moved to Texas where they lived until after the Civil War. Their sister, Sarah, married a Baptist minister, the Reverend Cullen Bryant Young. My aunt told me that one of Isaac's sons or grandsons, I did not remember which, was a senator; as I did not find his name as a U. S. senator, and did not have a list of senators, I was glad to have your corroboration of the family tradition in that particular.

"I regret very much that I do not know where Isaac lived in Kentucky. My father and aunt both thought that he at one time lived and owned property at Crab Orchard Springs, that perhaps he even died there, but they were not sure that they remembered the name of the place correctly. I am of the opinion that he moved, or perhaps traveled, would be a better word, about considerably. The family tradition is that he made two or three trips to Kentucky before moving his family there. It is thought that he went with Daniel Boone before the Revolution. I think that it is possible that he was a young relative of John Williams of N. C. who was a member of the law firm of Henderson and Williams. They were cousins and formed the Louisa Company that sent Daniel Boone to Kentucky to locate land. I think it quite possible that young Isaac went along, thrilled at the prospect of such a trip and proud to represent the family. The first explorations were made in 1764-65 by Henry Scraggs, Richard Calloway, and Daniel Boone who were to study the land along the main rivers. On this trip it was the Cumberland and Tennessee. The Louisa Company was organized in 1774. The purpose was "to rent or purchase a certain territory lying on the west side of the mountains on the waters of the Mississippi from Indian tribes now in possession thereof." On Jan. 6, 1775, the company was reorganized as the Transylvania Company. Henderson's company bought the title to the lands which were to be sold to individuals. The idea was to form a "fourteenth colony." A report of these land companies can be found in "North Carolina, the Old North State," by Archibald Henderson.

"Isaac Williams moved his family to Kentucky about 1795. His wife, who before her marriage was Mary

100 James B. Williams

3892

Mason Williams, minister
b. 1840 in Ark -
son of James B. and
grandson of Isaac &
Sarah Bennett Williams
moved to Texas 1848

Isaac & Sarah Bennett
Williams also had a son
named Mason, born
about 1824 - He could
have been a minister
also.

← There is evidence that
Daniel Boone, sister
Marcella Williams
their young Isaac may
have been a nephew
to Dan Boone