

Coincidence and Setbacks

by Kyle Williams

April 10, 1826 must have been a busy day for the midwife in Llandeilo'r Fan parish. On that day Mary Davies Price gave birth to a girl, and Ruth Jones Williams gave birth to a boy. Two births on the same day is a coincidence in a small parish like Llandeilo'r Fan.

Ruth Jones Williams lived at Bryn-melyn farm with her husband Daniel Williams. They were my great-great-great grandparents. They named their son Samuel Daniel Williams. Uncle Samuel does not appear to have been christened in the Anglican Church.

Mary Davies Price lived at Ty'n-y-gwyn farm with her husband Daniel Price. They named their daughter Ann Price. She was christened by the Anglican curate, Thomas Price, on May 14, 1826. Before Ann was ten years old, the Price family moved to Waun-lwyd farm, a short distance from Bryn-melyn. Ann Price, then, grew up as a close neighbor of Samuel Daniel Williams.

A second coincidence is that Ann Price and Uncle Samuel, who were born on the same day, were baptized into the Mormon Church in the same year – 1848. I don't know the day of the year when Ann Price was baptized, but it was November 10, 1848 when Jonathan J. Thomas baptized Samuel Daniel Williams.

Uncle Samuel's conversion fundamentally changed his character. He had collected many popular songs of his day. However, when he embraced the Latter-day Saint gospel, he burned his collection, thinking the songs were nonsense. By April 1851, Uncle Samuel had become a Latter-day Saint preacher.

Here's a third coincidence: Not only did Ann and Samuel share the same birthday, they also shared the same wedding day. On the exact same day in November 1851, both Ann Price and Samuel Daniel Williams got married. If you haven't guessed it by now, they married each other.

Aunt Ann was a well-built, heavy set, good looking lady with blue eyes and dark brown hair. Her teeth were in good condition throughout her life. Uncle Samuel stood about five feet, nine or ten inches tall. He had light brown eyes and black, easily waved hair. He was slender when young and became heavy-set with age.

The young couple wanted to gather with the Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. They sold everything on the farm and made a payment toward passage to America. However, while preparing for the voyage, Aunt Ann fell from the barn loft to the floor. She was so badly injured that she and Uncle Samuel were unable to emigrate.

Aunt Ann was disappointed, but in 1853, Uncle Samuel consoled her by interpreting a dream. In her dream Aunt Ann saw the Saints suffering and dying in their migration toward Salt Lake City. Uncle Samuel believed that by delaying their departure they had avoided starvation, suffering and death on the plains.

Instead of going to America, Uncle Samuel and Aunt Ann settled in Llandeilo'r Fan parish to raise a family. Daniel Williams was born February 3, 1853, two days before Samuel's parents sailed for America on the ship *Jersey*. The grandparents had already left Llandeilo'r Fan, and they never saw little Daniel. Mary Ann Williams was born on August 25, 1854, Ruth Williams on March 27, 1857, and Samuel John Williams on May 2, 1865.

The oldest boy, Daniel, lived with Aunt Ann's parents at Waun-lwyd. The rest of the family lived at Top-glas, a rented farm, situated between Waun-lwyd and Bryn-melyn.

Their home was a big, two-story rock house, facing south. The windows were set in lead. The floor was laid with large, flat stones. Larger rock tablets were in front of the fireplace, which was fueled with peat, the dark turf that Uncle Samuel cut and dried in chunks. A creek ran through the dooryard, but fishing was prohibited. At Top-glas, the Williams family raised ducks, geese, chickens, cows, horses and sheep. The children worked on the farm and played among the wildflowers. In the winter they knit stockings for sale. They didn't attend much school.

Ann Price Williams was only forty years old when she died suddenly in the night of April 27, 1866. Uncle Samuel gathered his two young daughters and infant son downstairs and told them their mother was dying. He put the children on the bed beside his wife while he went for help. The terrified children sat by their dead mother in the lonely farm house until Uncle Samuel returned with some friends.

On April 30, 1866, Ann Price Williams was buried in the churchyard of Cefnarthen Independent Chapel at Babel, Llanfair-ar-y-bryn (now Llandovery), Carmarthenshire. The chapel faced north, and Aunt Ann was buried on the east side of the churchyard.

At age forty, Uncle Samuel lost his lifelong companion. They were coincidentally born on the same day. Both converted to the LDS church at the age of 22. They married at age 25, had four children, and suddenly she was gone. The widower and his motherless children would have to struggle on without her. Their story will continue, but for now, let's leave them at the grave at Cefnarthen, mourning the loss of their beloved Ann Price Williams.

NOTES

The main source for the life of Samuel Daniel Williams and Ann Price Williams is "Samuel Daniel Williams and Elizabeth Ann Parry Williams History," which can be found online at <http://www.welshmormonhistory.org/index.php?/resources/view/1557>. I lifted most of "Coincidence and Setbacks" from that History. The History is an expanded version of a biography by Earl J. Thomas, found on pages 57-59 of *The Samaritans* (compiled and edited by Raymond R. Martin and Esther Jenkins Carpenter, printed 1968 by Carr Printing Company, Bountiful, Utah), and at <http://www.welshmormonhistory.org/index.php?/resources/view/829>.

I have supplemented the biography with information from the Bishop's Transcripts and the 1841, 1851 and 1861 Censuses of Llandeilo'r Fan. Summaries of these records are online at: <http://www.heartoftn.net/users/shagbark/welcome.html>.

1841 Census of Llandeilo'r Fan (FHL 464,300), Enumeration District 15:

page 4	Wainlwyd	Daniel Price	40	Farmer
page 4	Wainlwyd	Thomas Price	19	
page 4	Wainlwyd	Daniel Price	5	
page 4	Wainlwyd	Mary Price	40	
page 4	Wainlwyd	Mary Price	17	
page 4	Wainlwyd	Anne Price	15	
page 4	Wainlwyd	Margaret Price	10	
page 4	Wainlwyd	Gwen Griffiths	35	Pauper
page 5	Brinmelin	Daniel Williams	60	Farmer
page 5	Brinmelin	Ruth Williams	60	
page 5	Brinmelin	Mary Williams	20	

page 5	Brinmelin	Samuel Williams	15
page 5	Brinmelin	Roderick Williams	35
page 5	Brinmelin	Anne Williams	30
page 5	Brinmelin	John Williams	17
page 5	Brinmelin	Ann Jones	10 months

1851 Census, Llandeilo'r Fan (FHL 104,249), Enumeration District 1b:

No. 16	Wainlwid	Daniel Price	Head	M 53	Farmer of 200 acres
No. 16	Wainlwid	Mary Price	Wife	M 52	Farmer's Wife
No. 16	Wainlwid	Thomas Price	Son	U 29	Farmer Son
No. 16	Wainlwid	Mary Price	Daur.	U 27	Farmer Daur.
No. 16	Wainlwid	Ann Price	Daur.	U 24	Farmer Daur.
No. 16	Wainlwid	Margaret Price	Daur.	U 20	Farmer Daur.
No. 16	Wainlwid	Daniel Price	Son	U 16	Shepherd
No. 16	Wainlwid	Gwen Griffiths		U 52	Pauper receiving relief
No. 20	Brinmelin	Daniel Williams	Head	M 68	Farmer of 94 acres
No. 20	Brinmelin	Ruth Williams	Wife	M 71	Farmer's Wife
No. 20	Brinmelin	Samuel Williams	Son	U 24	Laterday Saint Preacher
No. 20	Brinmelin	John Williams	Grd Son	9	Errand Boy
No. 20	Brinmelin	Esther Price	Grd Daur.	8	Errand Girl

1861 Census, Llandeilo'r Fan (FHL 543,251), Enumeration District 15:

No. 27	Waunloyd	Daniel Price	Head	W 64	Farmer
No. 27	Waunloyd	Daniel Price	Son	M 26	
No. 27	Waunloyd	Mary Price	Daur.	U 38	
No. 27	Waunloyd	Mary Price	D-in-L	M 30	
No. 27	Waunloyd	Daniel Price	G-Son	U 4	
No. 27	Waunloyd	Daniel Williams	G-Son	U 9	
No. 27	Waunloyd	Margaret Pryse	G-Dau	U 1	
No. 29	Top Glaes	Samuel Williams	Head	M 34	Farmer of 60 acres
No. 29	Top Glaes	Ann Williams	Wife	M 34	Farmer's Wife
No. 29	Top Glaes	Mary Williams	Daur.	U 7	Farmer's Daur.
No. 29	Top Glaes	Ruth Williams	Daur.	U 5	Farmer's Daur.
No. 29	Top Glaes	Mary Davies	Serv.	U 12	General Serv.

I have previously dealt with the legend of 14-year-old Samuel Daniel Williams heckling the missionaries (see "Saints in Llandeilo'r Fan").

The person who baptized Samuel Daniel Williams appears to be Jonathan Joshua Thomas (or Rowland), son of Jonathan Rowland & Eleanor Havard Thomas. He was born 7 Dec 1816 Devynock, Brecknockshire, Wales. He was baptized into the LDS Church in October 1847 (LDS records at <https://new.familysearch.org> #KWV7-51J).

According to "Samuel Daniel Williams and Elizabeth Ann Parry Williams History," Samuel Daniel Williams and Ann Price were married in November 1850. I believe this is an error. Both Samuel and Ann are enumerated as unmarried and living with their parents in the census of April 1851. Therefore, I believe they were married in November 1851. This is a normal interval of one

year and three months before the birth of their first child.

Information on the emigration of Daniel Williams and Ruth Jones Williams aboard the ship *Jersey* can be found on the "Mormon Immigration Index," available on CD (item #50174000) at <http://www.ldscatalog.com>.

Cefnarthan Independent Chapel was located off the West boundary line of Llandeilo'r Fan parish at OS coordinates 283930,235050, just over a ridge from Maes-y-bwlch. Top-glas was at 287880,237520. From Top-glas, Cefnarthan was about four kilometers to the West and about two and a half kilometers to the South. The distance in a straight line was four and two thirds kilometers (almost 3 miles).

The story of Samuel Daniel Williams and his family will be continued....

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