

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

*The following is an unfinished report. I hope to continue with it next month, after my trip to Wales.*

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2008, I was working with the records of Llandeilo'r Fan, Brecknockshire, Wales. I noticed that Elizabeth Williams was buried on 28 Aug 1832. Being 93 years old, she would have been born between 28 Aug 1738 and 28 Aug 1739. When she died her home was at Drain-duon, which is Welsh for Blackthorn.

Drain-duon being a house inhabited by our Williams family, I wondered whether this Elizabeth Williams was my great-great-great grandmother, Eliza Evans who married Roderick Williams on 28 Feb 1778.

I looked to see who else was living at Drain-duon at the time Elizabeth Williams died. On 18 Jan 1824 Margaret, daughter of John and Mary Davies, was christened. The Davies family lived at Drain-duon nine years before Elizabeth Williams died. On 9 July 1834 Rees, son of David & Mary Davies, was baptized. This Davies family lived at Drain-duon almost two years after Elizabeth Williams died.

I recalled that in 1886 John Jones Williams claimed to be a nephew of Rees Davis (an anglicized spelling of Davies). The order in which the list of relatives was compiled leads me to believe that Rees Davies was a son-in-law of Roderick Williams and/or Elizabeth Evans Williams. It was possibly their daughter Margaret who married Rees Davies.

Naturally, the question arose, were John Davies and David Davies related to Elizabeth Williams through Rees Davies?

### John Davies

I found John Davies in the 1841 census of Llandeilo'r Fan:

Buffallt	John	Davies	50	Ag. Lab.	Born in Brecknockshire
	Mary	Davies	45		Not born in Brecknockshire
	Evan	Davies	14		Born in Brecknockshire

Because the ages (over 15) were rounded up to the nearest five, we can figure that John Davies was born between 1785 and 1791. Mary was born between 1790 and 1796. Evan was born in 1826-1827. This family seems to have moved from Llandeilo'r Fan between 1841 and 1851.

From the Bishop's Transcripts we discover that the following occurred in Llandeilo'r Fan: On 26 Dec 1822 John Davies, a bachelor, married Mary Williams, a spinster. Both were of Llandeilo'r Fan. On 18 Jan 1824 John & Mary Davies of Drain-duon had their daughter Margaret Davies christened. On 8 Apr 1827 John and Mary Davies of Buffallt had their son Evan christened.

### David Davies

The Bishop's Transcripts show that the following happened in Llandeilo'r Fan: On 20 Oct 1826 David Davies, a bachelor, married Mary Price, a spinster, both of Llandeilo'r Fan. On 9 Sep 1832 David & Mary Davies of Maes-gwynn had their son David christened. On 9 Jul 1834 David & Mary Davies of Drain-duon had their son Rees christened.

This family must have moved out of the parish between 1834 and 1841. There are no census or

burial records for them in Llandeilo'r Fan.

### **Prediction**

It seemed likely that the Elizabeth Williams who died at Drain-duon in 1832 was the grandmother of John Davies or David Davies, or both. I predicted that if this Elizabeth were my ancestress, Rees Davies would be the father of John or David.

### **Fulfillment**

To test my prediction, I examined the Bishop's Transcripts of Llandeilo'r Fan. To my gratification, I found the following entries:

Christenings 1799 ... June ... 27 ... John Son of Rees David.

Xnings ... 1807 ... Feb. ... 22<sup>d</sup>. David Son of Rees Davies

These are the closest matches for John Davies and David Davies. My prediction was beautifully fulfilled. John Davies turns out to be younger than the census indicates, but this should not be too troubling. Census records are notorious for showing incorrect ages, and the 1841 census of Llandeilo'r Fan is no exception to the rule.

Rees Davies had other children, too. Here are all his children, according to the christening records:

22 Jun 1794	Elizabeth
27 Jun 1799	John
22 Jan 1803	Ann
25 Nov 1804	Rees
22 Feb 1807	David

I looked for a marriage between Rees Davies and Margaret, but I didn't find one. It could be that they were married in another parish, or that Margaret was not his wife. The marriage that seems to fit best is:

18 Nov 1791 Rees Davies & Ann Jones

### **Another Prediction**

If the connection I'm trying to make is correct, Ann Jones would be a daughter of Elizabeth Evans. Elizabeth Evans would have married Roderick Williams as a 39-year-old widow with children, probably three daughters. I predict that I will find a marriage between Elizabeth Evans and a John or Jones, probably around 1760. I will also find three Jones girls christened between 1760 and 1778, two of them named Ann and Margaret.

### **Not Yet Fulfilled**

This prediction didn't work out as well as the first. It's possible that the theory is wrong, or that the Jones girls were not christened in Llandeilo'r Fan. They may have been christened in an adjoining parish.

### **Who Was Elizabeth Williams?**

There are three possibilities: Either Elizabeth Williams was christened on 25 Dec 1738:

1738 Christnings ... NB 10ber ye 25<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth Daughter of Howell Beavan  
Illegitimately begotten Baptd.

Or she was christened 26 Feb 1739:

Christnings ... 1739 ... Febry. ye 26<sup>th</sup>. Elizabeth ye Daughter of Wm. Watkins

Or she was not christened in Llandeilo'r Fan.

The daughter of William Watkins appears to have married David Lloyd. She is not a good candidate for the Elizabeth Williams who died in 1832 at Drain-duon:

William Watkin (bur 26 Jan 1788)

1. Watkin (chr 22 Apr 1736; bur 27 Jan 1736/7)
2. Martha Watkins (chr 18 Aug 1737) married 19 May 1759 John Price
  - 2.1. Ann (chr 12 Apr 1762)
  - 2.2. Mault (chr 4 Jun 1765)
3. **Elizabeth Watkins** (chr 26 Feb 1739/40) married 22 Apr 1763 David Lloyd
4. Rees (chr 14 Jun 1741; bur 21 Mar 1741/2)
5. David (chr 16 Apr 1742)
6. Margaret (chr 9 Nov 1744)
7. Daniel (chr 18 Mar 1746/7)

The daughter of Howell Beavan looks more promising:

Evan Morgan (bur 1746/1752)

1. Jonett (chr 9 Jun 1714)
2. Howell Beavan (chr 9 Aug 1720; bur 1773/1774/1781) wed 1746 Elizabeth Williams
  - 2.1. **Elizabeth**, illegitimate daughter of Howell Beavan (chr 25 Dec 1738)
  - 2.2. Evan (1752-)
  - 2.3. William (1755-)
  - 2.4. Gwen (1758-)
  - 2.5. Elizabeth (1760-)
3. Morgan (chr 26 Apr 1722)

During Elizabeth's lifetime, the patronymic system was gradually giving way to fixed surnames. She might have called herself Elizabeth Powell early in life and Elizabeth Evans or Beavan later. Women normally kept their maiden names throughout their life, but this gradually changed, too. Therefore, it's possible that she married Mr. Jones as Elizabeth POWELL, that she married Roderick Williams as Elizabeth EVANS, and that she was buried as Elizabeth WILLIAMS.

The records of Llandeilo'r Fan show two possible marriages for the daughter of Howell Beavan:

Elizabeth Evans married Francis Evans 23 Sep 1768.  
Elizabeth Powell married Evan Jones 20 Dec 1771.

The marriage to Evan Jones seems to fit my theory nicely.

## Conclusion

If my ancestress Elizabeth Evans Williams was indeed born in 1738-1739, this seems to favor the theory that Roderick Williams was the son of Rowland Williams of Llanfihangel Abergwesin, born in 1742. This would make him only three years younger than Elizabeth. If Roderick were the son of William Prytherch of Llandeilo'r Fan, he would have been born in 1750, making him eleven years younger.

An older Roderick Williams solves another problem, too. A Roderick Williams served as Church Warden in Llandeilo'r Fan in 1763 and 1764. This could be the son of Rowland Williams, age 21. The 13-year-old son of William Prytherch would have been too young to serve as Church Warden.

In Wales, I hope to check other parishes for (1) a first marriage of Elizabeth Evans to a John or Jones; (2) three daughters, two of them named Ann and Margaret; (3) a marriage of Rees Walter to Margaret Jones; (4) a marriage of William Walter to a Jones girl; and (5) a death of Evan Jones about 1777; (6) anything else that might shed light on this interesting puzzle.

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NB: Rees Walter married Margaret Jones 30 Dec 1797 Llanddewi Abergwesyn, Brecon, Wales. (familysearch MTF5-RJC). Llanddewi Abergwesyn is near Llanfihangel Abergwesyn, to the west. 285130,252590. I have examined the Bishop's transcripts on 5-3-2008. I see no reference to this marriage.

Rees Walter married Margaret Jones 3 Nov 1788 Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, Wales.

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## Notes

Most of the information in this unfinished article came from the Bishop's Transcripts of Llandeilo'r Fan (FHL 104,471 item 4). Some information came from the 1841 Census of Llandeilo'r Fan (FHL 464,300). I have abstracted these sources and placed them on the Internet at <http://www.heartoftn.net/users/shagbark/welcome.html>. I must warn, however, that there are errors in my abstracts. Always check the originals (keeping in mind that the originals also contain errors).

The record of the daughters and sons-in-law of Roderick and Eliza is found in the Logan Temple records, Baptisms for the Dead, #15836 (FHL 177,843). On 13 April 1886 John Jones Williams reported that he was:

Nephew of	William Williams
Cousin of	Roderick Williams
Brother of	Reese Williams
Brother of	Daniel Williams
Grandson [sic] of	William Williams
G-Grandson [sic] of	Roderick Williams
<b>Nephew of</b>	<b>Reese Davis</b>
<b>Nephew of</b>	<b>William Walter</b>
<b>Nephew of</b>	<b>Reese Walter</b>
Grandson of	William Jones
Nephew of	Thomas Jones
Nephew of	Daniel Jones
Nephew of	William Jones
Nephew of	Thomas Rowlance
Relative of	David Rowlance
Nephew of	William Davis
Relative of	Edward Davis
Relative of	William Jones

Relative of David Griffith

This information is not completely reliable. John Jones Williams was not a grandson of William Williams. He was a grandson (not a great-grandson) of Roderick Williams. On the same day, 13 Apr 1886, Elvira Ann Williams Harrison reported that she was:

Gt. Gd. Dau of	Mrs. Elizabeth Williams
<b>Grandniece of</b>	<b>Margaret Williams</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> G-Granddaughter	2 <sup>nd</sup> G-Grandmother Williams
Grandniece-in-law of	Mrs. Ann Williams
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cousin of	Mary Williams
2 <sup>nd</sup> Cousin of	Elizabeth Williams
<b>Grandniece-in-law of</b>	<b>Mrs. William Walter</b>
Grandniece-in-law of	Mrs. Mary Jones
Grandniece of	Ann Jones
Grandniece-in-law of	Mrs. Elizabeth Rowlance
Relative of	Ruth Rowlance
Grandniece of	Dinah Davis

For general information about patronymics, surnames and maiden names in Wales, I recommend John and Sheila Rowlands, *The Surnames of Wales* (1996, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore); (FHL British, 942.9 D4r).

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