

Rees Williams

*Out, out, brief candle!
Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage
And then is heard no more.*

Rees Williams, born June 20, 1811, was the third child of my great-great-grandparents, Daniel Williams and Ruth Jones Williams. He was christened at St. Teilo's Church, Llandeilo'r-fân, Brecknockshire on June 30, 1811. When Rees was born, his brother Roderick was five years old, and his brother William was three.

When Rees was two years old his brother Daniel was born at Brunant farm in Llandeilo'r-fân parish. It seems likely, then, that Rees was also born at Brunant. When Rees was almost five years old, his sister Ruth was born at Brunant. When Rees was eight years old, his sister Mary was born at Nant-y-gwrdu farm. When Rees was thirteen years old, his brother John (my great-great-grandfather) was born. When Rees was fifteen years old, his brother Samuel was born.

His father being a farmer, Rees probably began doing farm-related chores from an early age. In Wales, it was common for children to become servants in nearby households. That may explain why Rees Williams lived at Cae'r-llwyn farm when he died at age eighteen, unmarried and childless. He was buried September 18, 1829 in Llandeilo'r-fân parish.

On April 13, 1886 my great-great-grandfather John Jones Williams went to the Latter-day Saint temple in Logan, Utah. There he was baptized in proxy for his deceased brother Rees. According to the temple records, "Reese" Williams was born about 1808 in "Llandilow, Brecon, S. Wales," and died about 1828. The dates are a little off, but under the circumstances, the approximations are tolerable.

This is all I know about the brief life of Rees Williams.

Not to Be Confused with the Other Rees Williams

My relative Rees Williams was born in 1811. Another Rees Williams was born three years before. A son of Walter and Mary Williams, the other Rees was christened 22 May 1808 in Llandeilo'r-fân parish. He is enumerated in the 1851 census of Ffos-y-gerwyn, Trallong, Brecknockshire with a wife named Mary, three children and four servants.

I recently learned that a researcher has confused one Rees Williams with the other. I hope this report is enough to put the confusion to rest. It is certain that Rees, the son of Daniel Williams, died in 1829. The other Rees, the son of Walter Williams, moved to Trallong parish where he raised his family.

NOTES

The quote under the title is from William Shakespeare's Macbeth, Act V, Scene 5.

The birth, baptism and burial of Rees Williams (1811-1829) and the baptism of Rees Williams (1808-) are found in the Parish Registers or the Bishop's Transcripts of Llandeilo'r-fân, Brecknockshire, Wales. The Parish Registers are available at the National Library of Wales. The Bishop's Transcripts are available through the LDS Family History Library, film 104,471, item 4.

For the proxy baptism of Rees Williams in the Logan Temple, see LDS Family History Library, film 177,843.

I found the 1851 census of "Ffos-y-gerwyn Farm, Trallong, Breconshire" in a book Cousin Hal Williams recently sent me: *Roderick and Elizabeth Williams of Llandeilo'r Fan, Breconshire, Wales and some of their descendents in Britain and America*. The author, Ann Lynette Brown of Griffith, New South Wales, Australia, published the book in August 2002. She compiled the book for Cousins Richard Jay and Jennie Louise Williams of Coolidge, Arizona, who served an LDS mission in Australia. Brown is to be thanked and congratulated for her fine work, but it does contain some errors.

See my other reports for notes on the parents and siblings of Rees Williams.

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