

William Williams (1808-1877) **and his wife** **Ann Williams Williams**

I know only a few facts about Uncle William Williams, son of my great-great-great-grandparents Daniel and Ruth Jones Williams. He was their second child and their second son, and according to Welsh custom, he was named after his mother's father, William Jones.

William Williams was born on April 7, 1808. He was baptized three days later, on April 10, 1808, in St. Teilo's Church, Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.

His father, Daniel Williams, was a farmer. Assuming William stayed at his father's home until his marriage, he grew up on Brunant and Nant-y-gwrdu farms in Llandeilo'r-fân Parish, and possibly on Bryn-melyn farm. However, he might have worked as a servant in other households, as was common in Wales.

At age twenty-one, William became the first of his siblings to get married. On June 3, 1829 he married Ann Williams in Llandeilo'r-fân. Ann Williams was born about 1807 in Tirabad, Breconshire. Her mother, Mary Price Williams, was born about 1776 in Llanwrtyd, Breconshire, and she died November 19, 1864. Ann's father (possibly named Thomas Williams) died sometime before 1841.

Between 1829 and 1841 William and Ann Williams moved to the Clydach Works in Llanelly Parish, Breconshire. They were there when the 1841 census was taken. William, a miner, lived with his wife, Ann, his daughter, Ruth, and his mother-in-law, Mary Williams.

Ruth Williams appears to have been the only child of William and Ann Williams. She was born May 9, 1835 in Breconshire. She died on May 9, 1845, her tenth birthday.

Between 1841 and 1851 William's older brother, Roderick Williams, moved to Clydach, where the two brothers lived next door to one another. In 1851, William was a 43-year-old shoemaker living with his wife, Ann, and his 74-year-old mother-in-law, Mary Williams, who was a pauper. Also in his household was his 4-year-old nephew Roderick Williams, Jr., whose parents lived next door.

William was not the only shoemaker in the family. His uncle, also named William Williams, was a shoemaker in Llandeilo'r-fân. It's possible that the younger William learned the trade from his uncle.

It's unclear when William Williams joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. An undocumented record says that he was baptized in 1847. That would be surprisingly early. I believe John Evan Price was the first in the family to join the Church, on September 26, 1847, followed by his wife, Ruth Williams Price on October 17, 1847. I believe that it was early in 1848 when John Evan Price introduced the Mormon religion to the rest of the family, who were baptized between 1848 and 1850. The question of when a person first joined the Church is complicated by the practice of re-baptism, which was common at the time. Many members were re-baptized several times over a period of years. Though my research has not been exhaustive, the earliest record I have found for William's baptism was on March 22, 1857, when John Thomas baptized and confirmed him in Brynmawr.

Between 1851 and 1861 William's brother Roderick moved to Ystradgynlais, Breconshire. In 1861, 53-year-old William Williams still lived at Clydach Bridge in the town of Brynmawr with his wife, Ann, and his 86-year-old mother-in-law, Mary Williams. William was listed as a shoemaker and coal miner. He apparently didn't do enough shoemaking business to satisfy his needs, and he had to supplement his income with hard labor.

Sometime between 1861 and 1874 William and Ann Williams emigrated from Wales to

gather with the Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. On October 19 1874, William participated in the Latter-day Saint ordinance called endowment.

William Williams ended up in Lewisville, Jefferson County, Idaho where he died on March 4, 1877. The 1880 census of Samaria, Oneida County, Idaho shows an Ann Williams, widow, age 76, born in Wales. Further research may show whether or not she was William's widow.

At any rate, Ann Williams stayed close to her in-laws. On April 13, 1886, she went to the Logan Temple in Utah with her brother-in-law John Jones Williams and his daughter Ruth Elizabeth Williams Richardson. Together they performed baptisms for the dead for eighteen relatives of Ann Williams Williams.

An Ann Williams seems to have died on February 20, 1889 in Salt Lake City, Utah. This may or may not have been Aunt Ann Williams Williams.

There is much research yet to be done on William Williams and his family. It would be interesting to know if any biographical data survive, and if he has any living descendants. At present, I have more questions than answers.

NOTES

The sources of Information for William Williams and his family are:

Family Group Records (FGR) on the family of Daniel Williams and Ruth Jones Williams. They are my only sources for the birth of William Williams (William William Williams according to Trush) on 7 Apr 1808 in Llandeilo'r-fân (Trush, Nielsen), his baptism in 1847 (Trush), his endowment on 19 Oct 1874 (Parson, Nielsen, Trush, Williams), and his death on 4 Mar 1877 in Lewisville, Idaho (Parson, Nielsen, Williams). Family Group Records are not primary sources, and the accuracy of this information should be considered questionable until verified.

- FGR submitted by Mrs. Andrew M. Parson and Cornelius Mont [? hard to read]; undated but after 14 May 1937 and appearing to be old; citing as sources of information, "F Brecon S1 pt 14; F Wales 2 pt 6; family records of Mrs. Rosanna Williams Denning and Mrs. Ruth Price Sorensen; Mrs. Martha Denning Olaveson."
- FGR called an Archive Record submitted by William J. Nielsen, Route #4 Box 106, Idaho Falls, Idaho; undated, but apparently near 7 Dec 1967 when LDS ordinances for Daniel Williams and William Williams were reconfirmed; citing as sources, "F. Brecon S1 pt. 14 F Wales 2 pt. 6 Fam. Rec. of Rosanna Denning. Ruth P. Sorensen, Martha D. Olaveson."
- FGR submitted by Susan W. Trush, 150 S. 2nd W. Apt. C, Brigham City, Utah 84302; submitted to Genealogical Society May 1976; citing as sources of information, "Book of Rem. In possession of Alverda W. Parker, 5860 S. 1900 W., Roy, Ut. 84067."
- FGR compiled by Dianne Elizabeth Teasley Williams [not recorded on the FGR, but I recognize my mother's style]; undated, but probably in the 1980's; citing as source of information, "Copied from records of Juanita Grace Williams."

The 1808 Bishop's Transcripts for Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales, shows the christening of William Williams: "April 10th. Willm. Son of Danl. & Ruth Williams" (FHL 104471). The 1829 Bishops Transcripts for Llandeilo'r-fân show the marriage of William Williams and Ann Williams (FHL 104471); the information is the same as in the Parish Registers, below.

The Parish Registers of Llandeilo'r-fân (available at the National Library of Wales) show that Daniel Williams lived at Brunant Farm in 1813 and 1816, Nant-y-gwrdu Farm in 1820, and Bryn-melyn in 1840. The Parish Registers also show the marriage of William Williams: "MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of Llandeilo'r fane in the County of Brecon in the Year 1829: William Williams of this Parish and Ann Williams of the same Parish were married in this Church by Banns with Consent of Relations this third Day of June in the Year One thousand eight hundred and twenty nine / By me Thos. Price per. Cu. / This Marriage was solemnized between us / The Mark of William Williams / The Mark of Ann Williams / In the Presence of Wm. Jenkins, David Thomas / No. 70."

A record of Baptisms for the Dead in the Logan Temple, page 424, #15313 and #15850 (FHL 177843) shows information on the family of Ann Williams Williams. The information may have been supplied by Ann Williams Williams herself, and should therefore be fairly accurate. The following baptisms for the dead were performed on

13 Apr 1886:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Heir/proxy</u>	<u>Relationship to dead</u>
Mary Price	Brecon, Wales	19 Nov 1864	Ann Williams Williams	daughter
Ruth Williams	9 May 1835 ditto	9 May 1845	ditto	mother
Ann Price	Carmarthen, Wales		Ruth Elizabeth Williams Sorensen	Ann Williams Williams
Mary Williams	Brecon, Wales		ditto	ditto
Margaret Williams	ditto		ditto	ditto
Hannah Williams	ditto		ditto	ditto
Ann Williams	ditto		ditto	ditto
Mrs. Ann Price	ditto		ditto	ditto
Thomas Williams	S. Wales		John Jones Williams	Ann Williams Williams
Thomas Morgan	Brecon, S. Wales		ditto	ditto
William Price	ditto		ditto	ditto
Isaac Williams	ditto		ditto	ditto
William Williams	ditto		ditto	ditto
Thomas Williams	ditto		ditto	ditto
Samuel Williams	ditto		ditto	ditto
Reese Price	ditto		ditto	ditto
David Price	ditto		ditto	ditto
Thomas Price	ditto		ditto	ditto

This list of relatives may lead to more information on the extended family of Ann Williams Williams. I would start with the *guess* that Thomas Williams was Ann's father; William Price and Ann Price were Ann's maternal grandparents; Thomas Morgan was a great-grandfather, an uncle by marriage or a brother-in-law; Rees, David, and Thomas Price were her maternal uncles; Mrs. Ann Price was the wife of a maternal uncle; and that Isaac, William, Thomas, Samuel, Mary, Margaret, Hannah and Ann Williams were either brothers and sisters or paternal uncles and aunts. I cannot overemphasize that these suggestions are only guesses, which may be refuted or verified by further research.

Census Records are a primary source of information. The 1841 Census of Clydach Works, Llanelly parish, Breconshire, ED 4, Folio 9, Page 10 (FHL 464299) shows:

William Williams	30	Miner	born in Breconshire
Ann ditto	30		born in Breconshire
Ruth ditto	6		born in Breconshire
Mary Williams	65		not born in Breconshire

The 1851 Census of the town of Brynmawr, Llanelly parish, Breconshire, page 453/480, house #117/118 Wain-y-ly-can (FHL 464911 or 104,252) shows William living alongside his brother Roderick:

Roderick Williams	Head	Mar	45	Hauillier	Breconshire, Llandilo-faur
Ann Williams	Wife	Mar	40		do, Llanviangle bryn pebuan[?]
Ann Williams	Daur		10	at home	do, Merthyr Cynog
John Williams	Son		1		do, Llanelly
William Williams	Head	Mar	42	Shoemaker	Breconshire, Llandilo faur
Ann Williams	Wife	Mar	22		do, Llaneydless
Mary Williams	Mother-in-law	W	74	Pauper	do, Llanwrtwd
Roderick Williams	Nephew		4	Scholar	do, Llanelly

The 1861 Census of the town of Brynmawr, Llanelly parish, Breconshire, page 24/93, #151, Clydach Bridge, #151 (FHL 543,252) shows:

William Williams	Head	Mar	53	Shoemaker & Coal Miner	Brecon, Llandilo-fawr
Ann Williams	Wife	Mar	53		do, Tirhabart
Mary Williams	Mother-in-law	W.	86		do, Llanwrtyd

There are various errors in the census records. Llandilo-faur and Llandilo-fawr should be Llandeilo'r-fân. Llaneydless should be Llandulas (also known as Tirabad). Tirhabart should be Tirabad. Llanwrtwd should be Llanwrtyd. Some of the ages are also off.

I'm not sure whether William and Ann Williams were in Wales, Utah or Idaho in 1870-1871. The 1880 (June

23-25) census of Samaria, Oneida County, Idaho, page 319, #298 shows Ann Williams, white female, 76-year-old widow, keeping house, she and her father and mother all born in Wales. Further research is required to see whether this was the widow of William Williams:

Williams, Ann W F 76 wd K.H. Wales, Wales, Wales

The Latter-day Saint membership record of Bryn Mawr, Wales 1848-1868, page 17, #10 (FHL 104,167) shows: "William Williams, shoemaker, Bryn Mawr, Baptized 22 Mar 1857 by John Thomas, Confirmed 22 Mar 1857 by John Thomas."

At <http://welshmormonhistory.org/index.php?/immigrants/view/941> we find a listing for Ann Williams, born 12 Mar 1812 in Nantyglo, Monmouthshire, and died 20 Feb 1889 in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. She is linked as the husband of Uncle William Williams, but I have my doubts. The birth information is definitely wrong. She may be another Ann Williams, not the wife of Uncle William. The death information may or may not pertain to Aunt Ann Williams Williams. Further research is required.

Suggestions for further research: Find William Williams in the 1841 census of Wales, possibly in Brynmawr; find William Williams in the 1870 census of Utah or Idaho, or in the 1871 census of Wales; check Idaho records, especially Jefferson and Oneida Counties, for obituaries and other information; examine LDS records more thoroughly.

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