

William Williams and Ann Price Williams

Proverbs 17:6

Roderick Williams and Elizabeth Evans were married on February 28, 1778 in the parish of Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales. They had two sons, William and Daniel. Daniel Williams, my great-great-great-grandfather, left Wales in 1853; most of his numerous descendants live in the United States of America. William Williams, on the other hand, remained in Wales, where most of his descendants live today.

In his eighty-two years of life, William Williams never moved out of Llandeilo'r-fân. He was christened there on March 21, 1779. He was a laborer, a farmer, and a shoemaker.

William remained single until he was twenty-eight years old. On April 10, 1807, he married Ann Price. She was christened in Llandeilo'r-fân on October 15, 1779, the daughter of Rees Price and Elizabeth Jones.

The Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts of Llandeilo'r-fân show that William and Ann Williams had six children:

Elizabeth Williams	christened 20 Sep 1807	married 23 Nov 1843 Rees Price
Margaret Williams	christened 2 Apr 1809	buried 14 Apr 1809
Roderick Williams	christened 10 Feb 1811	married 14 Mar 1856 Margaret Williams
Margaret Williams	christened 13 Mar 1814	married 17 Jun 1851 Thomas Prosser
William Williams	christened 26 Jan 1817	buried 28 Dec 1817
Mary Williams	christened 18 Jul 1819	married 19 May 1843 Evan Evans

Two of the children died as infants. Margaret Williams was buried only twelve days after her christening. William Williams was buried eleven months and two days after his christening. Four survived into adulthood, got married, and produced a total of fifteen grandchildren for William and Ann Williams.

The christening and burial records between 1814 and 1819 show that the family lived at a house called Penyca, possibly in Llandeilo'r-fân Village. Rees Price, Ann's father, was living at Penyca before his death at age 76. He was buried on December 11, 1818.

Between 1837 and 1841, the family moved to a farm called Drain-duon (Blackthorn). Relatives had lived at Drain-duon for some time. Two Davies families, probably cousins of William Williams, lived there in 1824 and 1834. William's mother, Elizabeth Evans Williams, died there, and was buried on August 28, 1832. Census records show that William and Ann Williams lived there in the home of their son Roderick in 1841 and 1851. By 1861 Drain-duon was occupied by the family of Morgan Price, whose wife might have been Margaret Davies, a cousin who was born at Drain-duon in 1824.

William's brother, Daniel Williams, lived at Bryn-melyn Farm, which is translated Yellow Hill. However, when Daniel and his wife moved to America in 1853, and several of their children followed in the 1850s and 1860s, they seem to have considered Blackthorn Farm as their home in Wales. Therefore, family historians have consistently, but erroneously, claimed that the children of Daniel Williams were born at Blackthorn Farm. I

can think of two reasons that the Daniel Williams family claimed to be from Blackthorn Farm. First, Drain-duon (Blackthorn) might have been the primary seat of the Williams family, as suggested by the fact that the matriarch, Elizabeth Evans Williams, died there in 1832. Second, Daniel Williams left Bryn-melyn when he moved to America; any communication between Daniel Williams in America and his family in Wales might have been forwarded through his brother at Drain-duon.

When the 1841 census was taken, the inhabitants of "Draindion" were:

Roderick Wms.	25	Farmer	Y [born in Breconshire]
William do.	60		Y [born in Breconshire]
Anne do.	60		Y [born in Breconshire]
Margaret Price	15	F.S.	Y [born in Breconshire]
Rees do.	13	M.S.	Y [born in Breconshire]
Ann Powel	5 Months	Nursing Child	Y [born in Breconshire]

William and Ann lived in the home of their son Roderick Williams. None of the four surviving children were married, but all were apparently on their own. In the household were Margaret Price, a female servant, and Rees Price, a male servant. Family historians have claimed that these were children of Elizabeth Williams. Their claim is not credible unless they produce some evidence beyond this census record.

Ann Powel, a five-month-old nursing child, also lived in the Williams household. Although I have no evidence (beyond this census record, which is insufficient), it's possible that she was related, somehow, to the Williams family. She was christened in Llandeilo'r-fân on January 31, 1841, the daughter of Thomas Powell and Jane Williams, who were not married. Thomas Powell lived at Coed-ca-du, Llanfihangel Nant Bran, Breconshire. Jane Williams might have been the daughter of Thomas Williams and Jane Davies Williams of Cefn-bryn-isaf, who was baptized in Llandeilo'r-fân on May 18, 1823.

In 1843, two daughters of William Williams and Ann Williams got married in Llandeilo'r-fân. The last to be born was the first to get married. On May 19, 1843, Mary Williams, age 23, married Evan Evans. Six months later, the firstborn was married. On November 23, 1843, Elizabeth Williams, age 36, married Rees Price. To my knowledge, Mary Evans had nine children, and Elizabeth Price had one.

In 1851 the inhabitants of "Draindion" were:

Roderick Williams	Head	U	40	Farmer of 90 Acres	[born in Llandeilo'r-fân]
William Williams	Father	Mar	72	Retired Cobler	[born in Llandeilo'r-fân]
Ann Williams	Mother	Mar	73	Cobler's Wife	[born in Llandeilo'r-fân]
Elizabeth Price	Sister	Mar	44	Labr's Wife	[born in Llandeilo'r-fân]
Ann Powel	Serv.		10	House Serv.	[born in Llandeilo'r-fân]

William Williams was living with his wife, Ann Price Williams, in the household of their son Roderick Williams. Their daughter Elizabeth Williams Price was there, too, but without her husband and child. Ann Powel seems to have lived there during the entire first decade of her life. Too much weight should not be placed on the fact that she was listed as a servant rather than a relative. If she was both a relative and a servant, the census taker could have listed her either way. She may or may not have been related.

On June 17, 1851, Margaret Williams, age 37, married Thomas Prosser in Llandeilo'r-fân. They moved to Talgarth Parish, Breconshire, where, to my knowledge, they had one child.

Between 1851 and 1856, Roderick Williams moved to Maes-y-bwlch, on the western border of Llandeilo'r-fân Parish. He may have moved there in preparation for his marriage to Margaret Williams on March 14, 1856. Roderick and Margaret had four children. Their descendants lived in Llandeilo'r-fân for many years, and they might still live there today.

It was probably in conjunction with Roderick's move from Drain-duon that William and Ann Williams moved into Llandeilo'r-fân Village. They died there, about two and a half weeks apart. Both were about 82 years old. William Williams was buried on February 20, 1861. Ann Price Williams was buried on March 9, 1861. They were buried at the Parish Church of Llandeilo'r-fân, but no marker survives. I like to imagine that they were buried next to the marker of their daughter Mary Williams Evans.

William and Ann Williams were predeceased by three children and two grandchildren. They were survived by three children and twelve grandchildren. One more grandchild was born the year after their death. The joys and sorrows of the William Williams family might be summarized chronologically:

1779	Mar 21	Christening of William Williams
1779	Oct 15	Christening of Ann Price
1783	Aug 23	Birth of brother, Daniel Williams
1805	Jan 11	Burial of father, Roderick Williams
1805	Apr 16	Wedding of brother, Daniel Williams to Ruth Jones
1807	Apr 10	Wedding of William Williams & Ann Price
1807	Sep 20	Christening of daughter Elizabeth Williams
1809	Apr 2	Christening of daughter Margaret Williams
1809	Apr 14	Burial of daughter Margaret Williams
1811	Feb 1	Birth of son Roderick Williams
1811	Feb 11	Christening of son Roderick Williams
1814	Mar 13	Christening of daughter Margaret Williams
1817	Jan 26	Christening of son William Williams
1817	Dec 28	Burial of son William Williams
1818	Dec 11	Burial of father-in-law, Rees Price
1819	Jul 18	Christening of daughter Mary Williams
1832	Aug 28	Burial of mother, Elizabeth Evans Williams
1841	Jan 31	Christening of servant, Ann Powel
1842		Birth of granddaughter Margaret Evans
1843	May 19	Wedding of daughter Mary Williams to Evan Evans
1843	Nov 19	Christening of grandson William Price
1843	Nov 23	Wedding of daughter Elizabeth Williams to Rees Price
1844		Birth of granddaughter Ann Evans
1846		Birth of granddaughter Mary Evans
1847		Birth of granddaughter Elizabeth Evans
1849		Birth of grandson William Evans
1851		Birth of granddaughter Sara Evans
1851	Jun 17	Wedding of daughter Margaret Williams to Thomas Prosser

1852		Birth of grandson David Evans
1853	Feb 5	Emigration of brother, Daniel Williams
1853	Mar 12	Burial of grandson David Evans
1854		Birth of grandson David Evans
1854	Dec 22	Burial of grandson William Price
1855		Birth of granddaughter Margaret Prosser
1856		Birth of grandson Evan Evans
1856	Mar 14	Wedding of son Roderick Williams to Margaret Williams
1857		Birth of grandson Thomas Williams
1858	Jun 18	Burial of daughter Mary Williams Evans
1859		Birth of grandson William Williams
1860		Birth of granddaughter Margaret Williams
1860	Mar 24	Burial of son-in-law Evan Evans
1861	Feb 20	Burial of William Williams
1861	Mar 9	Burial of Ann Price Williams
1862		Birth of granddaughter Anne Williams

The American family of Daniel Williams remembered the relatives they left behind in Wales. As Latter-day Saints, they believed in baptisms for the dead. On April 13, 1886, Daniel's son John Jones Williams, and John's daughter Elvira Ann Williams Harrison, went to the Logan Temple in Utah. There they were baptized in proxy for William Williams, Mrs. Ann Williams, and three of their children: Roderick Williams, Mary Williams and Elizabeth Williams. According to Latter-day Saint theology, the two children who died under the age of eight did not require baptism. They were not baptized for Margaret Williams, either, because she was still alive; the 1891 census shows that she was still living with her husband, Thomas Prosser, in Talgarth, Breconshire, Wales. She died between 1891 and 1901, the last surviving child of William Williams and Ann Price Williams.

NOTES

The sources for the life of William Williams and Ann Price Williams are:

- Parish Registers of Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.
- Bishop's Transcripts of Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.
- 1841 Census, Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.
- 1851 Census, Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.
- Logan Temple Records (FHL 177843, page 430 #15548, and page 438 #15863).

Sources for the parents, sibling(s), children and grandchildren of William Williams are given in the notes of prior and future reports.

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