

THE WILLIAMS-WELLS-BONEY GENEALOGY



Williams

When we as Americans look back to our beginnings, we usually recall the band of sea-weary pioneers who landed on the shores of a strange new land they wanted to make their home. They were a brave people coming from across the seas, knowing not what was in store for them, but were determined, regardless. We appreciate their efforts. Had they not come to America, the generations of people we love and remember would never have been.

Compiled by:
Shirley Jackson Davis
1987

This collection of genealogy was compiled especially for the WILLIAMS REUNION, May 9, 1987, in honor of Boney Usher and Eliza Mae Boney Williams and their thirteen children.

I want to express my appreciation to the family researchers, past and present, who, in their exploring, paved the way for others so that the family history might be better known and shared.

I also want to thank the many relatives who so patiently tolerated my persistent questioning. Had they not shared the treasures of their memory storehouses, this collection of genealogy would not have been possible.

SJD

A PART OF US

The Williams family who settled in the Rockfish Creek area of Duplin County near the town of Wallace, North Carolina, were said to be of Welsh origin. The route by which the first of this clan reached the coastal plains of that territory nor his exact identity has yet to be learned. There are several logical theories, but so far, none proven as of this writing. It is known that several Williams lived in Duplin County in the pre-Revolutionary War days and that some of them seemed to be closely associated. Many of these fox-hunting, dancing, fun-loving Presbyterians settled in the same area with the Boney, Wells, Fussell and Knowles families. The lineage has a history of intermarriages. In fact, there is a pattern of first-cousin marriages which included four first-cousin matings with four consecutive generations.

There was a surplus of Joseph Williams, several Johns, Stephens, and Byrds, all with the surname of Williams, so identification was difficult in tracing our direct lineage. Tradition states that Phoebe Little was wife of Joseph Williams, Sr., who was born about 1735, and died about 1791. But there is no concrete evidence to support this assertion. On the contrary, deeds signed in 1779, by Joseph, Sr., and his wife, show that her name was Mary. These deeds are made to their sons, Aaron and Joseph, Jr., and can be found in Sampson-Duplin Deed Book 6, pages 301 and 319.

The children of Joseph Williams, Sr. are as follows:

1. Aaron Williams, 1757-1808, married Mary Newton, daughter of Isaac Newton. Aaron was a captain in the Duplin County Militia during the Revolutionary War. They had nine children: Anna Jane, Isaac Newton, David, Mary, Phoebe, Zachariah, Samuel Newton, Esther and Enoch.
2. Joseph Williams, Jr., 1759-1850, is buried along with large numbers of his descendants in Blockhouse Churchyard on Highway 117 near Jacksonville, Georgia. His DAR monument states that he was a lieutenant in the American Revolution. His

wife was thought to be Amelia "Mealy" Bevin. Their children: Mary, Rebecca, Phoebe, Nancy, Joseph B., David J., Elizabeth and William.

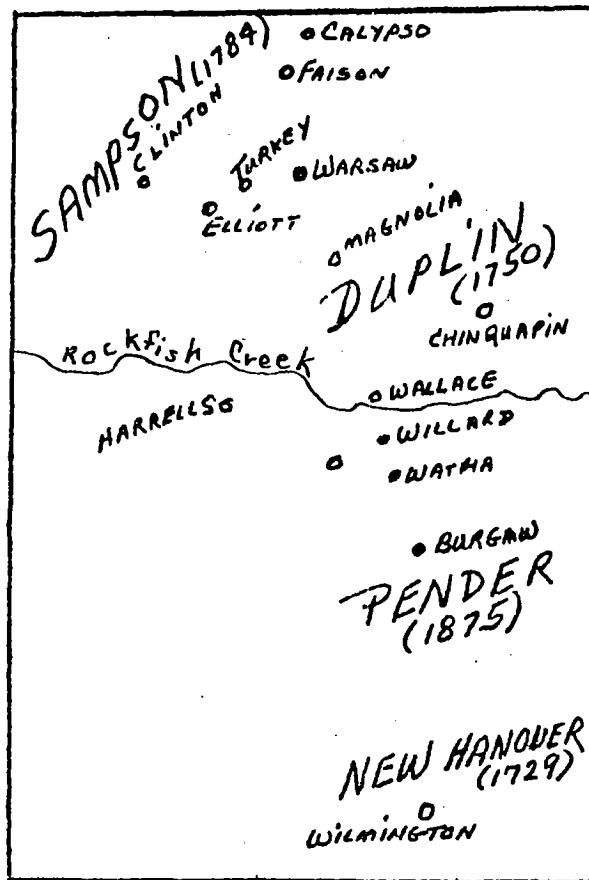
3. Byrd Williams, a private serving under his brother, Aaron, in the Revolutionary War, married his first cousin, Zilpha, the daughter of John Williams who is thought to be brother of Joseph, Sr. Their known children: John and Larazus Mathis.
4. William Williams was a private in the Revolutionary War and is presumed to have died young, unmarried.
5. Phoebe Williams, 1763-1842, married George Bannerman.
6. David Williams, 1765-1830, married Elizabeth Anderson.
7. John Williams, 1768-1840, married Nancy Wells.

The genealogy on these pages, three and four, was taken from the book, They Don't Make People Like They Used To, by Addie Garrison Briggs, copyrighted in 1985. With her permission, I reproduced her research for this Williams genealogy.

We descend from the seventh child of Joseph Williams, Sr., John Williams, 1768-1840. John married Nancy Wells. In some genealogy listings, Nancy's surname is Wallace, but I believe that to be incorrect because of a letter written by Nancy Wells' granddaughter, Nancy Williams Boney, to James Lafayette (Fate) Williams in 1889.

In Fate's version of the family history, he included a letter dated January 12, 1889, written by Nancy Williams Boney. She was the daughter of G. F. Byrd and Martha Wells Williams, and sister to Boney Usher Williams. She wrote: "My grandfather was John Williams, and his wife was Nancy Wells." She stated that John had two brothers, Aaron and Byrd. She named two of Aaron's sons as Newton and Zechariah. Her letter gives facts that are consistent with the information Addie Garrison Briggs states in her book about the Joseph Williams, Sr. lineage.

Nancy Williams Boney married Felix Boney, brother to our Kinsey Boney. She was Felix's 1st Cou 1 R. According to the 1870 census of Grimes County, Texas, Nancy was listed as head of her household. She was forty-five years old then, and her oldest son, James, was twenty-five. The names of seven children were listed. When Nancy wrote the letter to Fate, she was living with her son, Byrd Boney, in Bedias, Grimes County, Texas.



This map shows the early settlements of the Rockfish Creek area of North Carolina where the Boneys, Williams and Wells families lived. This map was reproduced from the book, The Pigford Family, Descendants of Lost Billie, 1728-1803, and Others, 1970, by Dr. Russell C. Pigford, M.D.

The children of John and Nancy Wells Williams were as follows:

1. Stephen Williams, 1794, may have married the daughter of another Stephen Williams.
2. G. F. Byrd Williams, born January 20, 1796; married Martha Wells who was born January 5, 1793.
3. Elizabeth Williams, born in 1797.
4. Henry Williams, born in 1799; died of Typhoid Fever in 1830.
5. Anna Williams, born in 1801; married Isaac Newton Williams. Died of Typhoid Fever in 1830.
6. John Williams, born in 1803; died of Typhoid Fever in 1830.
7. Rebecca Jane Williams, born in 1805.
8. Mary Williams, born in 1806; died of Typhoid Fever in 1830.
9. Mehala Williams, born in 18__; died of Typhoid Fever in 1830.
10. James K., born in 1810; married Elizabeth Ann Ezzell.
11. Margaret Maria, born in 1812; married William Ballard Wells.
12. Martha Williams, 1815-1831.

The second child of John and Nancy Williams, our G. F. Byrd Williams, married Martha "Parsy" Wells in 1818. They had eight children, but we only know of five: John, Boney Usher, Elizabeth, Nancy, and Robert. Byrd and Martha Williams lived in Duplin County, North Carolina, until they moved to be near Martha's sister, Elizabeth Wells Pigford, (known as "Betsy"), in Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

Martha and Elizabeth's parents were Jacob and Ann "Nancy" Boney Wells, III, of the Rockfish Creek area of Duplin County, North Carolina. Jacob was born in 1763; died in 1826. Nancy was born in 1767; died in 1833. They were married March 17, 1785, in Duplin County, N. C. She was the daughter of Wimberk Boney and Catharine Tetsche (Teachey). Her grandparents were Daniel Tetsche and Ann Wells. Ann "Nancy" Boney was first-cousin-once-removed (1st Cou 1 R) to her husband. Jacob Wells, III, was a Revolutionary War soldier and is listed on page 587 in the North Carolina Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers.

The Wells lineage has been traced to Jacob Wells, I, who came to this country with the DeGraphenreid colonists in 1710. Jacob Wells, I, was a native of Basil, Switzerland. With him came his family consisting of his wife and children: Jacob II, Henry, Martin and Ann. Another child died enroute. Special permission was granted to the

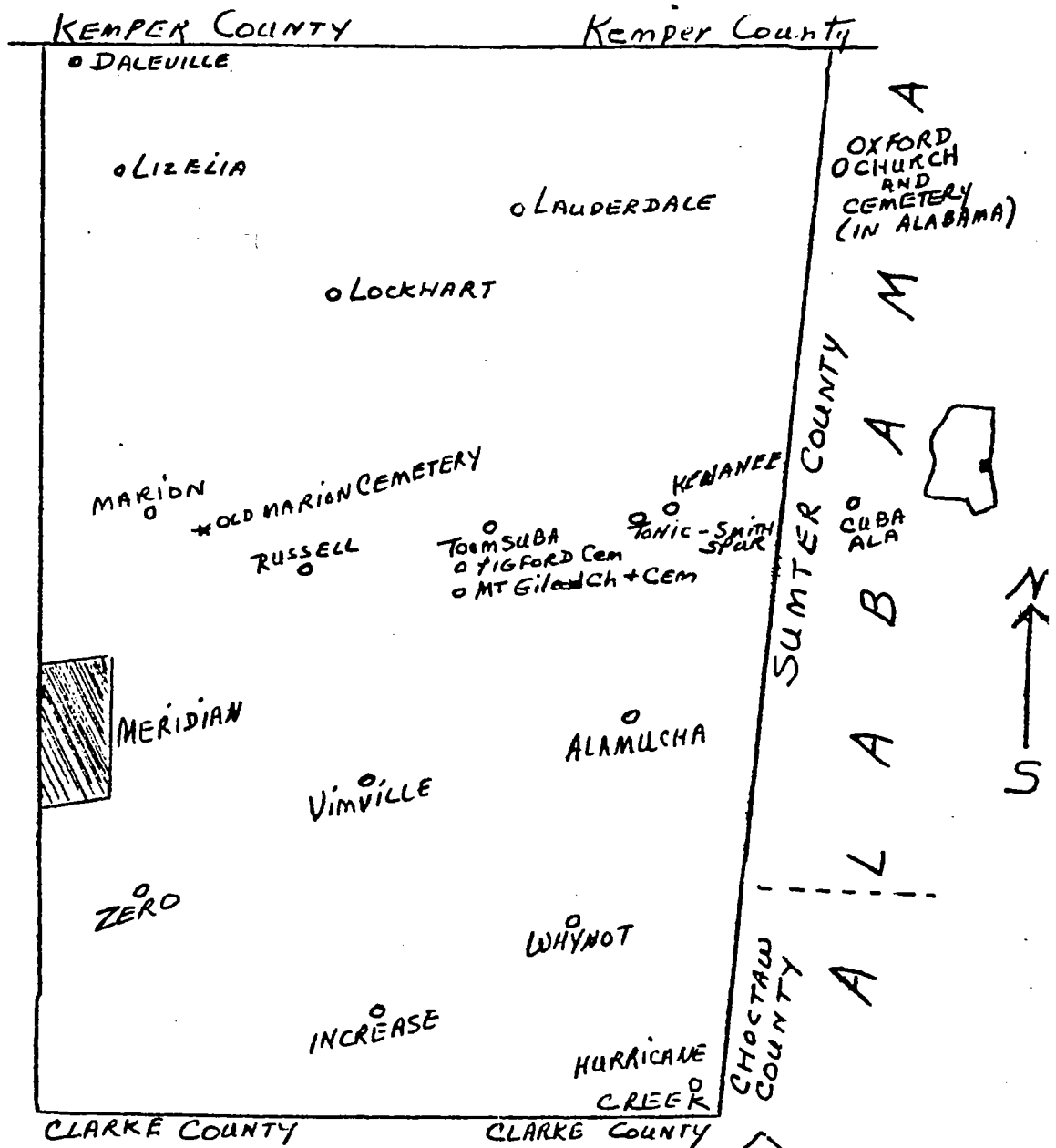
family to postpone the burial of that child until they reached the new country. Their boat docked first on the James River in Virginia. The colonists made their way from this point in New Berne, North Carolina. Jacob Wells I settled his family on the east side of Yokey Swamp, about two miles southwest of the present town of Magnolia, North Carolina. Jacob Wells, II, was twelve years old when his family arrived in New Berne in 1710. He married Mary Wright. They settled on the west side of Yokey Swamp. They had seven children, the oldest being our Jacob Wells, III.

Jacob and Ann "Nancy" Boney Wells, III, settled in the Rockfish Creek area of Duplin County, North Carolina. They had fourteen children, two of them being our Martha Wells, and her sister, Elizabeth, as mentioned earlier. Elizabeth "Betsy" Wells, 1791-1848, married Timothy Pigford in 1809 in Duplin County, North Carolina. They moved to Georgia, and then into Alabama. Tim died in 1823. In 1832, Elizabeth and some of her children moved to land deeded by the Choctaw Nation, which was near the present town of Toomsuba, Mississippi. There is a historical marker alongside a road which leads to Toomsuba by way of Salem Baptist Church, which states:

OLD PIGFORD CEMETERY

One mile north is buried Timothy Pigford's widow, Elizabeth Wells and others of her family. She moved from Duplin County, North Carolina about 1832, to lands deeded by the Choctaw Nation in the 1830 Dancing Rabbit Creek Treaty.

This cemetery qualified for a historical marker because it is the original cemetery used by a pioneer family that played an integral part in the settlement of this area during the early part of the 19th century. The first member of the family was buried in 1845; the last in 1890. William Wright Pigford and Jacob Wells Pigford were brothers who were Confederate soldiers home from the Civil War on leave. They were ill and died on the same day in June, 1862. They were buried in the same grave. There are twenty-eight graves: seven adults, three children, and eighteen infants. This information was prepared by descendants: Joseph H. Pigford and Malcolm L. Pigford, November 12, 1975.



EASTERN HALF LAUDERDALE COUNTY MISSISSIPPI

LATE 1800's - EARLY 1900's

Note: Increase is
now called Causeyville.

This map was reproduced from the book,
The Pigford Family, Descendants of Lost Billie,
1728-1803, and Others, 1970, by Russell C.
 Pigford, M. D.

The book, The Pigford Family, Descendants of Lost Billie, 1728-1803, and Others, by Russell C. Pigford, M. D., copyrighted in 1970, has passages which state:

"Settlers began moving into the state of Mississippi in the late 1700's. They settled along the Mississippi River and in the rich delta land in the western part of the state, and along the Gulf Coast. Immigrants, chiefly farmers from Virginia and the Carolinas, moved into the central and eastern sections of the state, but their numbers were limited by the unfriendly Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, upon whose land they were encroaching.

In 1830, representatives of the United States Government and of the Choctaw Nation met on the bank of Dancing Rabbit Creek which is now in Noxubee County, Mississippi. At this meeting on September 28, 1830, the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit was signed. The Choctaws ceded all their lands west of the Tombigbee River to the United States, and agreed to move west to Indian Territory (now a part of Oklahoma.) After the signing of this treaty, many farm people began to settle the Tombigbee Valley and eastern Mississippi.

Lauderdale County, Mississippi, is located about midway between the north and south borders of the state. It was established Dec. 23, 1833. It was named in memory of Colonel James Lauderdale who was killed in the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815. A number of people had moved into the area before Lauderdale County was established, and settled in the village of what became known as Toomsuba, Mississippi. Toomsuba is an Indian word which means "drowned horse." Elizabeth Wells Pigford was among the early settlers."

In 1836, Elizabeth's sister, Martha Wells and her husband, G. F. Byrd Williams, moved from Duplin County, North Carolina to live in the new settlement. They had eight children, our Boney Usher being one of them. Boney was born March 5, 1834, and was two years old when he arrived to the new territory. He remained in the area the duration of his life, never living more than thirty miles away, with the exception of the Civil War. It was in this Toomsuba settlement, Boney met his second cousin who would grow up to be his wife. That girl was Elizabeth Mary Boney, our Eliza Mae.

After 1840, the Boney-Wells-Williams family members began moving from the territory, especially after Elizabeth Wells Pigford died in 1848. They migrated to Louisiana, Texas, Florida, and Arkansas. Some members remained in the Lauderdale County area, and the surrounding counties. Records show that Byrd Williams sold his land, one slave, oxen, and wagon in 1843. I cannot trace them after that date. Their son, Boney Usher, age sixteen, is listed living with William and Catherine Jones in the 1850 Lauderdale County census. Possibly, these people were relatives as Boney's Uncle Kinsey's sister, Polly, married Samuel Jones. If Byrd and Martha moved elsewhere, their son chose not to go with them. How different our history would have been if Boney had migrated from the territory!

Eliza's father, Kinsey Boney, was the son of James Boney who was the son of Wimberk Boney. Wimberk was the son of Joggi Boni who came to America in 1736, from Switzerland.

James Boney married Penelope (Penny) Wells. They were from Duplin County, North Carolina, and migrated to Clarke County, Alabama. Kinsey was born in 1795. He moved to Choctaw County, Alabama where he married Keziah Green, January 3, 1825. Between 1826 and 1839, the couple had nine children. They were James Kinsey, Green Livingston, James Robert, Kinsie Lewis, Nancy, Rachael Keziah, Arulia Jane, Margaret M., Amelia Anna, and Elizabeth Mary (Eliza Mae.)

When Eliza Mae was born May 10, 1839 in Marengo County, Alabama, her mother, Keziah, died. Kinsey married a second time to Elizabeth Bradley from South Carolina, July 27, 1843.

In the 1850 Lauderdale County census, ten-year-old Eliza Mae is listed living with her sister, Arulia Jane Boney Pigford. Arulia Jane had married William Wells Pigford, son of the early settler of Toomsaba, Elizabeth Wells Pigford. Arulia and William had ten children of their own.

In the 1870 Lauderdale County census, thirteen years after Eliza Mae married Boney Usher Williams, Kinsey's second wife, Elizabeth Bradley Boney, is listed living with Boney and Eliza. Kinsey had died sometime between 1861-1870.

Our Boney lineage came from France as they were French Huguenots. The surname was spelled B-o-n-i, but was anglicized to B-o-n-e-y in America. The Boni family fled into Switzerland because of religious persecution. It is not known how long Joggi Boni's descendants lived in Switzerland. The Huguenots were a close-knit group, very devoted to others in the family, a tradition they continued in America.

Joggi and his wife, Eva Zeller Boni, wanted to leave Switzerland for America, but the church was strongly against their desire. Joggi was determined to leave, so he, his wife, and seven of their children slipped away in the night, leaving a note at the church which stated: "They trusted the good God would not forsake them in their troubles."

Going by way of Holland and Scotland, they arrived on the shores of North Carolina in 1736 as religious refugees. This was the origin of our Boney family in America.

Joggi Boni, who became Jacob Boney in America, was listed as being from Frenckendorf, Switzerland; his wife from Gibenach, Switzerland. Some of their children remained in Switzerland, but the names of their seven children who immigrated were:

1. Elssbet (Elizabeth) Boni, born November 21, 1706.
2. Joggi Boni II, born October 7, 1708.
3. Verena (Eve) Boni, born November 3, 1720.
4. Anni (Ann) Boni, born October 11, 1722.
5. Barbara Boni, born November 26, 1724.
6. Michel (Michael) Boni, born April 27, 1728.
7. Weinbert (Wimberk) Boni, born October 7, 1731.

Of these seven children, we know of only one, the youngest son, Weinbert, who was our Wimberk Boney. Wimberk was born in Switzerland and was five years old when he came to America. He married Catharine Tetsche (Teachey), who was born in 1745 in North Carolina. Wimberk and Catharine married in 1760, and lived near Wallace, Duplin County, North Carolina. Wimberk was a Revolutionary War soldier and is listed in the North Carolina Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers. He died September 18, 1801. Because of the will he left in Duplin County, we are able to trace our lineage. The will listed ten children:

1. Daniel Teachey Boney, 1766-1848; married Mary Savage in 1782. Had seven children.

2. John Boney, 1766-1831; married Mary "Polly" Wells. She was the daughter of Jacob Wells II and Mary Wright; was 1st Cou 1 R to her husband. They had fourteen children.
3. Ann "Nancy" Boney, 1767-1833; married her 1st Cou 1 R, Jacob Wells, III, son of Jacob Wells, II, and Mary Wright. They had fourteen children.
4. James Boney married Penelope (Penny) Wells. Had four children. He died between 1820-1830 in Clarke County, Alabama. She migrated with her son, Felix, to Lauderdale County, MS, in 1840.
5. William Boney, 1776-1849; married Dorothy Ann James in 1800; had ten children.
6. Wimberk Boney, II, 1788-1845; married Nancy Collins in 1811. Had eight children. Is buried in Boney Cemetery, Sumter Co., AL.
7. Jacob Boney moved to Clarke County, Alabama, about 1817.
8. Elizabeth Boney married John Player in 1795; had one known son, Boney Player, born 1799.
9. David Boney married Mary Smith in 1802.
10. Michael Boney married Margaret Fuller in 1806.

As mentioned earlier, the Williams, Boney and Wells families intermarried for several generations. We have a double dose of Boney in us because we descend from two of Wimberk Boney's children, James and Ann "Nancy" Boney. It is interesting that Boney Usher Williams and Eliza Mae Boney had the same great-great grandfather, Joggi Boni, and the same great grandfather, Wimberk Boney. The "double-Boney-dose" occurred when Wimberk's son, James, fathered Kinsey, and Wimberk's daughter, Ann "Nancy", gave birth to Martha Wells. Kinsey and Martha were first cousins, and their siblings, Eliza Mae and Boney Usher, were second cousins who were united in matrimony in 1857.

Another trait in our lineage is the marrying of siblings within one family to siblings of another. Our Fate and Lizzie Williams-Abb and Sallie Williams was such an example. Fate and Sallie were brother and sister; Abb and Lizzie, brother and sister. Fate and Sallie were Williamses, but were not related to Abb and Lizzie Williams. Our John and Lula Williams-Hub and Rilla Williams marriages was another such case. Lula and Rilla Powell were sisters; John and Hub, brothers. Lizzie, Abb, John, and Hub were four of the thirteen children of Boney and Eliza Williams. The children from these unions were double first-cousins.

Eliza Mae Boney and Boney Usher Williams, as children, were baptized in Mt. Gilead Baptist Church near Toomsuba, and were married there January 4, 1857. In 1861, the War Between the States began. May 10, 1862, on Eliza's birthday, Boney volunteered to fight for the South. Twenty-eight year old Boney, father of two children, became a private in the Forty-sixth Regiment, Company F, of the Mississippi Infantry. August 5, 1862, a third child, Boney Usher Williams, Jr., was born. According to the regimental history, Boney was with his company near Vicksburg, Mississippi. July 4, 1863, Boney was captured in the defeat of the Confederates in the Battle of Vicksburg, ordered by the Union to sign an oath to never take up arms against the United States again, and was paroled to return home. The paroled men were furloughed for sixty days by the Confederate commanders and were ordered to report to headquarters in Enterprise, Mississippi. There, the infantry was regrouped and sent marching towards Georgia. They fought in many battles including the Battle of Atlanta. While Boney was fighting in Atlanta, his fourth child was born July 13, 1864. She was named Atlanta Georgia Williams. After Atlanta, Boney's regiment marched northward, into Tennessee, continually meeting enemy fire. The winter of 1864 was unusually harsh. The Forty-sixth Regiment was ordered to march in ice and snow from Nashville, Tennessee to the Confederate winter quarters in Tupelo, Mississippi, a distance of three hundred miles. The regiment, like all the other Confederate companies by that time, was in poor condition and spirit, many of them marching barefooted. They had already decided the Confederacy had been defeated.

In our family stories, told from one generation to another, it has been said that during the Seige of Vicksburg, the Confederates were cut off from their food and ammunition supplies for months. The men were starving and were forced to eat whatever they could. Boney wrote home that he had found that roaches had a good flavor. He learned to chew pieces of shoe leather to get his saliva glands to water in hopes of fooling his stomach into thinking he had eaten. Boney was ill when captured. In another story, Boney was crossing

the marshlands of Mobile Bay, when his boot fell off into the water. He was unable to retrieve it, walking barefoot, thereafter. There was also the story of Boney walking a long distance in ice and snow, barefooted. These stories fit very well in the regimental history of Boney's infantry as the men struggled to defend their beloved South.

April 9, 1865, marked the end of the Civil War. On that date, some of the Forty-sixth Regiment was captured at Fort Blakely, at Spanish Fort, Alabama, east from Mobile, Alabama, across the Mobile Bay. Boney was among those who escaped and fled north. May 9, 1865, Boney was among the men of his regiment who surrendered at Cuba, Alabama, and were marched to Meridian, Mississippi, by the Union soldiers. The war had been over a month, but it had taken a long time for word to get around that the South had been defeated. Boney was mustered out of service May 10, 1865, three years to the day he had enlisted. Boney was very lucky to be alive. I know Eliza Mae had a happy birthday that day!

Over a period of twenty-four years, Boney and Eliza had thirteen children. They had their share of happiness and tragedies. Throughout their marriage, they had lived in several areas, never getting very far from their childhood surroundings. In the last years of their lives, they lived near Causeyville, Mississippi. Eliza and Boney's family grew up, married and multiplied. Family reunions were held each year around Eliza's birthday. In the evening of her life, Eliza told her family to please continue the reunions after her death.

Eliza Mae died at the age of eighty-one on December 5, 1920; Boney died November 16, 1921, age eighty-seven. They are buried in the Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery among their many relatives. Their tombstones stand tall and are weathered grey. When guiding my fingers over the lettering of their markers, I try to visualize the past, and the people who were a part of us. We are because of them.

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THE THIRTEEN CHILDREN OF BONEY USHER AND ELIZA MAE BONEY WILLIAMS:

- I. Albert Wells Williams, 1858-1933.
- II. Elizabeth Arulia Williams, 1860-1940.
- III. Boney Usher Williams, Jr., 1862-1884.
- IV. Atlanta Georgia Williams, 1864-1954.
- V. John Asa Williams, 1866-1952.
- VI. James Kinsey Williams, 1868-1962.
- VII. Robert Edwin Williams, 1870-1929.
- VIII. Mary Alice Williams, 1872-1875.
- IX. Lula Octavia Williams, 1874-1937.
- X. Ada Virginia Williams, 1876-1967.
- XI. Ida Vivian Williams, (Ada's twin), 1876-1877.
- XII. Richard Clay Williams, 1879-1950.
- XIII. Herbert Harmon Williams, 1881-1940.

THE THIRTEEN CHILDREN OF BONEY USHER AND ELIZA MAE BONEY WILLIAMS:

I. Albert Wells (Abb) Williams was born February 3, 1858 in Toomsba, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. He married Sara (Sallie) Williams, who had the same surname, but no relation, on December 9, 1880. Sallie was born May 27, 1862 in Choctaw County, Alabama. They had eleven children. Abb died January 29, 1933, and Sallie died April 19, 1943. They are buried in the Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery, Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

Abb and Sallie's children:

1. Charles Howard Williams, born August 14, 1883 in Choctaw Co., Alabama. He is buried in Shreveport, Louisiana.
2. Evie Estelle Williams, born July 20, 1885 in Causeyville, MS. She is buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Meridian, Mississippi.
3. Carrie May Williams, born August 29, 1887 in Causeyville, MS. She is buried in Zwolle, Louisiana.
4. Nettie Claudia Williams, born August 9, 1889 in Causeyville, MS. She is buried in Gum Log Cemetery, Bailey, Mississippi.
5. Robert Clifton Williams, born October 1, 1891 in Causeyville, Mississippi. He is buried in Shreveport, Louisiana.
6. Ada Lola Williams, born October 29, 1893 in Causeyville, MS.
7. Mack Grady Williams, born February 2, 1896 in Causeyville, MS. He died February 19, 1968; is buried in National Memorial Park Cemetery, Falls Church, Virginia.
8. Vivian Williams, born March 2, 1898 in Causeyville, MS. Died October 12, 1984. She is buried in Liberty Baptist Church Cemetery near Cuba, Alabama.
9. Livingston Leo Williams, born February 9, 1900 in Causeyville, MS. He is buried in Dallas, Texas.
10. Mary Gay Williams, born March 3, 1903 in Causeyville, MS.
11. Albert Willard Williams, born December 22, 1906 in Causeyville, MS. Is buried in Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery, Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

- II. Elizabeth Arulia (Lizzie) Williams, born March 19, 1860, in Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died October 14, 1940. Lizzie married James Lafayette (Fate) Williams, (same surname, no relation), December 23, 1880. Fate was born May 29, 1859, in Choctaw County, Alabama; died March 11, 1954. Lizzie and Fate are buried in Union Baptist Church Cemetery, Clarke County, Mississippi. Fate was brother to Sara (Sallie) Elizabeth Williams, who was married to Albert (Abb) Wells Williams, brother to Lizzie.)

The children of Fate and Lizzie Williams:

1. Ottie Lizzie, born November 3, 1881, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.
2. Lyda Atlanta, born October 13, 1883, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.
3. Stella Agnes, born January 10, 1886, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.
4. Clyde LeGrande, born March 13, 1888, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.
5. Mamie Viola, born January 5, 1890, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.
6. Virgie Josie, born November 25, 1891, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.
7. Maude Evelyn, born April 27, 1894, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.
8. Earl Lafayette, born June 7, 1896, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.
9. Boney Charles, born May 29, 1899, in Union Community, Clarke County, Mississippi.

- III. Boney Usher Williams, Jr., born August 5, 1862, in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, while his father was serving in the Civil War. He was a ministerial student at Clinton College, (now Mississippi College), in Clinton, Mississippi, when he died of Pneumonia, January 12, 1884. His father had been sent for, but Boney, Sr. arrived at the college several hours after his son's death. Boney, Jr. is buried in Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery, Clarke County, Mississippi.

IV. Atlanta Georgia (Lantie) Williams, born July 13, 1864 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died January 1, 1954. She was so named because her father, Boney Usher Williams, was fighting in the Battle of Atlanta during the Civil War at the time of her birth. She married Thomas Ford November 29, 1883. He was born February 2, 1857; died April 22, 1927. Their graves are in Buckatunna Baptist Church Cemetery.

Tom and Lantie's children:

1. Lawrence Boney Ford, born August 7, 1885 in Energy, Clarke County, Mississippi; died April 12, 1967. He married Annie Evie Merrel April 12, 1919. She was born September 9, 1896; died March 1, 1983.
2. Martie Octavy Ford, born December 31, 1887 in Energy, Clarke County, Mississippi; died May 10, 1940. She married Charles Newton Kennedy April 14, 1912. He was born July 29, 1885; died January 26, 1958.
3. Thomas Jefferson Ford, born October 13, 1892 in Energy, Clarke County, Mississippi; died March 19, 1962. He was married to Ruth Hyde on January 21, 1928. She was born January 17, 1904.
4. Era Atlanta Ford, born September 5, 1896 in Energy, Clarke County, Mississippi; died September 3, 1983. She married Charles Newton Kennedy May 30, 1944. His birthday as mentioned in #2 was July 29, 1885; died January 26, 1958.
5. William McKinley Ford, born October 21, 1901 in Energy, Clarke County, Mississippi; died May 27, 1902.
6. Winnie Davis Ford, William's twin, was born October 21, 1901, in Energy, Clarke County, Mississippi.

V. John Asa Williams, born September 17, 1866 in Lauderdale Co., Mississippi; died October 29, 1952. He married Lula Mae Powell, who was sister to Rilla, who married John's brother, Herbert or Hub. John and Lula moved to Pensacola, Florida in the early 1920's, and are buried in St. John's Cemetery there.

John and Lula's children:

1. Lyle Williams, born November 15, 1903 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died April 29, 1961. He married Basha Cobb of Pensacola. Lyle is buried in St. John's Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida.

V. John Asa Williams, continued.

2. Howell Williams, born July 16, 1905 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died April 23, 1970. He married Bertha Imogene Lowery. He is buried in Bayview Memorial Park Cemetery, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida.
3. Jewell Williams, born February 28, 1908 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died February 20, 1987. Married Frank Davis. Jewell is buried in Roberts Cemetery, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida.

VI. James Kinsey (Jim or J. K.) Williams, born September 1, 1868, in Toomsuba, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died January 2, 1962. He married Nettie Evelyn Sims Camp, widow of Mack Grady Camp, 1902, in Toomsuba, Mississippi. They are buried in the Toomsuba Baptist Church Cemetery.

J. K. and Nettie's children:

1. Chastain Bent Williams, 1904-1967. He was born in Toomsuba, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; married Elizabeth Feeley.
2. Irma Williams, 1905-1907; born in Toomsuba and buried there.
3. Mack Grady Williams, born December 13, 1908 in Toomsuba, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. He married Margaret Lucille Lide. She was born January 25, 1912 in Laurel, Jones County, Mississippi. Mack was named for his mother's first husband, Mack Grady Camp, who was brother to Alonza Berriman (Berry) Camp, who married Ada Virginia Williams, tenth child of Boney and Eliza Mae Boney Williams.
4. Emma Ruth Williams, born September 14, 1912 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. She married Roy John Morris. He was born August 1, 1911; died July 18, 1975.

VII. Robert Edwin (Bob) Williams, born September 2, 1870 in Clarke County, Mississippi; died January 30, 1929. He married Lety Alafear (Ella) Campbell on April 16, 1899, in Beulah Community, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. She was born December 24, 1880 in Beulah Community, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. She died February 14, 1943.

VII. Robert Edwin (Bob) Williams, continued.

Bob and Ella are buried in St. John's Cemetery, Pensacola, FL. An interesting fact concerning Bob and Ella is that Bob was the seventh child in his family, Ella was the seventh child in hers, and together, Bob and Ella had seven children.

Bob and Ella's children:

1. Joseph Clay Williams, born April 5, 1900 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida; died April 20, 1900.
2. Child unnamed.
3. Roger Boney Williams, born July 23, 1906 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida; died May 23, 1948. He married Effie Williams, (same surname, no relation) of Pensacola. He is buried in St. John's Cemetery, Pensacola.
4. James Edwin Williams, born January 23, 1911 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida; died April 8, 1969. He married Lula Fomby of Pensacola. Edwin is buried in Miami, Florida.
5. William Avery Williams, born September 25, 1912 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida; died in 1914.
6. R. E. Ernestine Williams, born May 31, 1915 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. She married Tyrus Raymond Cobb of Pensacola. His birthdate: September 20, 1914.
7. Richard Paul Williams, born August 18, 1919 in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. Paul married Faye Earlene Lofton of Brookhaven, Mississippi. Her birthdate: October 14, 1927.

VIII. Mary Alice Williams, born October 13, 1872 in Clarke County, Mississippi; died December 15, 1875 at the age of three years of Diphtheria. Her grave is in Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery, Clarke County, Mississippi.

IX. Lula Octavia Williams, born December 18, 1874 in Clarke County, Mississippi. She was not married. Lula died September 24, 1937, and is buried in the Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery, Causeyville, Mississippi.

X. Ada Virginia Williams, born December 31, 1876 in Clarke County, Mississippi; died November 6, 1967. She was married to Alonza Berriman (Berry) Camp October 18, 1894. Berry was born October 14, 1864 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died June 23, 1943. Ada and Berry are buried in Salem Baptist Church Cemetery near Toomsuba, Mississippi.

The children of Ada and Berry are:

1. Quintus Ernon Camp, born May 24, 1896 near Toomsuba, Mississippi; died Aug 12, 1951. He married Emily Little, April 18, 1920.
2. Richmond Herman Camp, born May 18, 1898 near Toomsuba, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died August 11, 1919.
3. Aymond Boney Camp, born February 7, 1901, near Toomsuba, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died April 4, 1901.
4. Ava Dee Camp, born August 5, 1904 in Tonic, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died September 5, 1968. She first married Edward Ambrose Keyes, III, November 20, 1926, and later married George Hyde, May 21, 1942.
5. Carter Cullen Camp, born May 20, 1906 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died January 12, 1948. He married Frances Maples September 6, 1931.
6. Evelyn Caroline Camp, born March 30, 1912 in Kewanee, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. Evelyn married Walter Henderson Hughley October 18, 1935. His date of birth: July 6, 1910; died March 20, 1968.
7. Usher Williams Camp, born December 19, 1916 in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died April 30, 1969.

XI. Ida Vivian Williams, born December 31, 1876; died June 27, 1877. She was Ada Virginia's twin. Ida is buried in the Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery in Clarke County, Mississippi.

XII. Richard Clay Williams, born September 2, 1879 in Clarke County, Mississippi; died June 12, 1950. He married Virginia Dora Rainer, February 17, 1904. She was born July 19, 1882 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi; died August 27, 1973. Clay and Virgie are buried in Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery, Causeyville, Mississippi.

The children of Clay and Virgie:

1. Gladys Elizabeth Williams, born December 31, 1905 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. She married Louie Brooks Smith, December 31, 1923. He was born January 3, 1903; died May 7, 1978. Brooks is buried in Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery, Causeyville, Mississippi.
2. Willye Clay Williams, born September 23, 1907 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. She married Adrian Hilliard Jackson of Pensacola, Florida. He was born February 9, 1908; died June 17, 1980. Adrian's grave is in Bayview Memorial Park Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida.
3. Tommie Boney Williams, born September 21, 1914 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. He married Mary Kate Naylor of Meridian, Mississippi. Her birthdate: April 19, 1919. Tommie is buried in Magnolia Cemetery, Meridian, Mississippi. He died December 21, 1979.
4. Virginia Kathryn Williams was born March 10, 1923 in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. She married Ralph Dale Smith of Vimville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. His birthdate: August 21, 1922.

XIII. Herbert Harmon (Hub) Williams, born February 14, 1881; died November 14, 1940. He married Rilla Powell. As mentioned earlier, Rilla was sister to Lula Mae, who married Hub's brother, John. Rilla's birthdate was January 10, 1880; her date of death: February 22, 1966. Hub and Rilla are buried in Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery, Causeyville, Mississippi.

XIII. Herbert Harmon (Hub) Williams, continued. "

The children of Hub and Rilla Williams:

1. Aven Bethea Williams, born November 27, 1904, in Causeyville, Lauderdale County, Mississippi. He married Irene Tress, who was born in Lena, Leake County, Mississippi. Aven died in 1965, and was buried in Sledge, Mississippi.
2. Myra Elizabeth Williams, born April 10, 1907, in Causeyville, Mississippi. She did not marry. Myra died July 3, 1975, and is buried in Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery, Causeyville, Mississippi.
3. Robert David Williams was born in Causeyville in 1912. He died at the age of six years in 1918; is buried in Causeyville Baptist Church Cemetery, Causeyville, MS.
4. Hubert Williams was born in Causeyville, Mississippi, on May 18, 1915. He married Rubye Palmatree of Batesville, Mississippi.
5. Davis Powell Williams was born November 20, 1921, in Causeyville, Mississippi. He married Beulah Estelle Smith, September 26, 1943. Beulah was born July 3, 1922, in Epps, Sumter County, Alabama.

Since the generation of the thirteen children of Boney Usher and Eliza Mae Boney Williams, our lineage has continued to expand. We know we descend from Joseph Williams, Sr., who was born about 1735, and whose descendants were said to come from England. We know we are from Joggi Boni, the French Huguenot from Switzerland, who arrived in America in 1736, and from Jacob Wells, also from Switzerland, who arrived with the DeGraphenreid colonists in 1710. We represent the formation of a distinctive culture. Our ethnic strains are universal, as our families marry and procreate. We have a lineage of which to be proud. Long live the Williamses and their allied families, thereof!

SJD
1987



Williams

I'LL WAIT!

Robert (Bob) Edwin Williams, the seventh child of Boney Usher and Eliza Mae Boney Williams, left Causeyville, Mississippi at the age of eighteen to live in Florida. He boarded with William and Rachel Campbell who lived in Klondike, a small community located between Beulah and Brownsville near Pensacola.

The Campbells had a little girl who was eight years old. One day Bob and his friend were talking out in the yard when Bob said, "See that little girl walking across the yard? She will be my wife some day."

Bob's friend replied, "Bob, she is only a child."

Said Bob, "I'll wait!"

When Lety Alafear (Ella) Campbell was eighteen years old and Bob was twenty-eight, they were married!

HOW WILLYE CLAY'S NAME CAME TO BE

When my Mother was born September 23, 1907, her parents, Richard Clay and Virginia (Virgie) Dora Rainer Williams, didn't have a name selected for her. Their first child, a daughter named Gladys Elizabeth, was three years old when the new baby arrived. Both children had been delivered at home by the country doctor, William Jackson Anderson, who was affectionately known as Dr. Billy. A name could not be decided upon, so the baby remained nameless for weeks.

One Sunday, about a month after the baby's birth, Dr. Billy's wife, Cousin Alma, and Virgie were on their way to Causeyville Baptist Church with Gladys and the new baby in the buggy. As they were riding through the swamp, Cousin Alma stopped the buggy and said to Virgie, "You are going to have to give the baby a name before we get to the church, because people are going to be asking what it is." Virgie couldn't decide, so Cousin Alma said, "I know! Let's name her after my man and your man!" So, from that moment on, Willye Clay Williams was history. Gladys was jealous of her sister's name because she was named for two of her favorite people, Dr. Billy and her Papa!

My Mother never liked her first name, so when she grew up and moved to Pensacola, Florida, in 1932, she told the Pensacolians her name was "Billye". As I grew up, I was a bit confused because her relatives called her Willye Clay, and her friends, Billye. When I attended Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, there was (and still is) a motel called "The Bill-Will". I thought that would be a good name for Mama, but she disagreed. I had fun with "Bill-Will", anyway, and I love the rhythm of Willye Clay. It was quite a task to keep up with Mama's names, let me tell you!

At this writing, Willye Clay's sister, my Aunt Gladys, is eighty-two years young, and still jealous of Mama's name. Just ask her! She'll tell you so with a twinkle in her eye!

SJD

May, 1987

BONEY USHER WILLIAMS, JR., 1862-1884

Boney Usher Williams, Jr., third child of Boney Usher and Eliza Mae Boney Williams, was born August 5, 1862. His father was serving the Confederacy during the Civil War at that time, and was on duty near Vicksburg, Mississippi. As a young boy, Boney, Jr. showed promises of becoming a preacher, and was ordained a Baptist minister as soon as he was old enough. He attended Clinton College, (now Mississippi College) in Clinton, Mississippi, some hundred or more miles away from his home in Clarke County, Mississippi.

The ministerial student, Boney, became very ill with pneumonia during the winter of 1884. The college officials sent word to Meridian, the nearest town to Boney's home. Boney, Sr. happened to be in Meridian the day the telegram arrived. Realizing the urgency of the message, Boney asked a friend to ride into the country to tell his wife, Eliza, that he was taking the first train he could to go to his son. Upon hearing the news, Eliza wanted to go with her husband, but she had a houseful of children at home. Among the youngest were Ada Virginia, age eight, Richard Clay, age five and Herbert Harmon, three.

When the father arrived at the college, he was told his son had died several hours earlier, on January 12, 1884. There was nothing to do but begin the ordeal of transporting the body home. In those days, such a task took some time. Word of Boney, Jr.'s death had not reached home, so everyone in his community was devastated with grief when a horse-drawn wagon with a pine coffin aboard rolled into the Williams' yard. The boy had been so loved and respected by all who knew him. Twenty-one year old Boney was laid to rest in the Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery near his home, the very church from whose pulpit he had preached. His grave is between those of his two sisters, Mary Alice and Ida Vivian, who had died as very young children.

This year, 1987, I had the privilege of visiting Boney's grave for my first time. His death was one hundred, three years ago, but his tall-standing gravestone is still beautifully white. At the top of the marker, an open Bible is etched into the marble, a symbol very befitting Boney.

JACOB WELLS, III, REVOLUTIONARY ANCESTOR

Jacob Wells, III, was the son of Jacob Wells, II, and Mary Wright Wells. He grew up on the west side of Yokey Swamp, near the town of Magnolia, North Carolina.

Jacob Wells, III, became a Revolutionary War soldier when he enlisted during the warm season of 1779. He was drafted for three months. There was no battle during this tour of duty. He rendezvoused at Rockfish Bridge, the dividing line between Hanover and Duplin Counties, and then marched into Jumping Run, two miles below Wilmington, North Carolina. He entered action again in the winter of 1780. He didn't fight in any battles, but there were some skirmishings with the British while he was stationed near Big Bridge, about twelve miles from Wilmington. He again went on duty a third time in the summer of 1781. He was in one battle at Rockfish Bridge. This battle took place on the third day of August, 1781. He was captured and taken as prisoner along with 500-600 others, to Laredo Bridge. After several days, an American officer effected the release of the prisoners. Jacob Wells, III, was freed, but he had a very good mare which the British kept.

In 1785, Jacob Wells, III, married our Ann "Nancy" Boney, daughter of Wimberk Boney and Catharine Tetsche (Teachey). They had fourteen children:

- 1-Catharine "Kitty" Wells, born March 9, 1786. Married Jeremiah Southerland.
- 2-Mary "Polly" Wells, born August 29, 1787. Married William New.
- 3-Boney Wells, born February 1, 1789; married Nancy Stokes.
- 4-Elizabeth "Betsy" Wells, born February 20, 1791; married Timothy Pigford.
- 5-Martha "Parsy" Wells, born January 5, 1793; married G. F. Byrd Williams.
- 6-William W. Wells, born December 4, 1794; married Sarah James.
- 7-Jacob Wells, IV, born July 5, 1797; married Elizabeth Stokes.

- 8-David Wells, born December 20, 1798; married Mary "Molsey" Newton.
- 9-Wright Wells, born April 29, 1800.
- 10-Teachey Wells, born November 11, 1801; married Winifred Ann Stallings.
- 11-Jane Ann Wells, born May 13, 1803; married Solomon Turner.
- 12-Michael Wells, born April 23, 1806; married Nancy Fussell.
- 13-Nancy Jane Wells, born April 17, 1808; married Benjamin Fussell
Blanton.
- 14-Joseph Wells, born July 2, 1810; married Thankful Mills.

Jacob Wells, III, and Ann "Nancy" Boney Wells lived most of their lives on the east side of Rockfish Creek, west of Wallace, Duplin County, North Carolina. (Duplin County later was renamed Sampson County.) Jacob died in 1826; Nancy in 1833.

Their fifth child, Martha "Parsy" Wells, married G. F. Byrd Williams, who were the parents of our Boney Usher Williams.

Shirley Jackson Davis
November 5, 1986

