

THE WILLIAMS FAMILY # 1

SIMON and PENELOPE WILLIAMS came from Alabama and settled in the community of Java (now called Herbert Springs) in Neshoba County, Mississippi. They had fourteen children, most of who were born in Alabama before they arrived at their new home. Their dates of birth are not known, but the Williams' children were:

John		Joel	
William		Emily "Em"	m. a Berry
Mary Ann	m. a Threat(?)	SIMON ALEXANDER (SR.)	
Sarah Ann	m. a Skinner	Elias George	
Harriett Ann	m. a Coats	Josiah	
Penelope	m. a Walker	Elizabeth "Betsy" Ann	Did not marry.
Pernecia	m. a Berry	(Another son, name unknown.)	

SIMON ALEXANDER "ALEX" WILLIAMS, SR. was born in Alabama before the Civil War and came to Neshoba County with his father and mother. When the war came, he was too young to fight. He grew up in Neshoba county where he married Miss MARGARET PILGRIM, a local girl. They had a farm near Antioch in Neshoba Co. and had seven children, although four died young. Alex and Margaret's adult children were:

I. SIMON ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, JR.

**Born:** Dec. 8, 1878, Neshoba Co., Ms.      **Died:** Jan. 10, 1948, Bur. Fellowship Church,  
**Married:** Miss Ira Belle Downey, 190\_, Neshoba Co. She was a dau. of Joshua Heard and Agness Love (Clanton) Downey of Neshoba County.

Nov 9, 1925  
Simon and Ira Belle Williams had four children born in Neshoba County. In 1911 Ira Belle's father moved to Pine Springs down in Lauderdale County, Miss. The local school wasn't very good where they lived in Neshoba so when their children began to arrive at school age, they looked about for a better place to go so their children could get a better education. Ira Belle's father said that the school where he was was pretty good, so when Jim Thead put up his Pine Springs farm for sale, the Williams bought it. They sold out in Neshoba County and moved to Lauderdale County. Their new place was in the SE quarter of Section 4 in Pine Springs, located about a mile south of the Downey home.

Simon Williams was a good man, a quiet man, and he knew how to be a good farmer. He enjoyed tending his crops and he enjoyed his family. Something that few people knew about Simon was that he enjoyed raising flowers, too.

Every year Simon set aside a couple rows in the vegetable garden near the house where he planted and tended his Dahlias. He grew marvelous Dahlias, some 8 - 9 inches across. Ira Belle enjoyed them and picked bouquets for her neighbors. Everyone raved over 'Ira Belle's Dahlias', never thinking that it was Mr. Williams that tended and cared for them so faithfully. He was a gentle loving man and he was happy enough if his Ira Belle got the credit.

In 1948 Simon became ill and was in hospital a while, but when there was no hope of his recovery, Ira Belle brought him home where he died peacefully with his family gathered about his bedside. He was seventy years old. They buried him at Fellowship Baptist Church, where he was a member.

Children:

1. EVA MAE WILLIAMS 1906, m. Odell Snowden, son of James Edward and Myrtie (Phillips) Snowden who lived near Pine Springs.

Attended school at Pine Springs and Center Hill School. Moved to Meridian where Odell worked most of his life as an automobile mechanic. Eva worked

as a Psych. Aide until she retired and moved back to Pine Springs. She now lives in her parents old home, which she has remodeled.

Children:

- A. EDNA MYRTLE SNOWDEN 1942, m. Danny LaShane Lives in Pine Springs.
- B. ALTON CLEVELAND SNOWDEN 1943, m. Bertie Lou Lovett, lives/Pine Springs.
- C. AGNES MABELL SNOWDEN 1945, m. Larry Wayne Skelton

2. ALGIE ROBERT WILLIAMS 1909- , m. Vivian Byrd, dau. of Nade S. and Virgie (Hawkins) Byrd, neighbors in Pine Springs.

A gentle, Christian man, Robert is a carpenter who has always taken pride in his work. If he is hired to replace a window or to build a whole house, he always does the best that he knows how. His cabinet work, which he seems to enjoy the most, shows the touch of a master carpenter. He is now semi-retired and he and Vivian live on their farm on west side of Okatibbee Lake. where he does some farming and bee-keeping.

Children:

- A. MAVIS WILLIAMS 19 , m. Matthew Stokes
- B. JANELLE WILLIAMS 19 , m. Alexander
- C. MARGARET WILLIAMS 19 , m. Paul Alewine
- D. BOBBIE WILLIAMS 19 , m. Frank Gibson

3. AUBREY ALEXANDER WILLIAMS 1914-1933, Fell from a peach tree when he was eight years old, injured his spine, causing a nerve to be pinched. Eventually he became an invalid. He studied at home and tried to keep up with his schoolwork. When he was 18 he died with a heart attack and was buried at Fellowship Church.

4. JAMES HEARD "JIMMY" WILLIAMS 1925, m. Shirley Campbell of New Orleans. Jimmy dropped out of school to join the US Army when World War II started. He was placed in the Medical Corps. He is now living in Pine Springs.

Children:

- A. RONNIE WILLIAMS

## II. EDNA WILLIAMS

Born: 1881, Neshoba Co,Ms.

Died:

Married: Patrick Drew, Neshoba County.

They moved from Neshoba to Duffee in Newton County where Baston worked as a postman. Edna had only one child of her own, but when her sister Annie Smith died, Edna took three of the four motherless children to raise.

Children:

1. NINA DREW 19 , m. Monroe Foster

Nina finished college and started teaching school at Center Hill in 1933 where she remained for three years. She taught about at several schools until she married Mr. Foster, a carpenter, rather late in life. She had no children.

## III. ANNIE BELLE WILLIAMS

Born: 1886, Neshoba Co.

Died: 1919, (Meridian?)

Married: Baston Smith, Neshoba Co., ca 1909

The Smiths moved to Lauderdale County where Baston worked in the railroad shops in Meridian. Annie died when their fourth child was born in 1919. Her brother, Simon, took the baby boy and her sister Edna took the three older children and kept them until the father was married again and could care for them.

Mr. Smith was transferred on to Arkansas and then later to Missouri and it was some time before he was able to make a home for the children, but by that time they were almost grown.

Children:

- A. HAZEL IRENE SMITH 1910, m. Jack Wells, son of Luke Hunter Wells of Newton.
- B. LORENE SMITH 1913, m. Harmon Vaughn of Coldwater.
- C. A.K. (ALBERT) SMITH 1915, moved to Florida and married there.
- D. JAMES SMITH 1919-1945, His mother died when James was born. Uncle Simon Williams (who later moved to Pine Springs), took the infant and raised him. When James' father married again he took the boy with him to Arkansas, but James didn't like it there and went back 'home' to Uncle Simon. He loved Simon Williams better than his own father.

James came to Lauderdale County with Uncle Simon and Aunt Ira Belle. When he was old enough he lived about Pine Springs community and worked for his room and board with different families until World War II came. In 1942 he joined the US. Navy. After the war he was in Washington DC when he had a CVA and died. He was only 26 years old and had never married.

WILLIAMS FAMILY # 2

Born in England on August 11, 1818, John Ivy Williams was about twenty when he came on a trip to America with his brother. John liked what he saw in this new land and wanted to stay, so the brother, with misgivings, went back to England, leaving John to his adventuring. This was in the mid 1830's.

John Williams had not much money but he had heard that by staking off a claim on public land, and by living on and improving that claim for three continuous years, one could be qualified to receive a grant from the government and receive clear title to the property. John started looking for a likely spot.

John Williams staked his claim on land located between Sookalina and (now) Collinsville, on the road that went from Sookalina to Duffee. He at first built a small lean-to that was good enough to keep him out of the weather. Then he started clearing the fields and he put in a small crop. A batchelor, he didn't require much at first. He planted some cotton so he would have a little cash and could buy some books and take care of his simple needs. He wasn't nearly as interested in farming as he was in preaching.

Reared as a protestant in the Methodist Church in England, John had always been interested in the teachings of John Wesley. On coming to America he must have heard about Asbury, the circuit-riding Methodist that traveled about, not looking for other Methodists to preach to, but to make Methodists out of the unconverted. John would ~~build a permanent house,~~ got his farm started, and ~~then he would go~~ on the road and be a circuit rider.

The house that he built was of logs, sitting back off the road that led from Sookalina to Duffee. He left a big stand of Oaks between the house and the road. The house itself had two floors, and was a substantial, permanent structure. He took his time, made it big, did a good job. He wanted someday to bring a wife to his claim and to have a big family.

There is no record of when John Williams started to preach. He must have been riding a circuit when he met his future bride. She was MISS ARMINDA MADISON, a native of Alabama, from the northern part of the state, in the present-day Birmingham area (Birmingham didn't exist until years later). She had been born on May 15, 1822, and must have passed her 20th birthday when they met. After a brief courtship they were married, and John brought her home to Lauderdale County. Before long, they started their family. There were eight children born to this union.

John continued to farm and preach, and became one of the early ministers of the Sookalina Methodist Epis. Church, South.

Arminda died August 23, 1887 and John Ivy Williams died October 31, 1891. They are both buried in the Suqualena Methodist Church Cemetery.

Children: (All born in Suqualena)

- I. FRANCIS MARION WILLIAMS 1845-1863, Eighteen years old. Was 16 when he joined the Confederate States Army and went off to the Civil War. He was killed in battle near Chattanooga, Tennessee.
- II. ASBURY BENSON WILLIAMS 1847-\_\_\_\_, m. \_\_\_\_\_, Lived on his farm near Duffee.
- III. MARY LUCRITIA WILLIAMS 1849-d/La, Shocked her family when she eloped when she was a young lady. She went off to Louisiana and her family lost touch.
- IV. HANNAH LOUVONIA WILLIAMS 1851-1928, m. Samuel B. Denton, of Co. F, Miss. Reg, CSA (1841-1928) both bur. Mt. Carmel Ch. in Obediah, where they made their home. Children listed, next page.

*John Ivy Williams  
1818-1891  
NE 1/4 Sec 3, NW 1/4 T15  
R15, Co. I, 37th Miss. CSA*

*A. B. Williams  
was in  
Co. I, 37th Miss. CSA*

## Children:

1. Tom m. Rebecca Hughes
  2. Lela 1875-1963, m. Robert Ratcliff, son of Obediah
  3. Minnie m. Levin Roberts
  4. Ollie Addie m. Dolphus Edward Hughes, who began(1911) telephone exchange in his store at Obediah that still is in business today.
  5. Doctor Francis m. Annie Ratcliff, sis. of Robert.
  6. John 1868-1919, did not marry. Was thrown from horse when young, never recovered. Was 51 when he died.
  7. Preston 1893-1893, Infant.
- V. JAMES MADISON WILLIAMS 1853-
- VI. THOMAS BASCUM WILLIAMS 1854-1915, bur. at Suqualena
- VII. PEYTON MADISON WILLIAMS 1856-1928, m. Nancy Jane \_\_\_\_\_ (1860-1928) Inherited old Williams homeplace, lived there all his life. Old log house has now been torn down.
- VIII. JOHN IVY WILLIAMS, JR. 1861-1931, m. (1)Willie Helen Knight (1865-1887) (2) Mary Jane "Mollie" Evans, (b 1871Al), dau. of Alford Evans who came from Choctaw Co, Ala, about 1874.

John and Willie Helen were living in Suqualena in 1887 with their four year old daughter and their baby, when Helen was brutally murdered.

One morning after John went to the field, two black men came and murdered his wife and hung her body in the well. Both men were gone by the time anyone came by, but for some reason, John knew who had done the terrible deed. A search was started and one of the men was found shot. Some conjecture was that John had shot the negro but that was only guesswork. The second negro was finally found a year later and was brought to the Williams' home by the Ku Klux Klan. They hanged him on one of the big Oaks that were in the front of the house.

John went to work for the Southern Railroad and left his children with one of his brothers while he worked. Around 1895 he married Mollie, Evans and they rented a small box house from John Love over in Pine Springs. It was one of four thrown-together rental houses that were near the forks of the Pine Springs and Allen Swamp roads. John Williams did a little farming and put in a crop, but he continued working for one railroad company or another.

The 1900 census shows John (39) and Mollie (31) Williams, living in Pine Springs with John's daughter, China, who had turned sixteen, and their two-year old son, George.

China Williams married one of the Love sons that October and the Williams family moved to Meridian and bought a home. John and Mollie lived in Meridian and all of their children attended the Meridian public schools. His first son, Helen's child, had died at age two.

John worked for railroads for 44 years before he retired. He and Mollie both died in Meridian but were buried at the Methodist Church at Suqualena.

Children:(The first two were Helen's, the rest were Mollie's)

1. CHINA IDELL WILLIAMS 1883-1968, m. David Crockett Love, Oct.31,1900. Crockett was a son of John and Mary (Denton) Love of Pine Springs. China was four when her mother was killed. She stayed with her uncle until her father married again. She moved to Pine Springs with he father and step-mother around 1895 where she met her husband.

IN 1892  
OWNED BY ACCESS  
IN SE NW 1/4 S-13  
T-7 R-14

She and Crockett Love were married in the fall of 1900 when China turned sixteen.

China and Crockett's first home was an old log house that was on a lane a quarter mile off the Pine Springs Road. [The road that turns west at today's P.S. Fire Dept..] The old house was the one that had been built by the Collins family before the war. Later they were able to build a small board house up on the main road, directly across from the big white house of Samuel H. Bozeman's. [Pine Springs Bait Store now occupies old Bozeman housesite.] Crockett farmed the land that was his share of the Love place when his father died.

Crockett, at 33 years of age, died with pneumonia in 1912. China, in her late 20's and faced with rearing two children, sold their farm and moved to Meridian in 1917. John O. Lovett of Obediah bought her land and enlarged and painted her little house. It is vacant, but still standing at this writing.

In 1919 China Love bought another farm located two miles north of Ratcliff's store and the Pine Springs School. She bought 40 acres in the Southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 8, Range 15E from Jesse Bounds. She tried to keep her farm going and managed to scrape by for a few years, but in 1926 she gave Ellis Pratt a Deed of Trust to get money to operate on that year. It turned out to be a bad crop year and she was beset with problems. She didn't make enough to pay off her crop lien that fall and Mr. Pratt had to foreclose.

China gave up on trying to live in the country. She moved back to town where she eventually was able to buy a modest home on 41st Avenue, out near Highland Park.

She never married again and when she died they buried her at the Suqualena Methodist Church beside Crockett.

Children:

- A. Infant daughter 1902-1902, bur. at Suqualena.
- B. David Leo Love 1903-
- C. Lizzie Love 1905- Did not marry. Lives alone on 41st Ave. in Meridian. Is active in RSVP and does much volunteer work. (1987)
2. GEORGE DEWEY WILLIAMS 1898-1901, died a little child.
3. TILLBY KATHERINE CLEOPATRA "CLEO" WILLIAMS 1900- m. (1) Grady Norton, Divorced. (2) Carroll Maul. Carroll died in 1955 but Cleo still lives in Hattiesburg, Ms. Cleo was born on her half-sister China's wedding day.
4. SUSIE OCTAVIA WILLIAMS, 1901-, m. Ray Graves. Moved to Kentucky, where Octavia still lives.
5. NANCY MEDORA "NANNIE" WILLIAMS 1907- m. Clyde Dees. She is still living in Hattiesburg. (in 1987)
6. MARY JANE WILLIAMS 1910-1910, lived one day.
7. JOHN IVY WILLIAMS (III) 1913- m. Mildred Grayson. John, now retired, worked for City of Meridian Engineering and Water Dept. for 47 years. He and his niece, Miss Lizzie Love, were kind enough to furnish most of the information on this family.

*Pratt bought farm from China  
WILLIAMS  
She gave  
deed on  
Pratt  
to Rent  
Armed  
out*