

## JOHN WILLIAMS AND MARY PARRY HISTORIES

The father of John Williams was Thomas Williams and his mother's name was Anne. They occupied a farm named "Pant Efan" located along the main road near Rhualt, Flintshire, North Wales. This small hamlet was half in the parish of Cwm and half in the parish of Tremeirchion. John was their second son and he was born 11 January 1817. He was christened in the Tremeirchion parish church. Anne and Thomas continued to farm at Pant Efan until about 1824. While they were there they had four children. Thomas then moved to Newmarket where he rented a farm called Ochr y Gop. Two daughters were born at this farm and Thomas's wife Anne died there in 1837, of either consumption or in terms of the death certificate, "chronic inflammation of he lungs".

Before John's mother died, John 19 years old married and returned to Ochr y Gop where he had been helping his father to run the 100 acre farm which required plenty of help. John had married Mary Parry on 4 March 1836. She was three and a half years older than John. It was not an uncommon custom for families to live together in rural Wales. It is difficult to determine what happened to his older brother Edward. There are many Edward Williams on the records it is hard to determine which is which. At least he was not at Ochr y Gop. John had two younger brothers who were twins, Roger and Ruben. By 1841 they were separated as only Reuben is listed at the farm at 15 years of age. perhaps Roger had died by this time. Rueben, however, is listed on the Newmarket census of 1861 as married and with children and is listed as a lead miner.

Upon the death of the mother. John's wife, assumed the 'farm wife's' responsibilities in her place.

The 1841 census of Newmarket lists John and Mary.

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Thomas Williams | 40* |
| John            | 20  |
| Mary            | 25  |
| Rueben          | 15  |
| Mary            | 4   |
| Elizabeth       | 2   |
| Sarah           | 1   |

Also 3 servants. \* Ages gives the number in increments of 5 closest to age of person.

Mary, Sarah, and Elizabeth are John and Mary's children. They are still in residence in 1851 and a bit more information is included in this census:

|                 |    |   |
|-----------------|----|---|
| Thomas Williams | 60 | Widower, head of family, farmer of 100 acres. |
| John Williams   | 34 | Married son, farm laborer                     |
| Mary Williams   | 36 | Married daughter-in-law, housewife            |
| Elizabeth       | 13 | granddaughter                                 |
| Sarah           | 11 | granddaughter                                 |
| Ann             | 9  | granddaughter                                 |
| Jane            | 7  | granddaughter                                 |
| Edward          | 2  | grandson                                      |

and 3 farm servants.

This census indicates that John Williams daughter Mary has died His brother Reuben has died or at age 25 he no longer lives there.



The family of John Parry and Mary Williams Parry also lived on the farm at Ochry Gop. In 1846 they moved to Birkenhead, England about 15 miles straight north. Today's maps of Wales do not show Newmarket, but do show Mold, where the main parish was for the Newmarket area. They remained there for two years after which they returned two years later full of the restored gospel to which they had been converted. John Williams wife Mary was the daughter of John Parry. Mary accepted the teaching of her father and mother and was baptized before her parents returned to Birkenhead and left with the Buena Vista group for Utah. Many of the people in the Newmarket area became interested in the Mormonism and were baptized, they joined together in small branches to worship, and either became disillusioned rather quickly or gathered for emigration to Zion and left.

A rather imaginative bit of faith healing involved John Williams. Yet it is doubtful that he joined the Mormon Church during this period. The faith healing story comes from the journal of John Parry Jr. (and could have been written to impress the reader rather than to report the actual facts). It involves the restoration of John Williams' cancer-destroyed tongue and jaw. Whether John Williams was baptized then or later (1870). Nevertheless he left his father and his farm laboring to emigrate with Mary and their daughters (sons had died) to Zion in the spring of 1856.

This family joined others in Liverpool and sailed under Dan Jones' watchful care in the ship SAMUEL CURLING. This group arrived in Council Bluffs via Boston and outfitted as the third handcart company under the direction of Edward Bunker, leaving in June of 1856, just ahead of the ill-fated Martin and Willis companies.

Pricilla Merriman Evans was a member of that company and recorded the following: "a handcart for each family. Each handcart carried about 100 pounds of flour and when that was gone we got more from the wagon. (five mule teams hauled tents and flour in wagons) carried coffee and bacon which was soon gone. ... about three hundred Welsh Saints.. about a dozen in our tent.. allowed to bring but 17 pounds of baggage and clothing.. the sick were pulled on the carts, no one could ride in the wagons.. we had no snow and the weather was quite pleasant.. had to leave clothes and other possessions in the campground in Iowa to be put in the storehouse and later brought to the valley. The storehouse burned down.. settlers along the way made fun of us..." But on they trudged to Zion, arriving 2 October 1856 about five months after leaving Council Bluffs.

John, Mary and their daughters settled in Millcreek in the vicinity of the present 33rd South and 7th East. The first record of them in the valley is the 1860 Greater Salt Lake census. John is listed as a farmer with about \$50 worth of personal estate, age 42, Mary age 44, Ann 17, Jane 15. Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth had already in December of 1856, become the young fourth wife of an older Scottish convert who had traveled in the same handcart company. Sarah had left to find work in South Willow Creek. She walked about 12 miles along the old pioneer road that led to Willowcreek. Being dead tired she stopped at the pioneer cabin of Perry Fitzgerald's. He took her in and gave her work. Sarah married Perry Fitzgerald's son John, 17 Feb. 1858. With these exceptions, all of John Williams family remained in Millcreek. Ann and her sister Jane married a young English neighbor of theirs, Henry Rhodes, on the same day, 13 January 1866. Both died of child birth. Ann in 1871 after having five children, and Jane in 1880 after having seven children. (Grandma Smith tells in her autobiographical sketch that she and Heber A stopped in to see her Williams grandparents in Feb. 1880 while returning from their marriage at the endowment house. Her grandfather John Williams had recently gone to Salt Lake for a coffin in which to bury his daughter (this must have been Jane) and had his leg broken by a drunken teamster.



## John Williams and Mary Parry continued

The ward history of Millcreek does not mention John or Mary Williams, nor does his name appear as participating in any official capacity. His baptism is recorded as the 15 Feb. 1870. This may or may not have been the first baptism for John, but does appear to be so since within five months he and Mary receive their endowments (after being in the valley about 14 years) and they were sealed in the Endowment House. At the same time John is sealed to his wife's two deceased sisters, Elizabeth and Sarah.

John remained monogamous when all about him was polygamy. Why? Mary did some proxy work at the Salt Lake Temple in company with her Parry relatives, but John's name is not there.

John's death is recorded in the Newspaper of the week of 23 Jan. 1891. His cause of death was perhaps a stroke, "paralysis" according to the obituary. He died at 75 year of age. The funeral was held in the Millcreek schoolhouse on the 25th. The speakers included two Welsh men, Elias Morris and Joseph Hyrum Parry. His wife Mary lived three years longer, then died of an accidental fall in which she broke her thigh. She was 80 years, 5 months and 13 days old. A crisp matter of fact report on her long eventful life.

### References

National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth

1. for Bishop's transcripts, Newmarket
2. 1844-45 tithe maps
3. Thomas Edwards' 1926 manuscript copy of Newmarket parish registers, Newmarket, Tremeirchion, CWM parish registers original and on film at Genealogical Society, in Salt Lake. St. Asaph marriage bonds and allegations, film. St. Catherine's; House, General Reg. office, London for death certificates, and 1841-1851 census of Newmarket.

Handcarts to Zion Hafen and Hafen

1860 Greater Salt Lake census

Journal History of the Church newspaper clippings

Millcreek Ward records

On site inspection of Ochr y Gop farm

Journal of Priscilla Merriman Evans

Salt Lake City death records

Endowment House, Logan and Salt Lake temple records

Tax list of 1833 (register of voters) Flintshire, Wales

Minnie Margett's catalogue of British early members

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