

THE WILLIAMS AND HARRIS LINES

This document is about the ancestors of Alice Virginia HARRIS who married James WASHBURN. For information on them, their descendents, and James ancestors, see the accompanying document on the WASHBURN line.

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WHO WERE THE SCOTCH-IRISH?

Our WILLIAMS and HARRIS ancestors come from an important group of early immigrants – the Scotch-Irish. In a nut-shell, they were descended from Scottish people who came to the New World after first settling in Ireland.

After England and Scotland were formally united in 1603, King James I began looking for a way to better control recently-conquered Catholic Ireland. The result was the 'Plantation of Ulster' - a plan that took land away from Catholics and gave it to Protestants, primarily Presbyterians from the Scottish lowlands. Beginning in 1606 and continuing for about a century, tens of thousands Scottish Lowlanders made the short voyage across the Irish channel to settle in present-day northern Ireland. (Lowlanders come from southern Scotland and are different from the kilt-wearing Highlanders of the north.) By the early 1700s, these Lowland Scots and their descendents were the majority population of Ulster. This historical migration is the root of the religious turmoil in Northern Ireland.

But not all their descendents stayed in Ulster. Between 1710 to 1775, around 200,000 people immigrated from Ulster to the present-day United States. Most of them went to Pennsylvania and settled in the Appalachian mountains that run through the middle of the state. Within a generation they began migrating down the mountain valleys (which tend to run to the southwest) to Virginia and the Carolinas. By the mid-1700s they began pushing over the mountains to present-day western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Our WILLIAMS and HARRIS ancestors were part of this first wave of Scotch-Irish immigration. The very first records we have of both lines indicate that they were in or near the Shenandoah Valley by the mid-to-late 1700s. But we can guess that several decades before that an earlier generation came from Ulster and settled in Pennsylvania and then the younger sons of the next generation moved south looking for new land (to take from the Indians).

There were several later waves of Scotch-Irish immigration, including one in the early 1800s which our MOORE line is descended from. The term Scotch-Irish was commonly used in the United States as a way to distinguish these people from the Gaelic-speaking Catholic Irish (who didn't begin coming to the United States in significant numbers until the 1840s). That term is not used in Great Britain. The Protestants of Northern Ireland are usually called Ulster-men or just British.

THE WILLIAMS LINE

What is known about the WILLIAMS line starts in the mid-1700s in and around the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. The direct line is as follows:

- John WILLIAMS (??? to 1786) and an unknown wife were probably the parents of Ambrose.
- Ambrose WILLIAMS (about 1750 to 1838) and an unknown wife were the parents of John.
- John WILLIAMS (about 1777 to 1855) and Mary TOWNSLEY (1776 to 1855 or after) were the parents of Hugh.
- Hugh WILLIAMS (1799 to 1865) and Jane HOWELL (1800 to 1865 or after) were the parents of Rebecca.
- Rebecca (1830 to 1872) and William HARRIS (1830 to 1913) were the parents of Alice Virginia. (She married James WASHBURN – see the WASHBURN documentation.)

To put the generations in perspective, Rebecca and William were my great-great-great grandparents. Ambrose is my 7 x great grandfather. There have been a lot of generations to get from him to me.

Tracing the early WILLIAMS line can be confusing because certain first names get used again and again in multiple families over the generations. It was common to name sons after fathers and brothers and to name daughters after mothers and sisters. Also, WILLIAMS was (and is) a common surname and there were other apparently unrelated WILLIAMS clans around. For example, in the 1780s there were at least four different adult men named John WILLIAMS living in the greater area of western Virginia and West Virginia. In researching the old records one can't just assume you have the right person if the first name matches. (Although some people do just that, such as one person on Ancestry.com whose family tree included a Hugh WILLIAMS who was married before he was born!) So in writing about the men named John and Hugh I will always clarify when I'm referring to our direct line.

Ambrose WILLIAMS was born about 1750 probably in or near the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. Some genealogists list him as being born in Augusta County, which at the time comprised just about all of present-day southwestern Virginia and southern West Virginia. The first records of Ambrose WILLIAMS are various tax, property, and court records from the 1780s for Greenbrier County. Greenbrier was one of the first counties to be formed out of Augusta and in the 1780s it included most of what is now the southern half of West Virginia. Property records indicate that Ambrose lived on the Gauley River in or near present day Webster County. This was the edge of the frontier at that time and there were still Indian raids in the area.

Surviving court records from the 1780s show that Ambrose was frequently sued for unpaid loans, seemingly by just about everyone else in the county. He was apparently a poor and not particularly successful farmer. One set of very organized tax records from the mid-1780s show that Ambrose lived next door to a John WILLIAMS Sr. and that several other Williams men, including a John Jr., lived in the vicinity. (Ambrose's son John would have been just a boy at the time and so not listed.) John Sr. was probably Ambrose's father and the other men his brothers. One early deed for another man

mentions the property being adjacent to a "camp where John WILLIAMS makes saltpeter," apparently in reference to one of the two Johns.

Sometime around 1770, probably before moving to the Gauley River area, Ambrose married an unknown woman. They probably had several sons and daughters but only two are known: John (our line) born in 1777 and Hugh born a few years before. At some point this first wife died and on 6 May 1786 Ambrose married Milly LUDINGTON. She was about ten to fifteen years younger than Ambrose and they would have several sons and daughters.

Ambrose's son John (our line) married Mary TOWNSLEY around 1797. They had a son named Hugh WILLIAMS (our line) born on 28 May 1799. Mary TOWNSLEY is listed as Hugh's mother on his death record. However, it isn't clear if she was John's only wife as there is also a marriage record in Greenbrier County on 18 March 1800 for John WILLIAMS and Mary 'Polly' BURNS. Some genealogists think this is the same John and that the first Mary died. Two pieces of supporting evidence for this are that in his will (our) John refers to his wife as Polly and that his son Richard's death record lists his parents as John and Polly WILLIAMS (unfortunately without the mother's surname). On the other hand, Polly was a common nickname for Mary so probably our John only had one wife.

Because the 1790 and 1800 census records for Virginia were destroyed when the British occupied Washington D. C. in 1814, the only surviving sources of information on where Ambrose and his family lived are tax, property and court records. But it appears that they stayed around the Gauley River until shortly after 1820 as they are still listed in Greenbrier County in the census of that year. (*See Appendix A for some of the land records.*)

During the next few years Ambrose and some (or maybe all) of his children moved north to what is now the northern end of Braxton County. (The area was still part of Lewis County until Braxton was formed in 1836.) The family settled in the area around the Little Kanawha River, especially around Salt Lick Creek and near the village of Bulltown. At least some of their land is now part of the Burnsville Lake Hunting and Fishing Area, run by the US Army Corps of Engineers. (Some of their old land is probably under water in the dam.) One of their very nearby neighbors in the 1850 and 1860 census was Moises CUNNINGHAM. The small Civil War Battle of Bulltown was fought on his land on 13 October 1863. Today the battle site and the original CUNNINGHAM house are part of an historical complex run by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Probably all of our WILLIAMS ancestors visited the house many times so it's a good place for their modern-day descendants to visit.

Prior to 1850, the US census only included the names of the head-of-household (almost always a man) and a count of other family members by age group. The 1830 census for Braxton County lists Ambrose, John, and Hugh in our line. Also listed were Samuel, Joseph, and William (all Ambrose's sons by his second wife) and James (a son of John).

Ambrose WILLIAMS died in October 1838. In December of that year his estate was valued at \$36.54 and ¼ cents. In January his possessions were sold at auction raising \$41.20 and ¼ cent. Many of the items were purchased by Elizabeth WILLIAMS, who may have been an unmarried daughter of John. (*See Appendix B for the record of Ambrose's estate sale.*)

In addition to John and Hugh, the 1840 Braxton census has at least eight WILLIAMS men listed as head-of-household and even two women: Ambrose's widow Milly and a Margaret WILLIAMS (age 40-50) who must have been a widow on an older WILLIAMS man. Milly is not listed in the 1850 census so must have died in the 1840s.

The 1850 census was the first to include more detail including the names of everyone in each household. The WILLIAMS family is all clustered together, one after the other, in this order:

- James WILLIAMS (27) and family. The oldest son of Hugh
- Hugh WILLIAMS and family (our line).
- John WILLIAMS and wife Mary live with son Hugh.
- Hugh and Martha BLAKE (Martha was a daughter of Ambrose and his second wife). The household includes Elizabeth WILLIAMS (50) possible never-married daughter of Ambrose.
- Marshall WILLIAMS (29) and family. Relationship unknown.
- James WILLIAMS (44) and family. A son of John. Possibly Marshall's father.
- George WILLIAMS (34) and family. A son of John.
- Michael REXROAD – no known relationship
- Moises CUNNINGHAM – the neighbor whose house is now a museum. His wife may have been a WILLIAMS.
- Four more households then Richard WILLIAMS, known son of John, and family.

John WILLIAMS died sometime around June of 1855. He was sick and knew he was dying as he left a will in May. He did not sign the will, but just made an 'X' so obviously he was illiterate. One of the witnesses was Moises CUNNINGHAM, proof of the close relationship between the families. John's estate was settled later that in 1855. (*See Appendix C.*) His wife Mary must have died within a few years as she is not found in the 1860 census.

HUGH WILLIAMS

Hugh WILLIAMS is the oldest known child of John and Mary. Hugh died 6 April 1865 in Braxton County and his death record gave his age as 65 years, 6 months, and 9 days. That would mean he was born on 28 September 1799. The death record also listed his parents as John WILLIAMS and Mary TOWNSLEY. Around 1822 Hugh married Jane HOWELL. (Her surname comes from several later records.) The 1820 census does not list any families with that name in Greenbrier County or nearby. However, the Lewis County census that year includes a Jonathan HOWEL and a William HOWEL. Both are over 44 years old and could be Jane's father. Since the WILLIAMS clan were still in Greenbrier in 1820, this implies that the family (or at least Hugh) moved to the Bulltown area very soon after the 1820 census.

Hugh was listed as a head-of-household in the 1830 and 1840 Braxton County census. In the 1850 census the household consists of Hugh and Jane; children John W (21), Rebecca (18), Letitia (16), Michael (15), Edward (12), Margaret Ann (9), Ruhama (7), and Francis Marion (5); Hugh's parents John and Mary; and William M. WILSON (18) of unknown relation. Hugh real estate was valued at \$460. The oldest son, James J. lived next door with his wife and first son.

The 1860 census lists Hugh and Jane with three children: Edward (22), Ruhama (18) and Francis (16). Also in the household are Mary (9) and Elizabeth (7), likely grandchildren or nieces. The value of Hugh's real estate is now listed as just \$25.

Despite the fact that he would have been over sixty when the war started, some genealogists list Hugh as having served in Company B, 2nd Virginia Cavalry, Confederate Army during the Civil War. This is just another example of seeing the name and assuming it's your person. Our Hugh had two nephews named Hugh and it must be one of those younger men who fought.

Hugh died on 6 April 1865 in Braxton County at age 65 years, 6 months, and 5 days. The death record lists Jane as his wife and says that Hugh was married (not widowed), so Jane was still alive when he died. She hasn't been found in the 1870 census or other later records so must have died within a few years.

Children of Hugh and Jane WILLIAMS

- James, born about 1823. In the 1850 Braxton County census he is living next door to his parents with wife Rebecca Jane and son Cornelius (1).
- Elizabeth. The 1830 and 1840 census records indicate that there was a daughter born around 1825. Some genealogists list her as Elizabeth but I'm not sure of the source. Nothing more is known.
- John W. , born about 1828. Mary Ann DEAN on March 14, 1851 (Cochran). Mary Ann was the daughter of William and Nancy Dean (family #126-126 in the 1850 Braxton census).
- Rebecca (5 August 1830 to 8 September 1872) – See section on William HARRIS line.
- Letitia, born about 1834.
- Michael, born about 1835. Listed in the 1860 Braxton County census with wife Catherine (25) and daughter Birthena (4).
- Edward, born about 1838. He could be the Edward W WILLIAMS, age 24, who mustered into Company D of the 15th West Virginia Infantry in Lewis County on 8 September 1862. Or he could be the Edward W. WILLIAMS, age 34, who married Mary M. SKINNER (26) in February 1872.
- Margaret Ann, born about 1841. Probably the Margaret WILLIAMS (17) who married Joseph A AMBROSE (34) on 20 August 1858.
- Ruhama, born about 1843. Married Allen SNOW (43) on 21 July 1870 in Upshur County, WV
- Francis Marion, born 2 November 1844. He is believed to be the Francis M. WILLIAMS who served as a private in Companies D and B of the 10th Regiment, West Virginia Infantry (Union). Formed in late 1863, the regiment fought in several minor and major battles in West Virginia and Virginia during the final 1 ½ years of the Civil War. In the 1870 census Francis is listed in Clay, Braxton County with wife Sarah (23) and children Michael (3) and Martha (1). No further census records have been checked. On 25 May 1921, at age 76, Francis married Monna HAMMER (42) in Sutton, Braxton County. Francis Marion died on 13 September 1930 in Hyer, Braxton County. His death record lists his mother's maiden name as HOWELL.
- The 1860 census also lists Mary (9) and Elizabeth (7) living with Hugh and Jane. Some genealogists list these as additional children, but I don't believe that. It seems very unlikely that Jane would have had two more children after age fifty. Most likely they were grandchildren, but who their parents were and what happened to them is not known.

The Williams Family in the Braxton County Will Book

It's interesting to read the estate sale of Ambrose WILLIAMS and the will of John WILLIAMS. But the overall contents of the Braxton County Will Books (volumes one, two, and three) also told a lot about the family and how they lived. By comparing Ambrose's and John's records with others, it is easy to see that the WILLIAMS family were simple people even by the standards of that time. Few estate sales and wills were as simple as those of Ambrose and John. It is possible that family members took a lot of the property bypassing the legal system, but I still suspect that the WILLIAMS family were very simple folk. Indeed, I came to the same conclusion in reading the book "A History of Braxton County, West Virginia". Aside from a few listings in Confederate army units, there were no mentions of the Williams family. However, a number of other families, such as Cutlip, Heater, Riffle, Frame, Given, Singleton, and Berry were mentioned frequently enough to show that these were the prominent families. I also suspect that this explains why some of the later generations were missing from the census some years. They may have been living far enough back in the hollows that the census taker didn't always make it.

It's also interesting to see just what various WILLIAMS family members bought at various estate sales. I will outline many (but not all) of these purchases in a few following paragraphs. Generally, the items were things like tools, cooking pots, and the occasional animal, all things one would expect of rural farmers. To me, the biggest surprise was seeing several mentions of sheep and sheep shears and Hugh WILLIAMS' purchase of a loom. The WILLIAMS family must have made much of their own clothing from wool that they raised themselves. Of course, we shouldn't forget that one item at John WILLIAMS' estate sale was a "set of flax." So they also raised their own linen. (According to page 212 of *A History of Lewis County*, that county just north of Braxton had a population of 13,393 sheep in 1850. So, sheep raising was important in the region.)

The other thing I found interesting is that the WILLIAMS family, like most other people in the county, were constantly in debt. The amounts may sound ridiculous to us today, but I suspect they were just as significant back then as a car loan is to us today. Clearly, consumer debt was alive and well in the mid-1800s.

Looking at individual purchases, the Braxton County Will Book number one has a number of entries for Hugh WILLIAMS. Under the sale of the John Haymond estate on 23 November 1838 (page 22-25), Hugh is listed as buying "one loom quil wheel" for a price of three dollars and twelve and a half cents. At the Ann Bryant estate sale of 19 May 1847 (p 134), Hugh bought a number of items: a table at 1.62, one small baker at .50, one skillet at .25, one "so" (?) at .25, one oven at 1.00, one coffee mill at .50, and "one lot of corn at 47 cents a bushel" totaling \$21.48. That works out to 43 bushels of corn. At the estate sale of "McDaniels" on 18 November 18 1852, Hugh bought four sheep for 5.10.

On page 75, Hugh WILLIAMS is listed as having an account of .21 on 1 January 1838. It is not clear just what this is, but it appears to be some sort of tax account. Regardless, Hugh's debt is the smallest on the list.

Other WILLIAMS family members are likewise listed in the sale listings. In the John Haymond sale of 23 November 23 1838, Edward Williams bought two jack planes at .50, one drawing knife at .41 1/4, sundry tools at .15, one plough at 2.31 1/4, and one kettle at 2.00 1/4. At the Ann Bryant sale, Edward bought "one single tree" for .50 and a large kettle for 3.00. At this point, I don't know what relationship, if any, Edward was to our WILLIAMS line.

Also at the Ann Bryant sale, James WILLIAMS bought "one set of braces 93 lbs at 11 cts per lb" for a total of \$10.25. John WILLIAMS is listed as buying a hoe for 2.00. At least, it looks like hoe, although that sounds expensive. This could be Hugh's father John. Also listed is Jason WILLIAMS who bought one tin bucket for .50. Like Edward, I don't know if or how Jason is connected to our WILLIAMS family. At the Benjamin Conrad estate sale of 23 September 1853, James J. WILLIAMS (who we know is Hugh's son) bought "8 hogs 1st choice" at 4.25 each for 34.00.

At the John Conrad estate sale of October 24, 1854, John WILLIAMS bought "1 white-faced cow" for 17.12 1/2. John WILLIAMS Jr. (hmmm.... haven't placed him yet, assume John's son) bought "reels of spouls" for fifty cents. John's son George WILLIAMS bought one "pidod" (?) cow for 18.50. Son Richard WILLIAMS bought something illegible for 21.00. Finally, John W. WILLIAMS, one of Hugh's sons, bought a wool blanket for .21.

One very interesting listing in the middle of book one is the estate of S. Stephenson, a storekeeper in Sutton who apparently died about May, 1853. Among the many items listed are notes of money owed (what we would call IOUs). On page 249, Hugh WILLIAMS is listed as having a note for 4.85 due 5 March 1851. James J. WILLIAMS has one of 35.62 due on 11 December 1849 and of 1.12 due on 17 March 1853. John (N or W?) WILLIAMS had one of 7.35 due 12 June 1848. Finally, a B.N. WILLIAMS had one of 4.31 due on 27 June 1850. The same storekeeper apparently also had a store in the town of Birch. There, what appears to be John B. WILLIAMS had an account of 17.53, with 14.00 credited towards payment. Another entry on page 50-51 of Book two lists the same accounts with interest. James J. WILLIAMS now owed 45.43 and 1.20 while Hugh's debt had grown to 5.34. John WILLIAMS' 7.35 had grown to 10.01 and Benjamin WILLIAMS' debt of 4.31 was now 5.30.

Various WILLIAMS family members were also in hock with John Byrne, as per the accounts owed listing of his estate on page 224. Hugh WILLIAMS owed 3.06, due 23 June 1855; James WILLIAMS had 5.00 due 28 April 1858 and 71.48 due 18 June 1859 and 8.04 due 31 May 1855. Benjamin WILLIAMS owed 6.47 due 23 June 1855 and 16.67 due 3 July 1855 and 3.00 due on 9 November 1859. George WILLIAMS owed 9.29 due on 9 June 1856 and 3.55 due 18 March 1856. Other WILLIAMS of uncertain relation included Thomas J. WILLIAMS who owed 11.50 due 7 June 1854; Sam WILLIAMS with 50.00 due 20 September 1857; Abraham WILLIAMS with 4.83 due on 19 January 1855; Josiah K. WILLIAMS with 12.13 due on 6 September 1854.

There are very few records in the files for the Civil War years. That may explain why there is no record of Hugh WILLIAMS estate. Things pick up again in 1866, but the family members are mostly different

now; there has been change of generations. At the S.J. Singleton sale of 28 March 1866, Stuart W. WILLIAMS bought one cow for 15.00 and James M. WILLIAMS bought one horse for 53.00 and one pair of horse gears for 1.10. A few days later, on 15 April 1866, at the Martin Bersinger estate sale, Hugh WILLIAMS (one of our Hugh's nephews) bought something illegible for 3.17. A few pages later, an Alexander WILLIAMS is one of three people to appraise the estate of William Hutchinson. At the Conrad Currence sale of 29 November 1867, a Willard WILLIAMS bought a chair for \$1, a set of four chairs for 1.45, and one music book for fifty-five cents.

Hugh's son James J. WILLIAMS and Edward WILLIAMS, along with a Patrick Larney, served as witnesses for the will of Hugh Blake on December 28, 1867. Hugh Blake's wife was the daughter of Ambrose and Milly WILLIAMS. James J. WILLIAMS we know is Hugh WILLIAMS' eldest son. Hugh and his brother George and WILLIAMS all had sons named Edward who would have been around 30 in 1867, so it is difficult to say just which one the Edward was.

Finally, there is only one WILLIAMS will in addition to those of Ambrose and John in the first three volumes of the Braxton County will books. That is for William Williams, son of Ambrose, who died around May, 1874 and whose wife is named Rebecca. The will is on page 173 of Volume 3.

THE HARRIS LINE

The first confirmed member of our HARRIS line is George HARRIS who was born about 1805, probably in present day Virginia or West Virginia. George is first found in the 1830 Hardy County, WV census. That same census lists two other HARRIS households. One is headed by Joseph HARRIS, age 20-30, and likely George's brother. The other consists of just Nancy HARRIS, age 50-60. Nancy is probably their mother. The 1820 Hardy County census lists just one HARRIS household, headed by James HARRIS, over 45 at the time. James was probably the husband of Nancy and father of George and Joseph.

George moved his family to southern Lewis County sometime in the 1830s and is found there in the 1840 and 1850 census. The 1850 census lists the family as George (45), wife Elizabeth (43), William (20), Phoebe (18), Jacob (16), Clarinda (12), Silas (3), and James M (1). The 1830 and 1840 census indicate that there was a daughter older than William.

There is a George HARRIS in the 1860 Lewis County census, but I'm not totally sure it is the same one. The household is George (50), Susanna (51), Jacob (25), John W (18) and Mary E. (8). The difference in the wife's name could be due to Elizabeth dying and his remarrying, but his age is off by five years versus 1850. Son Jacob matches but it isn't clear who John W. would be. The only other possible record of George is a George W. Harris estate appraisal in Book III p 59 of Braxton Co. Will book, but there is no record of George living in Braxton County. Aside from researching deed books, I don't expect to find anything else on George.

Our line continues with George's oldest son., William HARRIS. One genealogist gives his birth-date as 2 January 1829 in Hardy County while in the 1900 census William said he was born in January 1828. The ages in some later census records indicate he was born after 1830, but I think the January 1828 date he gave in 1900 is likely accurate. On 17 March 1851, William married Rebecca WILLIAMS in neighboring Braxton County. They may have initially lived in Lewis County as there is a record that their second child was born there. Regardless, in the 1860 census the family is living in Braxton County. The family includes William (29), Rebecca (27), Elizabeth (7), Columbus (6), Markus (5), Alice V (4), and James (2). The census says that William could read and write but that Rebecca was illiterate. Rebecca's parents, Hugh and Jane WILLIAMS, lived nearby.

The most interesting thing in the 1860 census is that their next-door-neighbor was Moses CUNNINGHAM. The Battle of Bulltown was fought on his land on 13 October 1863. Although a minor battle, it was the most important Civil War battle in central West Virginia. Today the battle site and the house are part of an historical complex run by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It's likely that William, Rebecca, and Rebecca's parents visited the house many time and their descendents can visit it today. And they lived somewhere very close by.

It's interesting to speculate what William HARRIS and his family experienced during the battle, but it is possible they were no longer living in the area. Sometime before 1866 the family moved north to Lewis County, about three miles east of downtown Weston, according to birth records. Son Newton

was born 1 May 1866 ‘near Hilly Upland Run’ in Lewis County and daughter Lora was born 11 March 1868 ‘near Stone Coal Creek’. This appears to be the same location as Hilly Upland Run runs into Stone Coal Creek about a thousand yards west of present-day I-79, roughly across the street from the Walmart. This location is in Hackers Creek District.

In the 1870 census the family consists of William (38), Rebecca (36), Elizabeth (18), Marion Columbus (17), Lafayette (15), Alice V (14), James A (11) , Margaret (9), Charles (6), Newton (4), Lora (2), and Mary (4 months). William was a farmer with real estate worth \$300 and personal estate worth \$250.

Tragedy hit the family in 1872 when two-year old daughter Mary died of diphtheria on March 2, followed by Lora on March 12. Lora died the day after her fourth birthday, which was also the day after the birth of William and Rebecca’s last child, Joseph Lewis, on 11 March 1872. Less than six months later the children lost their mother when Rebecca died of ‘lung fever’ on 8 September 1872. It is not known where she was buried. Her age at death was given as 42 years, 1 month, and 3 days. So she was born on 5 August 1830.

Sometime in the next few years, William moved to Calhoun County, WV, where in 1877 he married the widow Mary Elizabeth SMITH BARR. Mary had six children by her first husband and she and William would go on to have two daughters and a son of their own. William and Mary are listed living in Grantsville, Calhoun County, in the 1880, 1900, and 1910 census. William HARRIS died on 27 December 1913 and is buried in Bethlehem Cemetery in Grantsville. Mary died on 11 November 1921 and is buried next to him.

Children of William and Rebecca (WILLIAMS) HARRIS

Elizabeth – Born about 1852. Married: Eldridge Smith on June 18, 1871 In Lewis Co.

Marion Columbus – Born 14 February 1853 near Hilly Upland Run in Lewis County.

Lafayette Markus – Born 1855. Married his step-sister, Louverna BARR, daughter of Mary and Henry BARR.

Alice Virginia – Born 17 September 1856 in Braxton County. Married James WASHBURN in Weston on 24 December 1876. Died 1 March 1934 in Omaha, Nebraska.

James A – Born 14 August 1858 in Braxton County. Married Nannie E WOOD (age 21, daughter of Jesse C. and Maria WOOD) on 12 June 1887 in Calhoun County. May have moved to Pennsylvania.

Margaret C – Born about 1861.

Charles W – Born about 1864

Newton – Born 1 May 1866 near Hilly Upland Run in Lewis County. Married Anna BELL (18, daughter of William and Alea BELL) on 24 August 1890 in Calhoun County.

Lora – Born 11 March 1868 near Stone Coal Creek. Died in Hackers Creek District on diphtheria on 12 March 1872.

Mary C – Born 26 December 1869. Died 2 March 1872 of diphtheria in Hackers Creek.

Joseph Lewis – Born 11 March 1872 in Hackers Creek District.

Children of William and Mary Elizabeth HARRIS

Nona May – Born 1 March 1878. Died 8 October 1959. Buried in Bethlehem Cemetery, Grantsville.

Asa Brown – Born 24 January 1880. Died 9 October 1965. Buried in Bethlehem Cemetery, Grantsville. Married Virgie BARNES on 11 1906.

Dora – Born 7 march 1865. Died 6 November 1961. Buried Bethlehem Cemetery, Grantsville. Married Roy PLANT on 28 January 1903.

APPENDIX A

Land Records For Ambrose WILLIAMS

The following items are taken from "*Land Entry Book - Greenbrier Co. WVA*" by Helen S. Stinson. 1984. The number in () at the end of each entry is taken from the text and refers to the page number the original entry was found on in the original land entry book. The second number within (()) refers to the number of the page in Mrs. Stinson's book on which the item was found. Discussion on the location of these properties is based on "West Virginia County Maps" by C. J. Puetz (no date given) and a 1989 West Virginia road map.

"Ambress Williams enters 200 acres per order from William Frogg on a north branch of Gauley River joining the upper end of 1000 acres made by Francis Arbuckle on the road that leads from Strouds place, to the fork lick on Elk at a place known by Glade Run, to extend by said run for quantity. By warrant no. 11294 for 917.5 acres. (This entry lifted and said joining salt petre cave. (196))" ((p164)). This item is not dated but is between items dated July 6, 1785 and July 8, 1785.

This appears to put the Ambrose Williams property within two or three miles of the present day village of Upper Glade in Webster County. (Upper Glade is about 3 miles due east of Cowen.) Upper Glade Run flows into the Gauley River here and Glade Run flows into the Gauley about a mile downriver. The Elk appears to refer to the Elk River, which runs parallel to the Gauley for a while in Webster County before heading north. At its closest, the Elk River is about 3.5 miles from both Upper Glade Run and Glade Run. There is a Panther Lick Run flowing into the Elk very near the point at which it is at its closest to Glade Run and Upper Glade Run. Strouds Place appears to refer to the present day village of Strouds, which is about 3 miles east-southeast of Cowen. The most interesting thing, however, is this: The Williams River flows into the Gauley from the south directly opposite where Glade Run flows into the Gauley. The Williams is a short river - it begins about 15 miles away (as the crow flies) in adjoining Pocahontas County.

"9 July 1785 Willam Frogg for John Frogg Senior enters 64 acres of land by state warrant for 917.5 acres on Burns Creek joining his, the said John Frogg's right of settlement warrant no. 11293, dated 8 March, 1782 (196)" ((p162))

This entry refers to property next to Ambrose's land. I have not been able to find Burns Creek anywhere on the Webster or Nicholas County map. This next one is apparently in reference to William Hanna who is named in the entry previous to this entry.

"21 June 1786. Also 150 acres by state warrant for 150 acres, No. 22402, dated 24 Dec 1783, assignee of Ambress Williams who was assignee of George Vineyard who was assignee of William Hicks who was assignee of Henry Banks on the road leading from Sinking Creek, to begin joining James Hanna's line and extending along the road towards Sinking Creek for quantity. (Lifted) (254)" ((p212)

"13 May 1786 Zekiel Boggs enters 150 acres of land by state warrant for 150 acres, No 22202 (22282?), assignee of James Warrick assignee of Ambress Williams assignee of George Vineyard

assigne of Henry Banks joining the open line of Wallace Bratton's survey next to Jas. Warrick on an arm of the Thorny Savannah. (140 acres surveyed) (250)"

At present I don't understand just what was going on with the land in those last two records, but Ambrose Williams was involved. I have not been able to locate Sinking Creek in Webster or adjoining Nicholas County.

APPENDIX B

Settlement of Ambrose Williams' Estate

The following information was found on pages 46-48 of book one of the Braxton County, West Virginia Will Book. The first list is of assessed values. Note that they include half and quarter cents (e.g. thirty-seven and a half cents). The second list is the results of the estate sale, including who bought what for how much. The text was copied exactly as written, to the extent that I could read it.

Inventory and Appraisement bill of personal estate of Ambrose Williams, died.

Agreeable to an order of court made out the October term, 1838, we John L. Haymond, Charles Byrne, and Robert Gibson after being first duly sworn proceed to appraise the personal estate of Ambrose Williams died as shown to us by Wm. ? Byrne D.S.

one falling leaf table	4.50	one Bible	2.00
one small table	.25	one large tin frame and one	
one log chain	1.25	tin trunk	1.25
two clavices	.37 1/2	half a set of knives and forks, 3	
one f?	.50	spoons and coffee mill	1.12 1/2
one ? ?	.75	one churn	.50
one shoe hammer and pinchers	.75	one cooler, one chain, one handsaw	1.00
one oven and lid	.50	three kegs	.50
one pot and pot hooks	1.12 1/2	one barrel	.25
one pair steel yards	1.25	five hogs	2.00
one curry comb	.31 1/4	one loom quill wheel	2.00
one pair sheep sheers, one		one bill	.75
bill, and two clips	1.00	one bill	.37 1/2
one rifle gun	8.00	one pot	1.50
one axe and one sickle.	.75		
one shovel plough and brace	1.50		
one mattock and two tarry hoes	1.75		
			39.56 1/4

We certify that the foregoing is a true list of the personal estate of Ambrose Williams, died, given under our hands the 7th day of December 1838.

John L. Haymond Charles Byrne Robert Gibson

Sale bill of the personal estate of Ambrose Williams, Died.

Mary Perkins	one table	5.00
Elizabeth Williams	one table	.37 1/2
Jacob (?onna)	two clavices	1.06 1/4
Charles Mollohon	one f?	1.25
William Singleton	one shoe hammer	
	& pinchers	.62 1/2
Elizabeth Williams	one oven and lid	.50
Rebecca Wine	one pot	.50
Elizabeth Williams	one pair steel (yards?)	1.12 1/2
Benj. H. Haymond	one curry comb	.25
Elizabeth Williams	one pair sheep shears	1.12 1/2
Mary Perkins	one rifle gun	7.75
Mary Perkins	one axe	.50
Charles Mollohon	one sickle	.62 1/2
Elizabeth Williams	one shovel plough	1.00
Elizabeth Williams	one tarry hoe	.25
Elizabeth Williams	one large Bible	2.31 1/4
Elizabeth Williams	one tin frame	.75
Charles Mollohon	one mattock	1.75
Benj. H. Haymond	one tin trunk	1.01
Elizabeth Williams	one coffee mill	.75
Elizabeth Williams	one churn	.50
Elizabeth Williams	one chain	.25
Wm. Singleton	one cooler	.27
Moises Cunningham	one handsaw	.81 1/4
Jacob P Leanna	one keg	.37 1/2
Elizabeth Williams	two kegs	.37 1/2
Elizabeth Williams	one barrel	.25
Elizabeth Williams	one loom & quill wheel	1.00
Elizabeth Williams	one bill	1.37 1/2
Elizabeth Williams	one bill	.37 1/2
Elizabeth Williams	one bill	.25
Charles Mollohon	one pot	1.62 1/2
Moises Cunningham	one log chain	2.12 1/2
Elizabeth Williams	one main trace chain	.64
Charles Mollohon	one foot adds	1.00

AMOUNT

41.20 1/4

Braxton County Court, January term, 1839

The appraisal and sale bill of the personal estate of Ambrose Williams, Died, was produced in court and ordered to be recorded.

APPENDIX C

Settlement of John William's Estate

The will of John Williams, as found on pages 103-104 of Book 2 of the Braxton County Will Books. At the bottom, his name has been written in by someone else and there is an "X" which is labeled as his mark. Immediately after the will entry there is a second entry that the will was presented to the court on 5 June 1855. In this entry he is listed as "John Williams Sr., died" twice. He therefore died within about two weeks of making this will. Following the will is the results of the estate sale of John William's property. As very few items are listed, I assume that a lot of things had already been taken by the family.

In the name of God amen, I, John Williams Sr, being sick in body but of sound mind feels disposed to make arrangements with my personal and perishable property at the County of Braxton and State of Virginia. My last will and testament is that my son Richard Williams is to take care of Polly Williams his mother during his lifetime and for his trouble he is to have the benefit of a land warrant granted to John Williams Sr. for services. The said Richard Williams is to pay the fee. I leave to my wife one cow, two oxen, one bed for her use and benefit. Richard Williams is to control said property at her death is to have the same. This is my will and testament.

I sold to my son George Williams a land warrant of eighty acres for which he paid me more than half this money. I will heir the remainder of it for the use of his children this is my will and testament. I appoint Richard Williams my executor to attend to setting up my affairs and arrange my business given under my hand and seal this 18th day of May, 1855. Signed in the presence of these witnesses.

Moises Cunningham	John Morrison	X (John Williams, his mark) James Bankhead
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On page 140 of the same volume: Braxton County Court Clerks Office: August 7, 1856.

The appraisalment bill of the personal estate of John W. Williams died was presented in said office and admitted to record. Test. Jno P. Byrne, clk.

Sale bill of the personal estate of John W. Williams Died on this 1 July, 1856.

To Jacob M. Evans	1 calf	5.94
To Mary Ann Williams	1 clock	5.25
To Enoch Heater	1 mattock	1.75
To Hugh Williams	1 handsaw	3.00
To Nathan Hutchinson	1 rifle gun	3.41
To James Bisley	1 stone pick	.65
To Wm. Dean	1 set of flax	.36
		20.36

James J. Williams as administrator of John W. Williams, died.
Braxton County Clerks office, August 7, 1856.

APPENDIX D

Some Other WILLIAMS Family Members

When I originally researched these lines in the 1990s and early 2000s, I attempted to gather as much information as possible on the larger family. Eventually I realized that would be a never-ending task so I stopped it. But here is what I gathered in those days with a few loose ends that I just tied up in 2021.

James WILLIAMS (about 1806 to 1870+)

James was born about 1806 per census records and is believed to be a son of John WILLIAMS and younger brother of Hugh WILLIAMS. He is listed as a head-of-household beginning with the 1830 census. In October 1826 he married Bathsheba HOWELL, probably either a sister or cousin of Hugh's wife Jane. In 1860, he and Bathsheba were living with John and Elizabeth CHAPMAN in Webster County. In 1870 the couple was listed in Glade Township, Webster County.

James and Bathsheba had the following children:

- One unnamed son born 1825-1830 per 1830 & 1840 censuses. I believe this is Marshall W. Williams, who was living next door to James in the 1850 census.
- One unidentified daughter born 1825-1830 per 1830 & 1840 censuses. This must be Elizabeth (34), wife of John CHAPMAN, whom James and Bathsheba are living with in the 1860 census.
- Edward R, born about 1832. He married Catherine Harris on January 12, 1854. No other records of the couple have been found except for a death record in Lewis County for Catherine HARRIS WILLIAMS, age 82y 4m 22d who on January 25, 1921 in Walkersville Rt 1. Listed as a widow. She would have been barely fifteen years old when she married.
- Sarina M, born about 1834
- Nancy Jane, born about 1835. She could be the Jane Williams, age 18, who married Jackson Cutlip (23) on October 26, 1854 (Cochran). No other possible match for this Jane has been found.
- Hugh G., born about 1840. Living with wife Mary and six children in Glade Township, Webster County in 1870 census. Parents James and Bathsheba live next door.

Richard WILLIAMS (20 January 1808 to 26 October 1881)

Richard WILLIAMS is known to be a son of John WILLIAMS as he is mentioned in John's will. Richard died in Braxton County on 26 October 1881 at the age of 73 years, 10 months, and 6 days. That would make his birthday 20 January 1808. Richard married Phebe HARRIS in Braxton County on 20 January 1831. Richard and his family are listed in the 1840 and 1850 census in Braxton County but has not been found anywhere in the 1860, 1870, or 1880 census. Nevertheless, he died in Braxton County. Also, three of his sons – James E, Hugh, and John J. are listed as neighbors in the 1870 Braxton County census.

Richard and Phebe would have these children:

- John J, born about 1832, married Christina WINE (born about 1833) on 9 February 1850 in Braxton County. They are listed with the following children in the 1870 Braxton census: Malinda (17), Sarah (15), Ariminta (14), and Marcellus (11). Son Ellis (19), his wife Roda J. and son Asa (2 ½) are also living with the family in this census. Ellis married Roda J. ELLISON on 3 March 1870. John's daughter Malinda married John R PERKINS on 7 July 1871 in Braxton County.
- Sarah, born about 1833
- George W., born about 1835. Around 1854 he married Margaret ????. The 1860 Braxton County census has two different listings for his family. Entry #215-207: George (25), Margaret (31), and Agnes (7), Emily J (4), and Albert L. (2). Entry #769-750: George (27), Margaret (25, and Agnes (5), Emma (3), and Albert (1). The first listing is more detailed and I suspect it was given by the family. The second was probably given by a neighbor. George W. is not found in the 1870 census and no further information is known.
- Elizabeth, born about 1837, married Leonard CUTLIP (born about 1844) on 21 February 1867 in Braxton County. A Leonard & Elizabeth CUTLIP are listed in the 1870 Braxton census (#172-172) with no children but with an 11 year old mulatto named Calvin living with them. However, Leonard & Elizabeth are listed as each being 35 years old. I suspect this is them, and that the incorrect information was collected from a neighbor (which would explain the wrong ages).
- Hugh, born about 1838. He shows up with his middle initial listed as both J and G. Hugh married Almira CUTLIP (born about 1841) on 9 May 1858 in Braxton County. He is not listed in the 1860 census but is in the 1870 Braxton census. That census lists children Richard (12), Sarah A (8), William H (6) and Mary J (4).
- James E, born about 1839. James married Rebecca Ann WINE (born about 1841) on 28 July 1859 in Braxton County. He is not listed in the 1860 census but is in 1870. That census lists children Manda C (9), Martha A (7), Ciretha E (2) and Mary A (3 months).
- William H, born about 1844. William married Sarah Jane WINE (born about 1839) on 4 January 1866 in Braxton County. Nothing more is known.
- Minerva, born about 1849. Minerva married Andrew THOMPSON (32) on 3 November 1868.
- Dison, born 10 October 1853. He would marry three times to Rebecca J. CRITES, Catherine 'Kate' CUTLIP (age 18, married 9 March 1874), and Mariah LAWSON.

George WILLIAMS (about 1816 to 1874+)

George was a son of John and Mary WILLIAMS and a younger brother of Hugh WILLIAMS. Census data indicates that he was born about 1816. The George WILLIAMS family is listed in the 1840, 1850, 1860, and 1870 Braxton county census. He died sometime after 1870. George's first wife was Nancy OCHEL TREE (parents Isaac and Hannah), born about 1816. Nancy is listed with George in the 1870 census but died soon after. On 28 November 1874, George remarried Nancy A. MEALEY (born about 1827).

George and Nancy had the following children;

- Edward WILLIAMS, born about 1838. Edward married Margaret SKINNER (born about 1846) in February 1872 in Braxton County. The 1870 census for the George WILLIAMS household includes Margaret Skinner (age 23), George Skinner (6), Andrew E. (3), and Charles (2) as living with the family. So Margaret appears to have been a widow, maybe of another unknown son of George.
- Margaret WILLIAMS, born about 1840. She married Sampson CONRAD (born about 1836) on April 30, 1864 in Braxton County. The Sampson CONRAD family is listed in the 1870 Braxton census with children: Almarine (13), Sarah A (7), Asa R (5), and Virginia B (2).
- Francis Jane WILLIAMS, born about 1843. Listed in the family in the 1850 census. Nothing more known.
- Peyton WILLIAMS, born about 1845. Listed with the family in the 1850 and 1860 census, but not in 1870. Nothing more known.
- Rebecca WILLIAMS, born about 1848. The 1870 census lists Patience R. Williams age 21. Likely the same woman.
- Mary A WILLIAMS, born about 1852. She married George W DUVALL (24) on 25 October 1873.

Malinda WILLIAMS (about 1820 to ???)

Malinda was born about 1820 and is believed to be a daughter of John WILLIAMS. She married Andrew S. FRIEND (born about 1815). They had the following children: James (Born: 1837c); Marshall (Born: 1839c); Louiza (Born: 1841c); Mary (Born: 1843c); Elizabeth (Born: 1845c); Harriet (Born: 1847c); Melsinna (Born: 1848c)

Hugh WILLIAMS (Son of Ambrose?)

The 1799 tax records for Greenbrier County list a Hugh WILLIAMS as being visited on the same day as Ambrose and his son John. I believe this is another (likely older) son of Ambrose. Given that John would name his first son Hugh, the two had to be related. (McDonald V p17) cites a Hugh WILLIAMS marrying a Jane BELL on 18 January 18 1791, as listed in records of Rockingham County (in western Virginia state). The marriage may have taken place in Greenbrier County with the traveling minister filing the record in Rockingham. This was not uncommon. Helen Stinson also cites this marriage.

According to Helen Stinson's Nicholas County Cemetery book, there is a Hugh WILLIAMS – apparently the same one - listed in the 1810 Greenbrier County tax lists (Nicholas County was not yet formed). The 1820 Nicholas County census lists a Hugh WILLIAMS of the age 45+. He had living with him three males under the age of ten, 2 females between 10-16, 1 female between 16-25, and one between 26-45. If the last one was Jane BELL, she was quite young when she married - about fifteen years old assuming she was 45 when the census was taken. Of course, Jane may have passed away and Hugh may have married a younger woman. Or, the census could have been wrong. (Maybe some women lied about their ages even then!) According to Stinson, there is no Hugh WILLIAMS in the 1830 Nicholas County census, nor in the Greenbrier census for that year. However, there is one in the 1840 Nicholas County Census – a man of 60-70 with a female of 60-70 living with him. Stinson also gives some data about Hugh's descendents.

Putting together the ages in the 1820 and 1840 censuses, this Hugh WILLIAMS was born between 1770-1775. While it is conceivable that he was a (much) younger brother of Ambrose Williams, I believe it is more likely that he is Ambrose's son. The fact that he had no horses in 1799 seems to imply he was just starting out, as does the fact that he was not listed in 1796. (Of course, if he was married in 1791, he should have been somewhat established by then.) Most likely, he was older than son John. John's son Hugh was probably named after this Hugh. Of course, it is also possible that this Hugh was a nephew of Ambrose.

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