

This information about the family of Hazel Frances Williams Anderson was sent in 1968 to Neal William Meyer, grandson of Hazel Anderson, by Edith Garst, Hazel's sister. Neal was working on a requirement in Cub Scouts. The information was copied by Neal's mother, Marilyn Meyer.

Copied from the Williams' Family Bible:

Stephen Williams and Mary F. Bennett were married at Coalville, Iowa on September 22, 1880 by Rev. J. Ray, in the presence of Cordelia Bennett and Thomas Wonder.

Births:

Elizabeth Jane Williams born June 16, 1881
Mary Williams (Aunt Mae)* born July 6, 1883
Sherman Bennett Williams (Uncle Zeb) born May 31, 1886
Ida Mae Williams born April 30, 1888
Edith Williams born May 9, 1890
Wesley Stephen Williams (Uncle Jack) born February 2, 1893
Hazel (Frances) Williams born October 28, 1895
Plenty Williams born December 4, 1897

*All parenthetical comments those of the current copyist. MM 10/8/1990

Deaths:

Elizabeth Jane Williams died March 8, 1886
Ida Mae Williams died November 29, 1888
Plenty Williams died December 29, 1897
Stephen Williams (the father) died April 14, 1899
Mary Bennett Williams Watson (the mother) died January 1, 1931
Mary Frances Williams Watson died November 12, 1947
Sherman Bennett Williams died December 21, 1959
Wesley Stephen Williams died November 1, 1963
Hazel Frances Williams Anderson died January 29, 1968
Edith Williams Garst died August 30, 1971

Marriages:

Mary F. (Aunt Mae) married Jacob Edwin Watson on December 1, 1904
Mary Frances (the mother) married James R. Watson (J.R. Or Grandpa Jim) on December 28, 1905
Sherman B. married Cleo Walker on July 22, 1908
Edith married D.A. Garst (Uncle Bert) on December 14, 1911
Wesley S. married Julia Hilton on January 12, 1913
Hazel Frances married Charles F. Anderson on June 24, 1914

Information not marked as having been copied from the family Bible:

Stephen Williams was born in Houghton County, Michigan in 1857

Mary Frances Bennett was born on April 10, 1864 in Lafayette County, Wisconsin. From there the family moved to Iowa.

Bennett-Williams History

The following is the obituary of Mary Bennett Williams Watson's father (Parenthetical information inserted from information from Edith Garst):

John Walter Bennett was born in Seghill, Northumberlandshire, England on March 31, 1829 and died at Kalo, Iowa March 29, 1903.

He was married at Vinegar Hill, Jo Daviess County, Illinois on January 7, 1852 to Margaret Ward, who died June 14, 1856.

He married Jane Anderson at Center, Lafayette County, Wisconsin on February 5, 1858. (She was born October 28, 1834.) She died in Kalo, Iowa, about 1898. To them were born 8 children, one of whom, Robert William, died in childhood.

Cordelia Jane Hay, living at Sioux City, Iowa.

Walter Bennett, Pittsburg, Kansas.

Mary F. Williams, Pleasant Lake, North Dakota.

William F. Bennett, Renton, Washington.

J. Wesley Bennett, Kalo, Iowa.

Ida May Williams, West Bend, Iowa.

Elizabeth E. Chilgren, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

In young manhood, John Walter Bennett lived in Pana, Illinois and Wisconsin. After 1870 he lived in Iowa. He settled in Kossuth County with the early pioneers and endured with his family much hardship during the grasshopper scourge. About 1875, he came to Coalville, Iowa and has lived in Kalo, Iowa since 1880.

Rev. John Cook of Epworth, Iowa preached the funeral sermon from the text, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." He preached Mr. Bennett's father's funeral sermon in about 1873.

The following is the obituary of Hazel Williams Anderson's paternal grandmother. No date of death is given, but the year must have been 1915, about 16 years after the death of her son, Stephen, Hazel's father.

Miss Jane Brooks was born in Liscard, England, September 9, 1828. She was married in 1851 to W. M. Williams before leaving England and moved to the United States when about 28 years of age, first settling in Michigan and later moving to Iowa. She was the mother of 9 children, of whom only 4 survive, being James and Thomas of West Bend, Iowa; W. B. Williams of Fort Dodge, Iowa; and Mrs. John Anderson of Beckley, West Virginia.

She had been a member of the Episcopal Church for 75 years, having been confirmed at the age of 12.

She was 87 years of age.

The following Williams family story was written from newspaper clippings and memories of Edith Williams Garst by her daughter-in-law, Margaret Garst.

Stephen Williams lived on a farm near Callender and afterward, when he went into business, he entered into a new sphere of work. He went into the meat business at Kalo and after some success there, he moved to Fort Dodge and followed the same business here..

Closing out the meat business, he devoted his energy to the real estate business in which he was eminently successful. He was for a time in partnership with his brother, J.S. Williams at West Bend and afterward formed a partnership with the late Governor Carpenter.

(From an undated newspaper clipping. It can be assumed that all towns mentioned were located in Iowa.)

Mary Frances Bennett and Stephen Williams were married at Coalville, Iowa on September 22, 1880. Their attendants were Cordelia Bennett, sister of the bride, and Thomas Wonders, cousin of the bride.

They made their home in Kalo for several years and moved to Fort Dodge sometime before the birth of Edith in a house across from Tobin College. Later, they lived on Prospect Hill on the outskirts of Fort Dodge.

The house on Prospect Hill was a mansion set on an estate. There was a beautiful yard with flowers, fruit trees and ornamental trees. There was a barn some distance from the house. The house and barn were connected by a covered and sided breezeway. There were were a few windows in the breezeway. It also contained the outhouse, about halfway between the house and barn.

The house was large. It contained a large parlor, a small parlor with a bay window (lace curtained), a dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen and a room for washing which was connected to the breezeway. A beautiful circular staircase descended to the hallway. The house had red carpeting and Mother remembers a red velvet rocking chair. There were other pieces of furniture in the house. The butler's pantry contained a large set of Ironstone china.

They had a few cows, and horses for driving. One was a black and one a sorrel named Trixie and Maid. They were used to pull a surrey with a fringe on top; a two seater.

Hazel and Plenty were born in the house on Prospect Hill, and Mother went to school one year from this house, down the hill to a flat along the river.

They moved into town and closer to a school. They lived there about 2 years and then moved into another house near the main part of town. Mother went to Eric School. Aunt Mae and Uncle Sherman went to 2 different schools, some distance from this home. It was here that Stephen Williams died on April 14, 1899. He was buried at Otho, Iowa.

The family continued to live in Fort Dodge for a short time. They then moved to Round Prairie on the outskirts of Fort Dodge where Aunt Lizzie (sister of Mary Williams) lived.

Uncle Hugh Hay and Aunt Dee were in North Dakota and had a homestead 4 miles north of Pleasant Lake. John Hay had a homestead north of Hugh's. They were instrumental in getting the family of Mary Williams to come to North Dakota to homestead land.

The family arrived in Pleasant Lake in the spring of 1902. The mother, Hazel, Edith and Jack came on a passenger train. Mae stayed in Fort Dodge in order to graduate from high school. Sherman Williams and Bill Hay came in a boxcar with horses, machinery and furniture. They were met by someone in a lumber wagon and taken to Aunt Dee's, since the house was not yet built.

During the summer a tar paper shack was built to house the family. The shack was heated by a cookstove. The walls were unfinished inside and it was all one room, divided by a curtain. There were 2 beds. Mother and Mae slept in one, Sherman and Jack in the other, and Hazel and Edith on the floor on a straw tick. They carried water from Sand Lake and later drove a sand point and had a well nearby.

Sherman was 17 years old and had never been on a farm. Now he was the head of the family and the one to do the farming.

A few years later, a new house was built. This is the east portion of the house that still stands. (in 1968) The upstairs was unfinished for several years, but was used as bedrooms anyway.

Mae came in the summer of 1902 and taught school west of the homestead. She taught for \$30 per month. Later she taught north of Leeds where she met Jacob Watson. They were married on December 1, 1904 and moved to his homestead south of Knox, North Dakota.

At Mae and Jake's wedding, Mary Bennett Williams met James R. Watson, brother of Jacob Watson. They were married on December 28, 1905.

They lived on the homestead north of Pleasant Lake. Ferne, Mildred and Roscoe Watson (Uncle Bud) – children of James R. Watson – came to live with the family. (Ferne was about the same age as Hazel. Mildred and Roscoe were younger.)

Mary Frances Bennett Williams Watson died January 1, 1931 at Rugby, North Dakota.

FAMILY HISTORY: ANDERSON/WILLIAMS

Charles Frederick Anderson

Born: Einar Marinus Swenson

April 9, 1892 in Grand Forks, North Dakota

Died: September 13, 1978 in Sunnyside, Washington

Hazel Frances Williams

Born: October 28, 1895 in Fort Dodge, Iowa

Died: January 29, 1968 in Phoenix, Arizona

Married: June 24, 1914 at the farm home of the bride's family at Pleasant Lake, North Dakota

Homes: Lived in the Rugby, North Dakota area on farms and in town until 1927. Moved to Lansford, North Dakota and lived in rented housing until about 1944 when they purchased the house next to the old Methodist Church which they improved over the years and lived in until it was sold in 1976.

Children: Three daughters

Elizabeth Yvonne (Beth)

Born: April 28, 1915 on the farm near Rugby.

Died: about June 27, 1997, Phoenix, Arizona.

Edith Mae

Born: April 18, 1920 in the hospital in Rugby

Died: January 31, 1989 at home in Annandale, Minnesota.

Marilyn Frances

Born: December 30, 1932 in Trinity Hospital, Minot, North Dakota.

Grandchildren:

Children of Beth and Earl Adams, married at home in Lansford, North Dakota on October 12, 1940.

David Earl, 11/10/1941

Cheryl Frances, 9/6/1944

Diane Ethel, 8/31/1946

Susan Elizabeth, 6/16/1950

Layne George, 2/21/1956

Children of Edith and Charles (Chuck) Picken, married at home in Lansford, North Dakota on December 23, 1941

Richard Charles, 11/16/1942

Joel Harvey, 9/3/1945 Died, 4/9/1972

Craig Edward, 1/12/1950

Scott William, 4/14/1954

Linda Beth, 12/17/1956

Mark Stephen, 6/27/1959

Sheila Jean, 2/15/1961

Jeffrey David, 10/8/1962

Children of Marilyn and William (Bill) Meyer, married in the Methodist Church in Lansford, North Dakota on August 14, 1957

Neal William, 8/10/1958, born in Moline, Illinois

Yvonne Marie, 4/28/1961, born in Moline, Illinois

Karen Edith, 7/30/1963, born in Moline, Illinois