

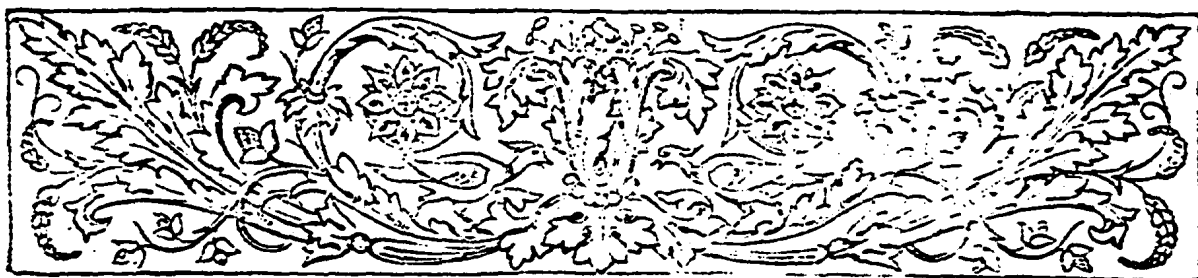
THE  
SURNAMES AND COATS OF ARMS  
OF THE  
WILLIAMSES,

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF  
ROBERT WILLIAMS OF ROXBURY,  
AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

COMPILED BY  
A. D. WELD FRENCH.

PRIVATELY PRINTED.





## THE WILLIAMS FAMILY.

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### SURNAME AND ARMS.

**T**HE following account of its origin is taken from one of the Cornhill Magazines. "William is one of those numerous names which belong to the tertiary stratum of English nomenclature. First of all in our history comes the pure English cognomens, which our fathers brought with them from their old home in Sleswig-Holstein. These, which are exemplified in King Beorhtuulf's charter, we may regard as forming the primary series. Next ranks the secondary deposit of Danish names, thickly scattered over the north-east of England by the colonists who turned that region into the Denalagu. Thirdly, we get the tertiary stratum of Norman-French, Roberts, Henrys and Rich-  
ls. This stratum consists of original High German words transplanted to Laon and Paris by the Frankish conquerors of Gaul, adapted in turn by the Romanised Keltic people from their Teutonic aristocracy,

handed on to the Scandinavian settlers in Normandy, carried once more by the Norman barons to England, and there finally accepted by the Saxon, Anglian, and Danish population.

“The earliest form of the name William with which I am acquainted, is that of Wilhelm. It so happens that this form might equally well be High or Low Dutch, because the sounds which make it up are none of them those liable to change in passing from the one group to the other. Its two component elements, Will and Helm, are good English and good German alike. It is a little tautological to say that Will means Will, but not quite so much to say that Helm means Helmet. Of course, we all know the old and shorter form, of which helmet is a diminutive; if nowhere else, at least in Gray’s ‘Helm nor hauberk’s twisted mail.’ Originally then, Wilhelm meant something very like ‘stout warrior;’ for in early times men think of abstract qualities mostly by their corresponding concrete. The ‘resolute crest’ that was always seen in the thick and forefront of the savage fight,—that is the underlying notion of the modern William.

“When the Franks moved eastward from their Teutonic home into the country to which they have given the name Frankreich or France, they naturally took with them all their German names. Whether Wilhelm was one of these, or whether it came in later with the dynasty of Karl the Great, our Charlemagne, I cannot tell, though perhaps some more learned person may

have met with the name in the pages of Gregory of Tours or his successors: at any rate, it speedily passed into general use in Normandy, as soon as the Scandinavian settlers had called the rich province of Neustria after their own race. The first generation of Northmen in Gaul naturally bore such Norwegian names as Hrolf, Grim, Biorn, Harold, Thor and Haco. But the younger crop of Christianised and Gallicised Normans copied the baptismal designations of their Frankish over-lords, and thus Hrolf himself, the Rollo of our mutilated histories, first Duke of the new principality, gave his son and successor the Frankish name of Wilhelm. This Wilhelm was followed by a continuous line of Richards, Roberts, and other Wilhelms, till at last the dynasty culminated in the great Conqueror of England, who introduced the Norman titles into his new kingdom.

“William the conqueror spelt his name Willelm, though for a reason to be mentioned hereafter, the form Pillelm occurs most often on his coins. Even before the conquest, Williams were by no means unknown in England, for the Normanising tendency had already begun at the Court of Edward the Confessor. ‘Willelm Biscop’ as the Chronicle calls him, was a well known personage under the saintly King, and English families even then had taken a fancy for calling their sons after the intrusive foreigners who flocked to the hospitality of Westminster and Winchester. In fact, Norman names were getting fashionable. But after the Con-

quest, the fashion became an irresistible tide. In a few years all our native names had disappeared, and every Dudda and Tate in England was christening his or her children 'Rodberts,' 'Heanrig,' and 'Geofree,' the Robert, Henry, and Geoffrey of later days.

"The modern French equivalent of William is of course Guillaume. This form, again descends from Wilhelm through the intermediate stages of Willelme and Willeaulme. All Keltic nations have a fancy for inserting a guttural before words which begin with a W. Thus William in Welsh changes to Gwilym.

"The Conqueror's coins generally bear the legend 'Pillem Rex' or 'Pillelm Rex,' where the P stands as the old English form of W, but his great seal reads 'Willelmus.' William has given rise in turn to many and various surnames of diverse order. First of all, it occurs in the simple form as a patronymic. Next, with the sign of the possessive, it gives origin to the family of Williams.

"Besides the true English William, his Welsh synonym has given us a large tribe of Gwilliams and of Gwilyms. The Scotch supplement the list with their MacWilliams, but I do not know of any Irish equivalent."

#### COATS OF ARMS OF THE WILLIAMSES.

The chief motive for describing them, is with the hope that some genealogic and heraldic student will

make examinations, tracing the arms to the different families in Great Britain, which may lead to the discovery of the ancestor and arms of Robert Williams.

The examinations here have only been conducted from some of the earlier dates down to the first part of this century; they are far from complete, even for that period, owing to the great scarcity in our country of heraldic authorities for consultation, but at the same time most of the principal arms are enumerated.

The arms are classified according to the principal figures, and where there are more than one with the same emblem it is very likely they indicate an arm of difference from the chief armorial bearing. As an illustration, take the lion. The arms of the first three families described are descended from the same ancestor; those of the fourth and fifth families are, most likely, arms of difference, and one of these is certainly such to the other. The lion is confined to families in Wales or those of Welsh descent. Besides, in the same country are found the heraldic emblems of the stag, fox, nags' heads, griffin, men's heads, spears' heads, etc.

The other arms are found, mainly in England, in the counties of Salop, Lincoln, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Hertford, Oxford, Berks, Middlesex, Kent, Sussex, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, as well as in the cities of London and Bristol.

It will be observed that three of the coats of arms were borne by families in Lincolnshire, which is bounded on the southeast by the county of Norfolk,

from which county Robert Williams of Roxbury is said to have made his departure for New England.

#### LIONS.

Williams of Flint, in the Principality of North Wales. In Thoresby's *Ducatus Leodiensis* there is a record of a paternal coat as follows: "Sable, a lion rampant argent, armed and langued gules, on which were quartered the arms of the Bawds and Marradiffes," with whom they married. The pedigree shows first the name of Roger Williams of Flint, from whom descended John Williams ( Receiver of Flintshire in the reign of Edward the IV, which extended from the year 1468 to 1483 ), who married for his first wife the daughter and heir of Edward Matthew. Their son, Sir George, assumed the surname of Matthew, which continued ever after.

Madam Elizabeth Williams, of Denton, in LINCOLNSHIRE, sole daughter and heir of Richard Williams, had for coat of arms, Quarterly, 1st Sable, a lion rampant argent, for Williams; 2d Argent, a cheveron between three cross crosslets sable, for Anderson.

Sir Thomas Williams, alias Cromwell, Temp. Elizabeth, had for his coat armor, Sable, a lion rampant argent, armed and langued gules: crest, a demi-lion rampant, doubled queued argent, langued gules, charged with three guttees depaix, holding in the paws a spear erect azure, ringed at the bottom or.



Roger Williams, Esquire, of Longby Castle in Monmouthshire, in 1575 had for his arms, Gyronny of eight, ermine and sable, a lion rampant or.

Sir Trevor Williams, Baronet, living in 1671, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Morgan of Maugham, Esquire, and co-heir by her mother to Ralph, Lord Hopton. He was styled of Langiby Castle in Monmouthshire, and is recorded as having borne for his arms, Gyronny of eight, ermines and erminois, a lion rampant or: crest, a talbot passant party per pale ermine and or, eared of the last.

John Williams of Boston in New England in 1767, had, Or, a lion rampant gules. on a chief azure two doves rising argent: crest, an eagle with wings expanded proper, reposing his dexter foot on a mound or.

Williams of Llanbedre, descended from Howva, the son of Cynddelw, Lord of Lly's Llieon in Anglesey, who lived in the time of Griffith, son of Conan, Prince of North Wales, and Owen Gwynedd, his son. Howva bore Gules, a cheveron between three lions rampant or.

Williams, alias Cromwell, bore Gules, three cheverons argent, debriused by as many lions rampant or: crest, a demi-lion rampant argent, charged with three cheverons gules.

Williams of Dolanog, descended from Meredith, son of Conan, Lord of Rhiwhirieth, Caed Tabog, and Neuodd Wenn and brother of Griffith, son of Conan, Prince of North Wales, bore Quarterly, argent and gules, four lions passant counterchanged of the field.

Williams of Arddynwynt, descended of Kynrick Evell, Lord of Eglwyseagl and son of Madog, Lord of Oswestry, who bore Gules, on a bend argent, a lion passant sable.

Williams of Aswarby in LINCOLNSHIRE bore Gules, on a bend argent, a lion passant sable: crest, a cubit arm erect, vested ermine and cuff argent, holding erect in hand proper, a long cross gules.

#### BOARS' HEADS.

Williams, Argent, a cheveron between three boars' heads coupé gules.

#### STAGS.

Williams of Velin, Newydd, Brecknockshire, bore Gules, a stag statant argent, collared and chained or.

Williams of Brecknockshire and Eltham in Kentshire, Azure, a stag passant argent, horns or, between his horns a royal crown proper.

Williams of London, Gules, a cheveron ermine between three stags' heads coupé or.

#### WOLF.

Williams of Devonshire and Denton in LINCOLNSHIRE bore Gules, a wolf issuing out of a rock from the sinister side of the escutcheon, all argent: crest, a lion rampant proper.

## FOXES.

Sir William Williams of Llanvorda, Knight and Bart. and David Williams of Glan Alaw, Llansilin, Esquire, with Williams of Chwaen and Williams of Penrhose, all descended from Cadrod Hardd, Lord of Talebolion in Anglesey, who bore Argent, two reynards or foxes, counter salient in bend, the dexter surmounted of the sinister, saltire like, gules.

## NAGS' HEADS.

Williams of Willaston, a descendant of Brochwel Ysgetbrog, Prince of Powys, Earl of Chester, Baron of Denbigh and Lord of Salop, anno 617, who bore for his coat armor, Sable, three nags' heads erased argent.

Williams of Wellaston in Shropshire, Sable, three nags' heads erased ermine: crest, on a mount vert a stag argent, attired sable.

Williams of Alkmonburg in Huntingdonshire, bore Argent, three nags' heads erased sable, a chief gules.

## GREYHOUNDS.

Williams of Oxford, of Hilton and White Lavington in Dorsetshire, bore Argent, a greyhound courant sable between three Cornish choughs proper, within a bordure engrailed gules, charged with eight crosses formee or and as many bezants: crest, a cubit arm erect, habited sable, charged with a cross formee or between

four bezants, cuff of the last, holding in the hand proper, an acorn branch vert, fructed of the second.

Williams of Treverro in Cornwall, Or, a greyhound courant sable between three Cornish choughs proper, within a bordure engrailed gules, charged with eight crosses formee or, and as many bezants.

Williams of Dorsetshire, Argent, a greyhound courant in fesse between three martlets sable, within a bordure engrailed gules.

Williams, Argent, a greyhound courant in fesse sable between three martlets of the last, within a bordure gules, charged with acorns or, husked vert.

Williams of Herrington, St. Peters, town and borough of Dorchester in Dorsetshire. Arms, Argent, a greyhound courant in fesse sable between three Cornish choughs, in a bordure engrailed gules, charged with crosses party azure and bezant.

Williams of Herrington in Dorsetshire, Argent, a greyhound courant in fesse gules between three martlets sable, within a bordure engrailed of the second, charged with eight bezants.

Williams of Somersetshire, Argent, a greyhound courant in fesse between three martlets sable.

#### EAGLES.

Sir John Williams, Baronet, of Minster, in the Isle of Thanet in Kentshire, bore for his coat armor, Vert, three eagles displayed in fesse or.

Williams of Minster, as stated by Edmondson, is the same with, as crest, an eagle displayed or.

Williams of London, Vert, three eagles displayed in fesse or, within a bordure of the last.

#### FALCONS.

Williams of Cambridgeshire, Or, a falcon volant azure: crest, a bustard close.

Williams, Or, a falcon volant sable.

Williams of Stowford in Devonshire, Argent, a fesse vair, between three falcons' heads erased gules, each collared with a ducal crown or: crest, a falcon.

#### COCKS.

Williams of Sarrat in Hertfordshire and Islington in Middlesex, Argent, a cheveron between three cocks gules, on a chief sable three spears' heads of the first, the points embrued of the second.

#### GRIFFINS.

William Williams of Glanywan and Dyssryn in the lordship of Denbigh, Rector of parishes of St. George and St. Llanddulas and Vicar of Abergeley, also chaplain to the right honorable Dorothea Helena, Countess Dowager of Derby, 1st coat as descended from Griffith Goch, Lord of Rhos and Rhyvomec; the second as descended from Marchudd, one of the fifteen tribes of North Wales, two coats Quarterly; 1st, Or, a griffin ram-

pant gules; 2d, Gules, a Saracen's head erased at the neck, argent, environed about temples with a wreath of the second, crined sable. The third quartering like the second, and the fourth like the first.

Williams of Denbighshire. Or, a griffin segreant gules.

#### DRAGONS' HEADS.

Williams of Eltham in Kentshire, Argent, a dragon's head erased, vert, holding in his mouth a hand gules.

Sir Thomas Williams of Eltham in Kent, Knight, bore two coats, Quarterly. 1st, Argent, a dragon's head erased vert, holding in his mouth a hand couped at the wrist gules; 2d, Gules, three towers argent; 3d, as the second; and 4th like the first.

#### HEADS.

Williams of Cochwillien, of Estyrn Collwyn, of Doe-nol; of Marl, of Meillionydd, of Weeg Griffiths; of Plas Newydd in Anglesey, of Porth Aur, and Caeryn, a descendant of Ednyfed Vaughan, Lord of Abergeley and Baron of Brynn Ffenigl, who bore, Gules, a cheveron between three Englishmen's heads couped argent.

Williams, Gules, a cheveron ermine between three Saxons' heads couped argent, and Williams of Penryn in Caernarvonshire, had the same arms with due difference.

Williams of Veynol in Caernarvonshire, Gules, a cheveron ermine between three men's heads or, crined sable.

## SPEARS' HEADS.

Williams of Bristol, Sable, a cheveron argent between three spears' heads of the last, the points embrued gules, and Williams of Gwernyfed in Brecknockshire bore the same arms, but had as a crest, a cock gules, combed and legged or.

Williams, Or, on a cheveron sable three crescents of the first, in chief as many spears' heads of the second, in base a martlet of the last.

## ORGAN PIPES.

Lord William of Tame, Sapphire, two organ pipes in saltire between four crosses patee pearl.

Berry says the Williamses of Thame, Oxfordshire, and Bewfield in Berkshire, had for their arms, Azure, two organ pipes in saltire, between four crosses pattee argent: crest, a fish were.

## BENDS.

Williams, Or, a bend engrailed vert, between two cottises sable: crest, out of a mural coronet or, a demilion rampant of the first, holding a battle axe sable, headed argent.

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\* Berry states that were is an old English term for vain or vary.

Williams, alias Conway in Brecknockshire, Argent, on a bend cottised sable, a rose between two annulets gules, as stated by Berry.

Williams of Oswalstry in Shropshire, had, Or, a cross moline, between four lozenges azure.

Williams of Wales, Party per pale azure and sable, three fleurs de lis or.

Williams, Argent, a cheveron between three dice sable, on each a cinquefoil of the field.

Williams of Chichester, Sussex, Argent, a cheveron sable between three fire balls of the last, fired proper: crest, a dragon's head argent hurtee, vomiting flames of fire proper.

Williams of Devonshire, Temp. Henry II, Gules, on a bend or, three chaplets of the field: crest, a chaplet gules.

Williams of Brecknockshire, Gules, a cheveron ermine.

#### ROBERT WILLIAMS.

There seems to be an interesting tradition in the Williams family about the wife of Robert Williams, to which that distinguished Chinese scholar Professor S. Wells Williams refers, as follows: "that when Robert Williams of England desired to come to this country, his wife, who was of a good family and had been delicately brought up, though she was a truly religious woman, dreaded the undertaking and shrunk from the



hardships to be encountered. While the subject was under consideration, she had a dream foreshowing that if she went to America she would become the mother of a long line of worthy ministers. The dream so impressed her that she rose up cheerfully and prepared for the journey. If she had such a dream it was certainly fulfilled, but not in her day, as she died without the sight in 1674. Nine years after, those two grandchildren, John and William, came out of Harvard College and the day of fulfillment began."

In connection with this tradition, it is appropriate here to refer to the statement made by the Rev. I. N. Tarbox, viz: "One of Robert Williams's sons was Dea. Samuel Williams of Roxbury, (deacon in Rev. John Eliot's Church,) and another was Capt. Isaac Williams of Newtown. In 1664, Samuel Williams of Roxbury, had a son born, who was named John, and in the same year, Isaac of Newtown, had a son born, who received the name of William. These two boys, cousins, went together to Harvard College, and were graduated there in 1683, at the age of nineteen. There were only three students in that class. Its other member was Samuel Danforth, Jr., son of Rev. Samuel Danforth of Roxbury, colleague with Rev. John Eliot. Soon after graduating, these two cousins were settled in the ministry, near each other, on the Connecticut River.

John Williams was the first minister of Deerfield, ordained at the age of twenty one, and the story of his captivity, with a part of his family, after his wife and two

children had been slain before his eyes, makes one of the sad records in our early annals.

William Williams was the first regular minister at Hatfield, where he continued for more than fifty-five years.

John Williams of Deerfield, and William Williams of Hatfield, were the first men of this family name in New England, who were college graduates, but since that time more than one hundred and fifty of this name have been graduated at Harvard and Yale Colleges alone, and a good proportion of them have been ministers.

There is probably no name in New England which can show so many ministerial settlements of more than half a century, and so many half century sermons preached, as the name of Williams. Without going minutely into the subject, we will record a few facts which will help to illustrate our meaning.

The figures will show the years of settlement in one parish :

Rev. JOHN WILLIAMS, of Deerfield,	1686-1729.
Rev. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, of Hatfield,	1685-1741.
Rev. ELISHA WILLIAMS, D. D., minister at New-	
ington, Conn., and the President of Yale College,	1725-1739.
Rev. STEPHEN WILLIAMS, D. D., of Longmeadow,	1716-1782.
Rev. WARHAM WILLIAMS, of Waltham,	1723-1751.
Rev. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, of Weston,	1709-1750.
Rev. SOLOMON WILLIAMS, D.D., of Lebanon, Conn.,	1722-1776.
Rev. STEPHEN WILLIAMS, of Woodstock, Conn.,	1747-1795.
Rev. EBENEZER WILLIAMS, of Pomfret, Conn.,	1715-1753.
Rev. ELIPHALET WILLIAMS, D. D., of New Hart-	
ford, Conn.,	1758-1803.

- Rev. SOLOMON WILLIAMS, of Northampton, 1778-1834.  
Rev. NATHAN WILLIAMS, D. D., of Tolland, Conn., 1760-1829.  
Rev. WARHAM WILLIAMS, of Northford, Conn., 1750-1788.  
Rev. ELEAZER WILLIAMS, of Mansfield, Conn., 1720-1742.  
Rev. NEHEMIAH WILLIAMS, of Brimfield, 1775-1800.  
Rev. SAMUEL WILLIAMS, LL. D., Hollis Professor  
of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at Har-  
vard College.  
Rev. THOMAS WILLIAMS, of Providence, who has  
just passed away at the age of 97, and who had  
for some years been the oldest living graduate of  
Yale College.  
Rev. ELISHA SCOTT WILLIAMS, son of Dr. ELI-  
PHALET, of East Hartford, Baptist minister, born  
1757, who graduated at Yale College in 1775,  
and died in 1845.  
Rev. ELEAZER WILLIAMS,\* "The Lost Prince."

As we have given a particular list of the ministers belonging to this family, it is suitable that we should mention a few names of distinction in other walks of life, and they, like the ministers, all belong to generations that have passed away.

Hon. Thomas S. Williams, Chief Justice of Connec-  
ticut.

Hon. Israel Williams of Hatfield.

Col. Ebenezer Williams of Pomfret, Conn.

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\* This does not complete the list of ministers belonging to this stock, but will show some of the most conspicuous examples.

Hon. William Williams of Lebanon, Conn., Member of the Continental Congress, and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Major General William Williams of Stonington, Ct.

Major General William Williams of Norwich, Conn.

Hon. Thomas W. Williams of New London, Conn.

Col. Ephraim Williams of Newton.

Col. Ephraim Williams, son of above, founder of Williams College.

Col. William Williams of Pittsfield.

Hon. Charles Kilborn Williams, Governor of Vermont and Judge of Supreme Court of Vermont.

#### ROBERT WILLIAMS.

Robert Williams of Roxbury is stated (though I find no official record) as having arrived here about the year 1637, from Norwich in Norfolk, which joins the county of Lincoln in England. His name appears among the early members of the First Church at Roxbury. He was made a freeman on May 2, 1638, and in 1642 he was possessed of twenty-five acres of land; the two acres of land near Dorchester Brook were acquired for services rendered as Town Clerk. He may have been a member in 1644 of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, though at the same time the name of a Robert Williams appears on the record of the First Church of Boston.

At an early date he was one of the five selectmen; in 1645 he became an annual subscriber to the Free

School Fund ; in 1662 appears the record of his election as one of the Feoffees or Trustees of this fund. Later on, he makes liberal arrangements to assist the Free Schools, and his name appears on record at different intervals as late as the year 1684 as one of the Feoffees. Ellis states " that Robert Williams was one of the most influential men in town affairs."

It is generally believed his wife Elizabeth, who came with him, had for her maiden name that of Stratton. By her he had, as far as records indicate, all his children. Mary and Samuel came with their parents to this country, and probably John, who died here October 6, 1658. Isaac was born at Roxbury on September 1, 1638, and two years later appears the birth of Stephen ; besides these, one writer mentions a son Thomas who died early in life. There is authority for supposing that he may have had another daughter, but the records examined show no indication of it ; however, in his will are found two grandchildren of different surnames, Deborah Tatman (or Totman) and Elizabeth Robinson,\* but these were most probably daughters of some of the children already named.

Elizabeth Williams, the wife of Robert, was a member of the First Church ; her death is recorded at Roxbury on July 28, 1674. On the third day of November of

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\* Among the early Roxbury church members is the record of an Elizabeth, daughter of John Williams, possibly the son that died in 1658.

the following year Robert Williams was married to Margaret, the widow of John Fearing of Hingham; ten years afterwards in his will he mentions "my well beloved wife," and on the 22d day of December, 1690, is the record of the death of "the wife of Robert Williams." He died on September 1, 1693; a short time previous he lost his brother Nicholas. According to Drake, his homestead, in which five generations of the Williams family lived and died, remained standing until the year 1794, upon the site afterwards occupied by the first brick dwelling house erected in Roxbury, and built by a descendant, Dr. Thomas Williams. It is now standing on Dearborn Street.

The will of Robert Williams was dated November 26, 1685, and was probated on September 29, 1693. In it is made special mention of his son Stephen, as follows: "I give to my son Stephen, my dwelling house, orchards, barns, and other outhouses, and home lots thereto adjoining, with the fourscore and ten rods adjoining to my barn, reserved out of my swamp. Inasmuch as I have in this my will given to my son Stephen somewhat more than the rest of my sons, I would not have them or others think hardly of me for so doing, for he lives under the same roof with me, and thereby hath been more helpful and comfortable unto me than the other sons have."

*Captain Stephen Williams*, a son of Robert and Elizabeth Williams, from whom most of the Williamses

of Roxbury are descended, was born there on the 8th day of November, 1640, and married Sarah,\* a daughter of Joseph Wise of Roxbury. Their first child was born on August 13, 1667: the parents' names appear on the First Church records in 1668. Stephen, like his father, was much interested in town affairs. In his will of May 7, 1714, he names his son Joseph as one of his executors. Stephen's death took place February 15, 1719-20, and his wife survived him, as appears from the date of her will, which was probated on August 30, 1728.

*Ensign Joseph Williams* was born February 24, 1681, and baptized two days after; was married May 22, 1706, to Abigail,† daughter of Ensign John Davis of Roxbury, and died August 17, 1720. Abiel, his last child, was born on the following October. His widow was married again January 11, 1732, to Edward Ruggles of Roxbury; she was a widow at the time she made her will, January 18, 1768, which was probated June 26, 1772; in it she mentions son John Williams, who was one of the executors.

*Captain John Williams*, the brother of Colonel Joseph Williams, was the second son of Joseph and Abigail Williams, and was born September 17, 1712. His first

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\* Sarah Wise was born December 19, 1647.

† Abigail, daughter of John Davis, was born 12th mo., 19th day, 1687.

wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Lieut. John Williams \* of Roxbury, to whom he was married by the Rev. Nehemiah Walter on June 2, 1737. His second marriage was on September 12, 1749, with Mrs. Bethiah Steadman,† by whom he had three daughters. She died before him, and his will is dated April 1, 1777, and was probated April 18th of the same year. The executors were his sons John Davis Williams and Jonathan Williams.

*John Davis Williams*, the second son of Captain John and Elizabeth Williams was born December 25, 1739, and was christened John (which was also the case with his son), but as this name was borne by others of the same surname, he, out of respect to his wife and her family, took the middle name of Davis. There is a record of this change of name as early as 1769. The Rev. Amos Adams married him on December 15, 1768, to Hannah, a daughter of Colonel Aaron Davis; she was born December 5, 1751. Both names appear on the First Church records in 1769.

It appears from record, that at a full town meeting, held at Roxbury a few days after what was known as

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\* John Williams was born December 1, 1684, married Sarah Weld, June 1, 1709. She died October 13, 1742; he died November 5, 1742. Their daughter Elizabeth was born August 25, 1716.

† Her maiden name was Parker, and she married Caleb Steadman, Jr., September 22, 1743.



the Boston massacre, John Williams, Jr., was one of a committee of seven, appointed to present a petition to Lieut. Governor Hutchinson, asking for the immediate removal of the troops. Stephen W. Williams says of him, "that he commenced business with little or nothing, but by perseverance and industry accumulated a property; that he was a man of method, and was said to be one of the best farmers in the State, if not the very best.

John Davis Williams died on May 26, 1807, and his wife lived until her ninety-third year, when she died at the Williams homestead on Walnut Avenue in Roxbury, the fifteenth day of March, 1844.

The children of John Davis and Hannah Williams were:

John Davis Williams born January 28, 1770, married Hannah Weld May 16, 1798, and died August 28, 1848.

Stedman Williams born March 16, 1773, married Betsey Williams January 1, 1795, and died February 16, 1852.

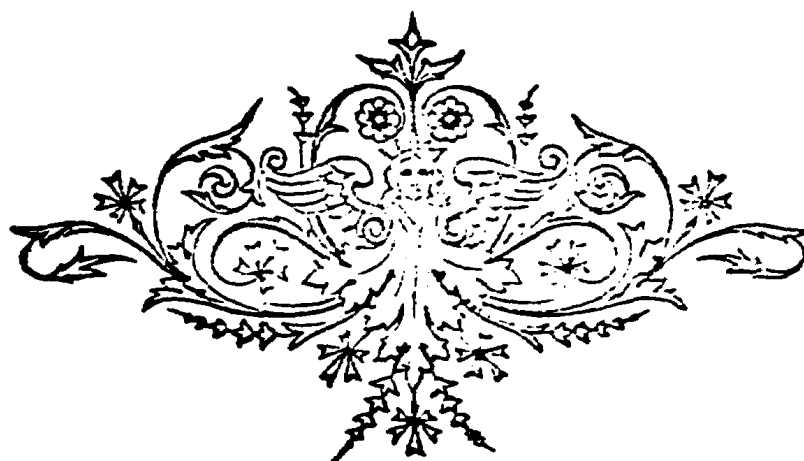
Aaron Davis Williams born in 1778, and died the following year.

Hannah Williams born July 2, 1781, married Daniel Weld of Boston, May 29, 1800, and died October 21, 1841.

Betsey Williams born June 5, 1784, married Aaron Davis Weld of Boston, December 25, 1804, and died April 10, 1807.

Aaron Davis Williams born July 3, 1787, married Miss Nancy Bugbee, December 8, 1814, and died December 8, 1863.

Moses Williams born December 28, 1790, married Miss Mary Blake, December 22, 1818, and died September 12, 1882.



## NOTE.

Any information about the ancestry and coats of arms of Robert Williams of Roxbury, Massachusetts, will be thankfully received by

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