

WILLIAMS

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Richard Williams of Taunton
and his connection with the
Cromwell family.

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RICHARD WILLIAMS,

—AND—

THE CROMWELL FAMILY.

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THE late Hon. JOSEPH HARTWELL WILLIAMS of Augusta, Ex-Governor of Maine, a descendant of Richard Williams of Taunton, many years ago became interested in the history of the family, and thereafter, to the close of his life, devoted much time and money to this object in the face of obstacles that would have daunted any man not able to exercise the wonderful patience and perseverance of Mr. Williams in these researches.

Among other matters he investigated the statement, made many years ago but afterwards vehemently doubted, that the family of Richard Williams was connected by ties of blood with that of Oliver Cromwell. He had the satisfaction, before his death, of achieving complete success in this particular—a result he deemed ample reward for all his labors.

Among those whom he employed was Mr. John Phillips C. E. of Putney, Surrey, who in 1894 compiled a chart entitled "Genealogy of the Cromwell-Williams Families from the Conquest to the Commonwealth." Mr. Williams had printed a very few copies of this chart for private distribution, limiting the number undoubtedly because he was expecting that a fuller account of what he had done would speedily be published in connection with a genealogy of five generations of the descendants of Richard Williams. Plans for this publication were under discussion when Mr. Williams met with the accident which incapacitated

him for the transaction of business and was followed by his universally lamented death.

So urgent and so many calls have been made for copies of this chart that his family has consented that I shall prepare it for publication in the REGISTER. Considerable in it is devoted to the Cromwell Genealogy from its origin; but as I understand that that has been published, and is readily accessible to the public, I have limited this account to a brief statement of the direct line of the family with which the Williams family became immediately connected.

I shall be pardoned for observing that few can appreciate, from the results here given, the vast amount of research necessary to produce them and the consequent debt of gratitude which we owe to Mr. Williams.

JOSIAH H. DRUMMOND.

CROMWELL.

The Cromwell line dates from Alden de Cromwell, who lived in the time of William the Conqueror. His son was Hugh de Cromwell, and from him descended ten Ralph de Cromwells in as many successive generations; but the tenth Ralph died without issue.

The seventh Ralph de Cromwell married in 1351, Amicia, daughter of Robert Berer, M. P. for Notts; besides the eighth Ralph, they had several other sons, among whom was Ulker Cromwell of Hucknall, Torkard, Notts. Ulker had Richard; and he, John of Cromwell House, Carleton upon Trent, Notts; and he, Robert; the names of the wives are not given.

1. ROBERT CROMWELL¹ of Carleton upon Trent, was a Lancastrian. He was killed at the battle of Towton, in 1461. His lease of Cromwell House was seized by Sir Humphrey Bourchier, Yorkist, who was the husband of Joan Stanhope, the granddaughter of the ninth Ralph through his daughter Matilda, wife of Sir Richard Stanhope.

Robert¹ left son William,² the ancestor of Oliver Cromwell, and a daughter Margaret, the ancestor of both *Oliver Cromwell and Richard Williams of Taunton*.

2. WILLIAM² CROMWELL, of the prebend of Palace Hall, Norwall, Notts, settled in Putney, Surrey, 1452. He married Margaret Smyth, daughter of John Smyth of Norwalk, Notts, and had John.³

Margaret Cromwell married William Smyth (son of John). They had son Richard³ Smyth and daughter Joan³ Smyth.

3. JOHN³ CROMWELL married his cousin *Joan³ Smyth*. He was a Lancastrian, and his lands at Putney were seized by Archbishop Bouchier, Lord of the Manor of Wimbledon, and his lease of Palace Hall, Norwalk, Notts, remised by Lord Chancellor Bouchier. They had, among other children, Walter⁴ Cromwell. *Richard³ Smyth of Rockhampton, Putney*, by wife Isabella, had daughter Margaret⁴ Smyth, who married John Williams, fourth in descent from Howell Williams, the head of the Williams line.

4. WALTER⁴ CROMWELL married in 1474 the daughter of Glossop of Wirksworth, Derbyshire; in 1472 he claimed and was admitted to two virgats (30 acres) of land at Putney: in 1499, Archbishop Morton, Lord of Wimbledon Manor, gave him six virgats (90 acres) of land in Putney as a *solatium* for the property taken from his father by the Bouchier Yorkists. He died in 1516, leaving among other children, Katherine⁵ Cromwell.

5. KATHERINE⁵ CROMWELL married Morgan Williams, fifth in descent from Howell Williams, and had son Sir Richard⁶ Williams, born about 1495.

6. SIR RICHARD⁶ WILLIAMS, *alias Cromwell*, married in 1518, Frances Murfyn, daughter of Sir Thomas Murfyn, Lord Mayor of London in 1518. He died at Stepney in 1547, and was buried in Gt. St. Helen's Church, London. He left son Sir Henry⁷ Cromwell, *alias Williams*.

7. SIR HENRY⁷ CROMWELL *alias Williams* (called "The Golden Knight") of Hinchbrook, Huntingdon, married Joan, daughter of Sir Ralph Warren, Lord Mayor of London, and they had: Sir Oliver,⁸ Robert,⁸ Henry,⁸ Richard,⁸ Philip,⁸ Joan,⁸ Elizabeth,⁸ and Frances.⁸

8. ROBERT⁸ CROMWELL of Huntingdon, brewer, married Elizabeth Stewart, widow of William Lynn of Bassingbourn, and their fifth child was *Oliver⁹ Cromwell*, "The Lord Protector."

Robert's sister, *Elizabeth⁸ Cromwell*, married William Hampden of Great Hampden, Bucks, and among their children were *John⁹ Hampden*, "The Patriot," and Richard⁹ Hampden.

WILLIAMS.

Gov. WILLIAMS, through his assistants, traced the Williams line back to Howell Williams, Lord of Ribour.

1. HOWELL¹ WILLIAMS, Lord of Ribour, married Wenlion, daughter and heiress of Llyne ap Jevan of Rady, and had son Morgan² Williams.

2. MORGAN² WILLIAMS of Lanishen, Glamorgan, married Joan Batton, daughter of Thomas of Glamorgan, and they had Thomas³ and Jevan.³

Jevan³ Williams married Margaret, daughter of Jenkin Kemeys of Bagwey Man. They had son *William⁴ Williams* of Lanishen, Bailiff for Henry VIII., who (wife not known) was the father of *Morgan⁵ Williams* of Lanishen, Glamorgan, and later of Putney,

Surrey, ale brewer at Putney, Wansworth and Greenwich, for Henry VII. and Henry VIII., and the husband in 1494 of Katharine Cromwell,—See *ante* Cromwell, No. 5. *et seq.*

3. THOMAS³ WILLIAMS of Lanishen, Glamorgan, died at St. Helens, Bishopgate, London; was buried in the church there “with his brass on stone.” He married, first, ——— Daniel of Edmonton, Midd; and second, Margaret ———; her brass on stone. He had son John⁴ Williams.

4. JOHN⁴ WILLIAMS, Steward of Wimbledon Manor, Surrey, married Margaret Smyth, daughter of Richard Smyth, and granddaughter of Margaret Cromwell (see *ante* Cromwell, Nos. 1, 2). He died at Mortlake in 1502, and she in 1501. They left two sons, John⁵ and Richard.⁵

John⁵ Williams, born in 1485, married Joan Wykys, daughter of Henry Wykys of Bolleys Park, Cherney, and sister of the Elizabeth Wykys who married Thomas Cromwell (brother of Katharine) secretary to Henry VIII., Lord Cromwell of Oakham, Earl of Essex.

5. RICHARD⁵ WILLIAMS was born in Rochampton in 1487. He settled at Monmouth and Dixton, Mon., where he died in 1559. He was twice married. The name of his first wife is not known. She is credited with one daughter, Joan. His second wife was Christian ———, who had two daughters, Reece⁶ and Ruth,⁶ and one son, John.⁶

6. JOHN⁶ WILLIAMS of Huntingdon, near Wotton-Under-Edge, Gloucester, died in 1579, leaving son William.⁷ No other particulars of this family are given.

7. WILLIAM⁷ WILLIAMS of Huntingdon, married, November 15, 1585, Jane Shepherd. She died about 1600; a child of hers having been baptized December 2, 1599. He married, December 4, 1603, Jane Woodward. She died February 2, 1614, and he in 1618. The first child by his second marriage, born in January, 1606, was RICHARD WILLIAMS OF TAUNTON.

Of the change of his name by Sir Richard Williams, Gov. Williams said:

“Oliver Cromwell was a lineal descendant in the male line of Morgan Williams of Glamorganshire. His great grandfather, Sir Richard Williams, assumed the name of “Cromwell,” it is true, but not until in mature years he had distinguished himself in the public service (temp. Henry VIII.), under the patronage of his uncle, Thomas Cromwell (Vicar General, 1535), whom he proposed to honor by the adoption of his name. In fact, ever afterwards, Sir Richard used to sign himself ‘Richard Cromwell, *alias* Williams’s’ and his sons and grandsons, and Oliver himself, in his youth (1620) used to sign in the same manner. In important grants from the crown to Sir Richard (29 and 31, Henry VIII.) the grantee’s name appears in both forms, ‘Cromwell *alias* Williams,’ and ‘Williams *alias* Cromwell.’”

It is not believed that, in the light of Gov. Williams’ researches, the relationship of Richard Williams of Taunton, and the Cromwell family, will again be questioned.

Williams.

Inscriptions in old Cemetery at Newton, Mass.

On Monument to First Settlers of Newton.

	Time of Settlement	Year of Death	Age
Isaac Williams	1661	1708	69
Abraham Williams	1662	1712	94

"Here Lyes Buried
ye Body of Mrs. Martha
Williams ye Wife of
Capt. Isaac Williams
aged 35 years
died October ye 24
1675"

"Here Lyes Buried ye
Body of Capt.
Isaac Williams
Who died Febrye ye 11th
1707 in ye 69th year
of His Age
Them which Sleep in Jesus
will God bring with him.

"Here Lyes Buried
ye Body of Ms. Judith
Williams, Wife of Capt.
Isaac Williams, Who
Decd April 7th, 1724
Aged 76 Years. "
Verse

"Here lyes Buried
the Body of
Mr. Isaac Williams
Who Departed this Life
Sept. ye 17t, 1757 in ye
72d Year of His Age."

"Mrs. Martha Williams
wife of Mr. Isaac
died April 2, 1763
in 77th yr."

