

**THE DESCENDANTS OF VEACH
WILLIAMS, OF LEBANON, CONN:
WHO WAS OF THE FIFTH GENERATION
FROM ROBERT WILLIAMS, ALSO, THE
ANCESTRY OF LUCY WALSWORTH**

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The Descendants of Veach Williams, of Lebanon, Conn: Who Was of the Fifth Generation from Robert Williams, Also, the Ancestry of Lucy Walsworth by Alexander Hamilton Wright

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ALEXANDER HAMILTON WRIGHT

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©

THE
DESCENDANTS
OF
VEACH WILLIAMS,
OF LEBANON, CONN.,
WHO WAS OF THE FIFTH GENERATION
FROM
ROBERT WILLIAMS,
Who came from England in 1637, and settled at Roxbury, Mass.

ALSO,
THE ANCESTRY
OF
LUCY WALSWORTH,
WIFE OF VEACH WILLIAMS.

BY
ALEXANDER HAMILTON WRIGHT.

"For inquire, I pray thee, of the former age, and prepare thyself to the
search of their fathers."—*Job 8, 8.*

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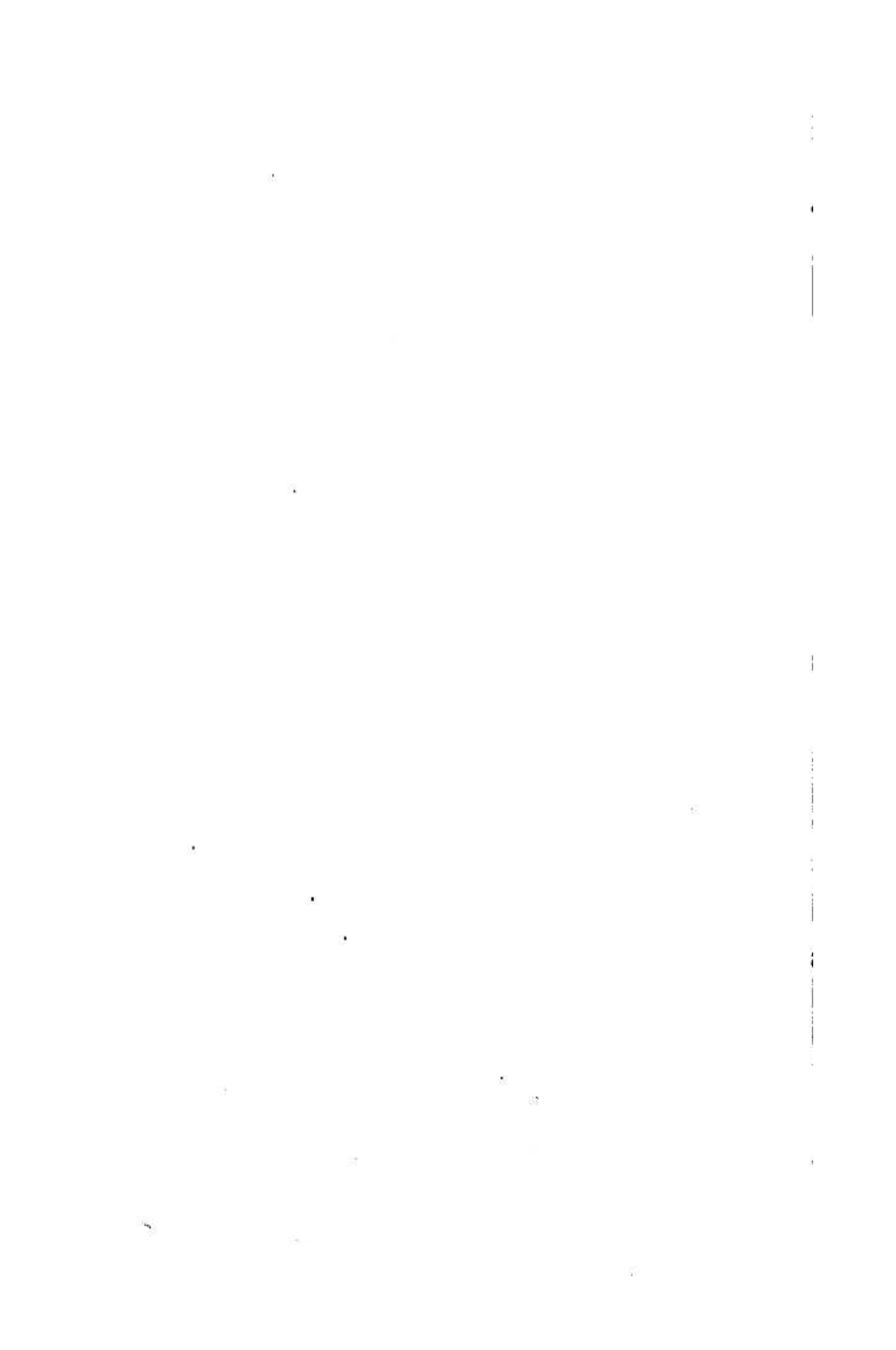


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New York.

PART FIRST.

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WILLIAMS GENEALOGY.



PREFACE.

ONE Hundred years ago, as the record tells, Veach Williams lived in Lebanon, Conn., surrounded by all of his eleven children save two who had died in infancy. To-day, of his descendants numbering a thousand in six succeeding generations, barely half a dozen remain in the old homestead-town of Lebanon. The history of this family well illustrates that of many others dating back to the early colonial settlement of New England towns, where now the very names once and long familiar, since removal of the descendants who bore them, are rapidly disappearing.

No attempt is made to trace Robert Williams, the first settler of the family in New England, to his paternal roof-tree in Old England. Such undertaking would necessarily demand cautious and protracted investigation beyond the opportunities of the present writer; but it is to be hoped some other descendant, of sufficient leisure and other abundant resources, may be induced to enter upon this task, and not only successfully establish connection with the English stirp, but, pursuing the inquiry into the more remote past, further unveil the family record.

The two-fold purpose contemplated by the present publication, is first, the correction of a grave error¹ (already for nearly half a century embedded in print), in the line of descent of that branch of the Williams family now under consideration; and second, having conclusively established the true ancestral line, to present the full and accurate record of *all* of the descendants of Veach Williams to the present date.

To accomplish this definite object, no little time and labor have been expended in personal investigation of

¹ See note 12, post.

original town, church and gravestone records; of wills and the minutes and proceedings of probate courts; of local histories and various publications found in the libraries; and lastly, in direct correspondence with very many of the descendants.

The effort has been successful. The record of each descendant of Veach Williams, male and female, will be found upon the following pages, down to and inclusive of the tenth generation (from Robert), the last given in the present work. The history of this branch of the Robert Williams family may thus be considered as substantially complete. Some errors, typographical or other, will doubtless appear, notwithstanding the greatest care and vigilance, but it is believed they are few and comparatively unimportant.

Acknowledgment is here made, for the almost uniform courtesy with which those addressed have supplied the desired information. Without such aid, it would have been impossible to have brought the record down to the present time. The compiler is especially thus indebted to John Harper, Esq., President of the Bank of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Amos L. Williams, M.D., Brookfield, Conn.; Mrs. Ferdinand Rogers, Greene, N. Y.; George C. F. Williams, M.D., Cheshire, Conn.; Miss Julia S. Williams, Precep. Young Ladies' Inst., Windsor, Conn.; Mr. Alexander Williams, West Henrietta, N. Y.; Charles H. Moss, Esq., Asst. Cashier Moss Nat. Bank, Sandusky, O.; Mrs. N. D. Robinson, Norwich, Conn.; Mrs. Helen M. Cottrell, North Bend, Neb., and others only in less degree.

Few surnames are of more frequent occurrence than that of Williams. It had its origin in the prænomen, William, which first appeared in England eight hundred years ago, as the baptismal appellation of William the Conqueror. The chief followers of the Conqueror, who bore his name, thereafter passed it on to those in their service owing fealty, and the latter, in turn to others, until the name of William became most popular and general throughout England, and thus originated more surnames than any other.

Of its chief cognominal derivatives we have, upon competent authority, first, the names Williams and Williamson. Then the abbreviation Will has produced Willes, Willis, Wills, Willson and Wilson. The diminutive Guillemot or Gwillot has led to Gillett, Gilliat, Gillot, Gillott, and other forms, while Williamot, the more English version of that diminutive, has given Willatt, Willet, Willert, Willott, Wilmot and Wilmott. Again, in connection with the pet forms of the name are the surnames Bill, Billson, Bilson, Willy, Willey, etc.

Hence, among the earlier settlers in America, who bore the name of Williams, perhaps no consanguinity whatever could be discovered, were their individual families traced back to their respective English sources.

But whatever the uncertainty as to the derivation of the surname in England for many who bear it, the descendants, whose names are recorded within, may justly be congratulated that their own ancestral line is established and preserved, at least for the ten generations of this name in America, or from the first landing of Robert Williams in Massachusetts Bay to the present time.

A. H. W.