

Genealogical Notes Regarding Charles David Williams

Written by his son - Reverend Benedict Williams

Daniel Williams was a Welshman and a Lutheran. His father and mother had left Wales to escape religious persecution in the middle of the eighteenth century and had joined the colony of German Lutherans in Old Philadelphia. There in that strong Lutheran Settlement, Daniel was born and raised and there he married Catherine Henney.

Catherine Henney, originally Hennig, was of early Colonial stock. Her family came from Suabia, Bavaria in 1639 and had been pioneers in the settlement in Pennsylvania. Her father and two of her uncles had been with Washington during the long winter at Valley Forge.

In the early nineteenth century the adventurous youth, especially from Pennsylvania, was moving westward and settling western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. In this exodus Daniel and Catherine Williams settled in northern Ohio where Wooster now is. Daniel set up a grist mill and became quite prosperous and they raised a family of five boys. David, the eldest son, was born February 10, 1819. As a young man, David married Susan Wood and settled on a farm several miles outside of Bellevue, Ohio. There he established a reputation for industry and executive ability. The farm grew to six hundred acres and hired help was employed and managed effectively. He raised his seven children, three daughters and four sons, in the fear of God. While he had a tender heart for all his children, he was strong in his belief and uncompromising towards anything he thought wrong or dishonest.

Susan Wood Williams died early in the fifties and for several years, David Williams managed his family of active children alone. Then in 1859, he married Eliza Rice Dickson Cook. The Dickson family were of English descent,

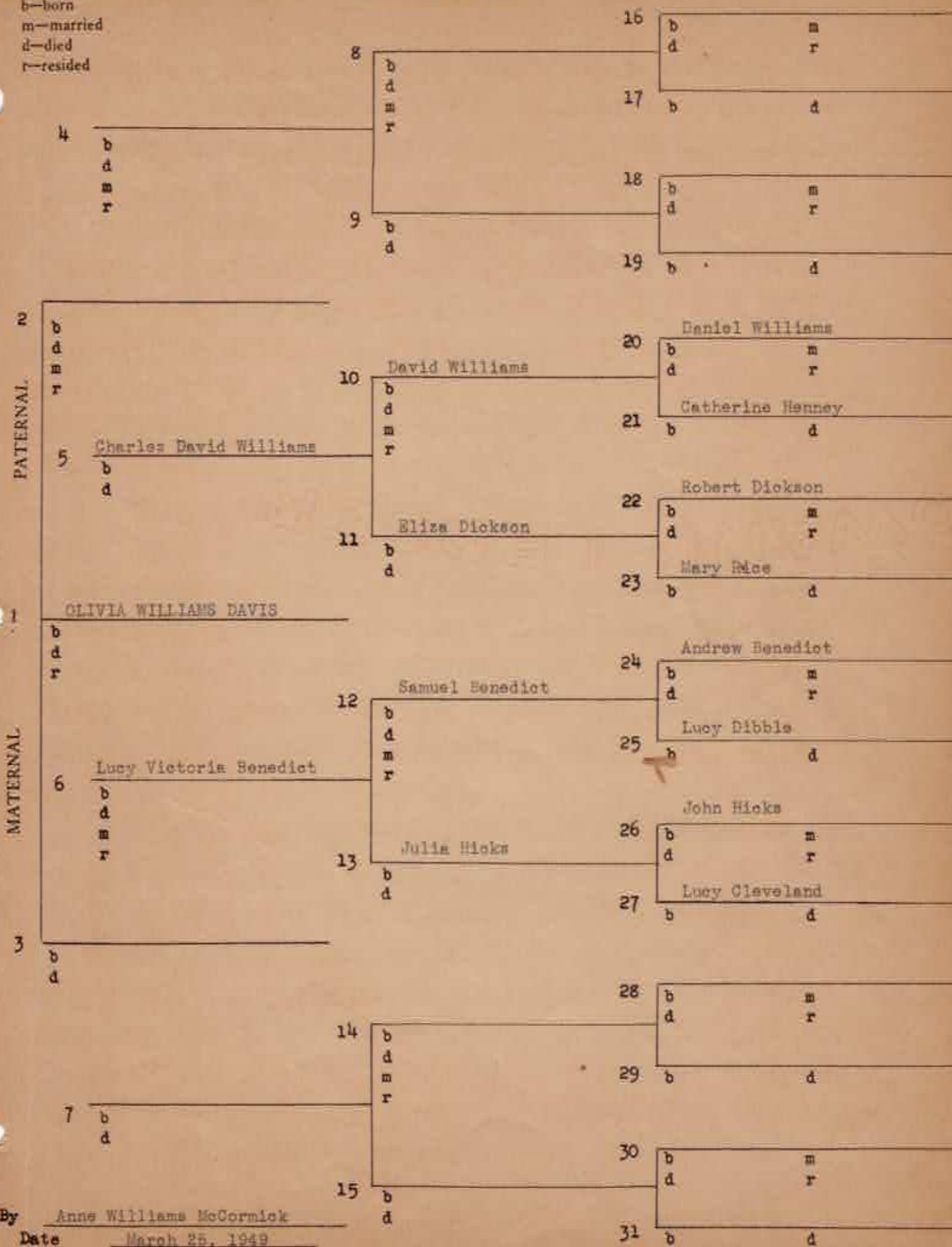
was a clergyman of the Episcopal Church at Rutledge, Vermont and of course he had a parish school. He came from a line of Hicksite Quakers. My grandmother, Lucy Cleveland, came through the Aaron Cleveland line. She was 1st or 2nd cousin to President Cleveland and Bishop Cox of Western New York.

Andrew Benedict came from a family boasting of seven generations of deacons in the Congregational Church. They were of French Huguenot and English descent. My grandfather was a skilled cabinet maker and my father knew how to teach his boys the use of tools, farming, etc. My grandmother, Lucy Dibble Benedict, came from Pennsylvania. She was one of four sisters who lived to be over ninety years of age. They were of English descent. We had some wool blankets woven by her from the wool of the sheep on the Dibble farm.

Samuel Benedict and his brother, Andrew, went to Trinity College and were ordained clergymen of the Episcopal Church. My father was curate of a church in New Haven, Connecticut and then went to Orange, New Jersey. About 1858, he went to Marietta, Georgia. During the Civil War he was sent to Canada but returned to Marietta at the close of the war. About 1869 he went to St. John's Church, Savannah, Georgia, where he remained until the yellow fever scourge in 1876. He remained through the epidemic, caring for the sick, fighting the disease, burying the dead. He was ill himself but recovered.

My mother, Julia Hicks Benedict, died in 1872 at Flat Shoals, Georgia, where we lived on a plantation during the years of struggle and privation after the war, while my father had his parish in Savannah. After my mother's death, we moved to a farm outside Marietta, Georgia, where we lived until we went to Cincinnati in 1877, my father coming to see us once a month. Five years after my mother's death, my father married Sarah E. Grant of Savannah, the daughter of Hugh Grant. Mr. and Mrs. Grant were born in Scotland. They had great rice plantations in southern Georgia. Our dear second mother was beloved by us all, most entertaining, full of humour and funny stories, devoted to us all and we owe much to her.

b—born
m—married
d—died
r—resided

By Anne Williams McCormickDate March 25, 1949