

From yon blue heaven above us bent,
The grand old gardener and his wife
Smile at the claims of long descent.
—TENNYSON.

Eber Williams

Eber Williams was born November 6, 1776, and married Martha Bennett November 7, 1799, at Foster, R. I., which town they left October 16, 1808, moving to Warren, now Columbia, N. Y. After remaining there three years they came to Oxford and settled in the dense woods on the farm now owned by Mason Whipple, and better known as the Stephen Weeks farm. In 1814 Mr. Williams sold to Philo Pier, and removed to a farm in Columbus, this county; remaining there three years he returned to Oxford and went on the farm he originally owned, occupying it till his death.

Mr. Williams was fifth in descent from Roger Williams, who settled Rhode Island in 1636. The line of succession being: Roger, Daniel, Joseph, Benoni, John, and Eber. His father was born December 27, 1742, and died in August, 1843. His mother was a sister of Stephen Hopkins, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and his wife was a descendant from the Royal house of Tudor, England.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams died on the same day, October 3, 1867, aged 91 and 87 respectively, and were buried in the same grave.

Their children were:

DANIEL B., born September 3, 1800; lived for many years at Cincinnatus, where he died, May 28, 1889.

POLLY, born April 7, 1803, married Vinson Loomis, and died in Smithville.

SALLY, born June 6, 1809, married Isaac Wright, and died in Wisconsin.

JOHN A., born May 28, 1813, lived at Beloit, Wis.

MARTHA C., born July 10, 1815, married Wilson J. Case; moved to Spring Valley, Wis.

JULIA A., born October 25, 1817, married Stephen Weeks, and died on the homestead farm July 4, 1876.

In the fall of 1828 a number of Mr. Williams' neighbors had a quantity of butter on hand, but found no buyers in Oxford. They urged Mr. Williams to take it at ten cents a pound, or they would pay him four dollars per hundred for selling it for them. Mr. William consented, and sent his son Daniel to Rhode Island with the butter. He started November 28, with a yoke of oxen and a pair of horses for a team, with a long-reached, high-boxed wagon, and thirty hundred pounds of butter, exclusive of thirty heavy firkins for packages and some other loading, making in all about thirty-five hundred pounds. Daniel walked beside the team and was fourteen days on the road, making about 260 miles. He had a common-sized log chain to fasten a wheel in going down the steep hills. When descending the eastern declivity of the Catskills, he chained one wheel as usual, but, it occurring to him that it might not hold, fastened another wheel with a strong rope, and had gone but a short distance when the chain broke, but, luckily, the rope held and he descended in safety. With the assistance of relatives in Rhode Island Daniel sold the butter and the oxen. During the month of January he started for home, the weather

remaining warm till he crossed the Connecticut river, when it became intensely cold, and, on reaching the Hudson river, found he could not cross on account of the floating ice. Learning that the river was open at Troy, he drove to that city, reaching the landing just after the last boat for the day had crossed. He then went to Lansingburg, crossed on the bridge, passed through Schenectady, striking the Albany turnpike at Post's Tavern, and stopped a few days with relatives in Herkimer. From there he came home, having made a trip in mid-winter of about 600 miles, a hazardous undertaking for those days.

WHAT THEY ADVERTISED.—In April, 1819, Samuel Farnham advertised “An assortment of choice Liquors and Groceries, suitable for the sick as well as those in health.” John Tracy, P. M., advertised a list of letters in post office. Ep. Miller, president of the board of village trustees, called a meeting of that board, to “Meet on the 1st Tuesday of May at 10 A. M.” L. Sherwood & Co., had “Just received from New York a great variety of goods suitable for the season.” Ransom Rathbone had “For sale, a large quantity of Men's and Boys' Knapt, Merino and Wool hats, which he will sell as low as can be purchased at any hat factory in the county.” The notice by one of the citizens offering “A smart, active, healthy negro” for sale, evinced that the sable cloud of slavery yet hung over the State.

The population of Oxford in 1855 was town, 1,900; village, 1,218—total 3,118.