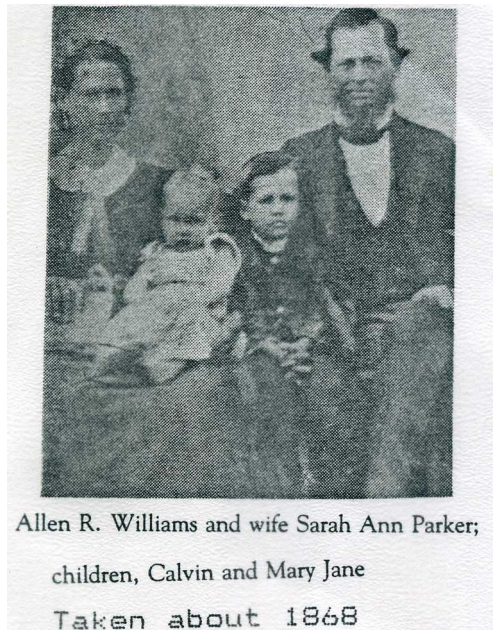


## Life Sketch of Calvin Greenberry Washington Williams

**Calvin Greenberry Washington Williams** was the oldest living child of **Allen Raymond Williams** and his wife, **Sarah Ann Parker Williams**. He was born on 20 December 1861 in Pearson, Atkinson County, Georgia. This was just a few months after the Civil War began. An older brother, **William T. Williams** born in 1860 died as an infant. Two more siblings, **Sallie**, born and died in 1863 and **Martin Jackson Williams** was born in 1865 and died in 1866. Calvin was 5 years old when his sister **Mary Jane**, was born 14 Feb 1867. The Civil War ended in April of 1865 but these were difficult times for everyone in the Southern States. **Martha Ann** was born 29 June 1869, **George Albert** was born 13 Nov 1871, **Emma Cartharine**, was born 5 July 1874, **Azalee** born 2 Feb 1877, **John Henry** born 16 July 1879 and **Charlie Wesley** born 17 Sept 1882.



Calvin's father, **Allen Raymond Williams** was the son of **John Marmaduke (Whoopie) Williams and Catherine Myers**. They lived in Barnwell, South Carolina and family records indicate they moved to south Georgia in 1850.

Calvin's mother, **Sarah Ann Parker**, was the daughter of **William Parker and Elizabeth Edenfield**. She was born in Milltown, Irwin, Georgia.

The Williams' were farmers, as were most people at that time. Families were kept busy clearing land and planting and harvesting crops. The tall timber provided great hunting, and the streams provided cat fish and a variety of perch.

**Calvin married Sarah Ann Davis** of Sanderson, Florida, on December 25, 1889. He was 28 years old. Sarah Ann had two sons when she and Calvin were married. They were **William Ivie Davis**, age 9 (known as Ivie), and **Joseph Irvin Davis**, age 7 (known as Irvin). Calvin had a daughter, Lillian Idell, 3 yrs. old. Her mother was Mary Ann Herse.



Calvin and Sarah Ann Davis Williams

Soon after their marriage they bought a 600 acre farm north of Axson, Georgia. Their property was heavily wooded with oak and pine trees. Near the house they planted persimmon trees, pecan trees and grapevines with arbors. The soil was fertile for growing cash crops as well as a family garden. They grew corn, cotton, tobacco, green beans, cabbage, collards, mustard, butter beans, black-eyed peas, field peas, and onions.

Eight children were born to Calvin and Sarah in the next fourteen years. Three daughters **Ettie**, **Lillie** and **Emma**. Their first and only son **Jesse Green Williams**, was born 5 April 1894, **Anna Bell**, in 1896 and **Beadie** in 1898. Two more daughters were born to them, **Pearl**, born on 23 Sept 1900 and **Mattie Estelle**, born 22 Dec 1903.

The Williams family had attended meetings at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

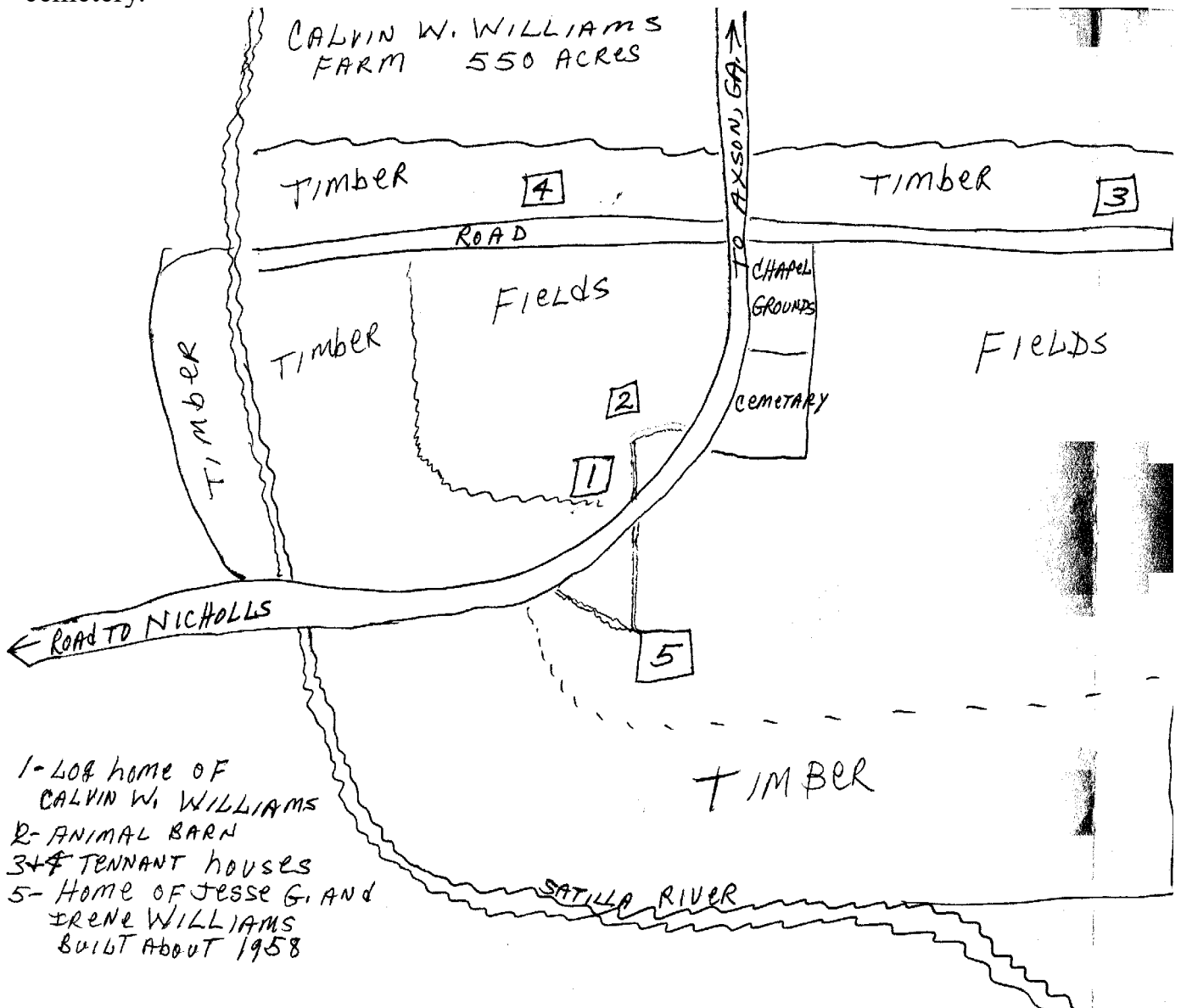
One Sunday the Baptist minister, Reverend Smith, told his congregation that he would advise the members to close their homes to the Mormon elders, to not give them food or lodging, and that he would head a mob of men to drive them out of the country. Calvin's family stood and left the meeting, having had their fill of that brand of Christianity.

Although **Calvin**, nor his father, **Allen Raymond Williams** had ever joined any church they were regular attendees at Mt. Zion Baptist Church. In 1899 when the first Mormon missionaries were in the community Calvin rode his red mule (Bill) six miles to hear them speak and he said he knew that they had the truth of the gospel. After six months of investigating the claims of Mormonism, he, his wife, **Sarah Ann**, his parents **Allen Raymond Williams** and **Sara Ann Parker Williams** and his sister, **Emma**, were

baptized by Elder Nephi U.S.C. Jenson, (later Judge Jenson of Salt Lake City, Utah) on January 9, 1900, in the Satilla River, which ran through their farm.

On June 10, 1905 Calvin and Sarah Ann donated and deeded two acres of land to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to be used for building a church and cemetery..

A small church made of rough lumber was built on this site in 1905 and was used for church and school until 1917. The building was then purchased and moved across the road to the south, where it was used as a school and tenant house. The official name of the church was **“The Satilla Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”** Calvin’s father, **Allen R. Williams** was the first to be laid to rest there in the cemetery.



**Calvin's granddaughter, Evelyn Atkinson** wrote some of her memories of Calvin. "He lived his religion and was a great speaker, like unto the Apostle Paul. He loved the missionaries and even built a room on one end of the long front porch, room for them to stay in and called it the Mormon Room. He would let no one sleep there except the Elders. He worked in the fields which he loved dearly, from daylight 'til dark. He would come home from plowing with his red mule, get a bite to eat, then hitch the mule and wagon and go to cottage meetings to share the gospel with anyone who would listen. I was privileged to go many times with him along with my cousin, Grace. Her mother died when she was a month or two old and my Grandpa and Grandma raised her. Many times I spent the night with Grace and as always family prayer was a must. Often times Grandpa would fall asleep, and Grandma would nudge him to wake up and finish the prayer. He knew and loved the gospel and tried to share it with everyone. He even saved two Elders from being lynched near his home.

He helped my mother with a home after my step-father died in the early '30's. He gave us food from his garden and meat from his smoke-house. To me there are not very many like this great man. He was truly a pioneer in bringing forth the gospel in this part of the Lord's vineyard. I think of him every first Sunday, when he would stand to declare the gospel to be true."

**Jesse Green Williams wrote about his father's mob experience.** "It was in the summer of the year 1902, during fodder-pulling time that Elders Levi Nelson and Elder Nielson, after having dinner at the home of Calvin Williams and his wife, Sarah Ann, started walking for the home of William Griffis who lived one mile north of Millwood, and whose home the Elders were to spend the night, and hold a meeting in the school house at Millwood the following day, which was Sunday. On Saturday morning several men gathered together near Millwood, secured a rope and started looking on various roads for the Elders. Cliff Bennett and Tom Jordan, driving a horse and buggy earlier in the day had gone to the home of Calvin Williams and asked if the Elders had been there. They had driven by the house several times. The Elders finally came to Calvin's house and ate dinner and started on their way. After they left, Calvin became suspicious of the men's inquiries, and actions, so he saddle his red mule "Bill" and followed the road the Elders took. Jim Higgs, who lived near the creek bridge and road was having a "fodder-pulling". These working men had also noticed the mobbers riding up and down the road. Calvin continued his pursuit crossing the creek bridge and up hill, and seeing at a distance the Elders surrounded by the mob and a rope hung to the tree. He immediately turned around and galloped his mule at top speed to summon assistance from the "fodder-pullers". Hearing the mules feet hit the bridge the "fodder-pullers" jumped over the fence and started to meet him. In the group was James Higgs, Walt White and John Arnold. They all rushed to the scene of the mob, and immediately upon arrival, James Higgs opened a large knife, and made a dash for one of the mobber's guns. He told them he would give the best one of five mules, for one of the guns. This dispersed the mob. When the missionaries failed to reach the Griffis home at the expected time, Mrs. Griffis asked her son, Bill to go and look for them. Taking his gun he started out and

soon arrived on the scene. The Elders were rescued and they all (the Elders and Bill Grffis) returned to the Grffis home. It is known that most of the mobbers met untimely deaths”.

A write-up in the local newspaper is entitled “**Calvin Williams Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday**”. It goes on to state, “The relatives of Calvin Williams met at his home near Axson in a family reunion and to celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 1936. He had as his guests several relatives from South Carolina. A large number of the local Williamses were also enjoying the occasion and entertaining their visiting relatives. Good music was made by a string band from Waycross and local musicians. The star of the occasion was little Joe Anne Williams, age two years, daughter of Mr. and Mr. Hiram Williams who entertained with her clever dancing. A feast of good food was served at the noon hour and all enjoyed the feature of the program, Uncle Allison, entertaining the crowd with his reminiscences of past events, humorous anecdotes, optimism, etc.”

Calvin passed away just eleven months later. His obituary reads:

**Calvin W. Williams Dies At Atkinson County Home.**

Funeral services for Mr. Calvin W. Williams aged 75 years were held Wednesday morning at Utah Mormon church near his home. Elder Raymon Carver of Douglas conducted the funeral services. Mr. Williams died Monday following an extended illness.

Mr. Williams was a life-long resident of the section where he lived and was a member of one of the county’s prominent families. He joined the Mormon church in 1900 and was ordained an elder a year later. He was ever active in the work of his church and community affairs and was held in highest esteem by innumerable friends. A very large gathering assembled to pay last tribute to one of the community’s most loved citizens. Mr. Williams is survived by his wife and children; Jesse G. Williams of Axson, Georgia; Mrs. Emma Weiler, Nahant, Mass.; Mr.s Lillian Barrett, Lynn, Mass.; Mrs. Annie Nelson, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mrs. Pearl Toland, Kellogg, Idaho; Mrs. Mattie Moody, Waltertown, Mass.; three brothers, George A. Williams, of Waycross; John Henry Williams, of Douglas and C. H. Williams of Douglas. Three sisters, Mary Jane Merritt, of Fairfax, Mrs. T. L. Adams of Douglas and Mrs. J.C. Gillen of Douglas, twenty-two grandchildren and one great grand child survive.

Honorary pallbearers were: Leon Tanner, Willie Williams, A.E. Gillis, Judge J.H. Williams, M.L. Davis, Joe McDonald, W.O. James and G.C. Weltman.

Active pallbearers were, Hugh Allen, Cristol Davis, W. R. Vickers, Owen Davis, Clyde Bennett, J.O. White, Selvin Williams, and Abe T. Minchew.

The Douglas Undertaking company was in charge of arrangements.