

CHAPTER 1

Here I prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the parents of Daniel Williams were, in fact, named Roderick Williams and Elizabeth Evans. I will do so with six exhibits, although the third exhibit is not absolutely necessary.

Exhibit 1

- ②⑦ [p. 35 Saturday, Sep 14, 1861] ~~Exhibit~~
- 5 Ruth Williams [b] Mar. 1780 Brecknock [G], S. Wales [bapt.] 1849
[p] Wm + Margaret Jones
 - 6 Mary Williams 13 JAN 1830 Carmarthen [G] S. Wales [p] Thomas + Ruth Jones
 - 7 Jane Williams 4 NOV 1831 Charlton, Somerset, England [bapt.] June 1851
Uriah + Jane Merrifield.
[p. 36] [same day]
 - 6 John Jones Williams 12 AUG 1824 Brecknock [G] S. Wales 1850 Daniel + Ruth
 - 7 Daniel Williams 23 AUG 1783 " " 1853 Roderick + Elizabeth

Source: These are notes I took on 12 Feb 1986 at the Brigham Young University (BYU) library in Provo, Utah. Within the BYU library was a branch of the Family History Library (FHL), based in Salt Lake City, Utah. My notes were taken from FHL 183,403 and FHL 183,404 – microfilm copies of the Endowment House records, Book D, Pages 35 and 36.

Transcription: I take the liberty of slightly changing the format:

Book D, page 35; Saturday, 14 Sep 1861

Ruth Williams	Mar 1780	Brecknock, S. Wales	1849	Wm. & Margaret Jones
Mary Williams	13 Jan 1830	Carmarthen, S. Wales		Thomas & Ruth Jones
Jane Williams	4 Nov 1831	Charlton, Somerset, England	Jun 1851	Uriah & Jane Merrifield

Book D, page 36; Saturday, 14 Sep 1861

John Jones Williams	12 Aug 1824	Brecknock, S. Wales	1850	Daniel & Ruth
Daniel Williams	23 Aug 1783	Brecknock, S. Wales	1853	Roderick & Elizabeth

Explanation: On 14 Sep 1861 Daniel Williams and his son John Jones Williams went with their wives to the Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah, to participate in ordinances of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons). Ruth Williams was the wife of Daniel Williams. Mary Williams and Jane Williams were the two polygamous wives of John Jones Williams.

At the Endowment House, a bookkeeper opened Book D to list the women on page 35, and the men on page 36. The bookkeeper recorded the name of each person participating in the ordinances, the date and place of birth, the date of baptism into the Mormon Church, and the parents' names.

Brecknock indicates Breconshire, and Carmarthen indicates Carmarthenshire.

Accuracy: The dates of birth are unreliable. John Jones Williams was born 12 Aug 1823 – not 1824 – as proved by his patriarchal blessing (19 May 1855 Brigham City, Utah) and other sources. Mary Jones Williams was probably born 12 Jan 1837 – not 13 Jan 1831 – as suggested by her death certificate and other records. Jane Merrifield Williams was born 4 Nov 1834 – not 1831 – as proved by her christening and other records.

However, there is little reason to doubt the other information in the record, which is generally supported by other evidence.

Application: This record establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that the parents of Daniel Williams were named Roderick and Elizabeth. The proximity of other family members, including my 2nd great grandfather, John Jones Williams, proves that this Daniel Williams was my ancestor, not someone else with the same name.

Exhibit 2

32 M END. HOUSE #658 book 'D' page 36
 WILLIAMS, DANIEL
 b. 23 AUG 1783 Brecknock Co., S. Wales
 d. Dec 1870 (log.)
 p. RODERICK WILLIAMS & ELIZABETH Evans
 m. 1805 Ruth Jones
 heir Self
 bapt 1853 indowed 14 SEP 1861
 sld 14 Sep 1861 [?] [TYPE VERY LIGHT]

[back of card] baptized Dec 7 1861 [?]
 1 196 [?]

UNDERLINED IS IN LIGHTER
 TYPE & APPARENTLY ADDED
 LATER.

Source: These are notes I took on 30 Jan 1986 at the BYU library in Provo, Utah. My notes were taken from FHL 1,262,039 – a microfilm copy of part of the Temple Index Bureau (TIB) Card Index. The TIB got some of its information from the Endowment House records, Book D, Page 36, #658 (see Exhibit 1). Other information was added to the TIB card from at least one other source, not identified.

Explanation: In addition to the data from the Endowment House – see Exhibit 1 – the TIB card contains other information in a lighter type. Daniel’s card informs us that he died Dec 1870, that his parents were Roderick Williams and Elizabeth Evans, and that he was married to Ruth Jones in 1805.

Accuracy: There is little reason to doubt the accuracy of this information, most of which is confirmed in other records.

Application: Exhibit 1 provides the given names of Daniel Williams's parents. The TIB shows full names for both of them: Roderick Williams and Elizabeth Evans.

Exhibit 3

WILLIAMS, DANIEL
died JAN. 1870
Ordained High Priest - Jan. 1870
From Box Elder
H.O. Mss. Rec. of H.P.
MALAD, IDAHO.

WILLIAMS, DANIEL
born 1783 Brecknockshire, S. WALES
bapt. 1853 Council Bluffs, IA by WM. THOMAS
father RODERICK
mother Elizabeth EVANS
Rec. # HIGH PRIEST page 232
Ordained 1854 by Bishop Miller
H.O. Mss. Rec. of H.P.
BOX ELDER WARD.

Source: These are my handwritten notes, taken 28 Jan 1986 at the Brigham Young University Library in Provo, Utah. My notes were taken from FHL 820,147 – a microfilm copy of the Early Church Information Card Index. The Card Index cites as sources “H.O. Mss. Rec. of H.P.” in Box Elder Ward and Malad, Idaho.

Explanation: These are two cards describing the same person. It may be helpful to examine the manuscripts from Box Elder Ward and Malad, Idaho, to see which information on the cards comes from original documents, and which information is provided without reference to source material. Though I'm not sure, I suspect that some of the information traces back to the Endowment House records (Exhibit 1) and the TIB (Exhibit 2).

Application: This record is not absolutely necessary for the present objective. It is only provided here for the sake of completeness. It confirms what has been established in Exhibits 1 and 2 – that the parents of Daniel Williams were Roderick Williams and Elizabeth Evans.

Exhibit 4



Source: This is the 1778 Bishop's Transcript for Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales. The original is kept at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, Ceredigion County, Wales. A microfilm copy is available on FHL 104,471, item 4.

Transcription: The emphases are mine:

**A Copy of the Register Book of Landeilorvân
to the Court held at Brecon April 21st. 1779 containing
the Xnings in ye. year 1778 / Burials & Weddings**

David Thomas was baptd. March the 8th
Margaret the Daughter of Morgn. Morgans April 9th.
Anne Daughr. of Wm. Thos. was Baptd. 16

Esther Daughr. of Jno. Williams Baptd. June 18
Sybyl Daughr. of Thos. Jones Bapt. Augt. the 12
Thos. of Thomas Prosser Bapt Augt. the 14

Howel Prys was buried March 16th.
Evan Son of Evan Williams buried Apr. 9th.
Anne of Evan Williams buried April 15th.
Mary Daugr. of Wm. Thomas buried April 22^d.
Jno. Son of David Bevan buried April 26th.
Catherine Prys was buried May the 13th.
Thos. Evan was buried June the 1st.
Daniel Son of Thos. Williams June the 2^d
Esther base Child of Wm. Thos. Ditto
Jennet Prosser was buried June the 26th.
Margaret James was buried Septemr. the 14th.
Rachel Williams buried 8ber. the 3^d.

Thos. Jones & Margaret Jeffreys married January 2^d.
John Davies & Ann Williams married Janry. 17th.
Rodk. Willms. & Eliza Evans married Febry. 28th.
Howell Powel and Ann Powel mard. March 28th.

by me Jno. William Clk..

Explanation: Each parish in Wales kept Parish Registers for recording christenings, marriages and burials. Every year the parish clerk copied the registers for the Bishop. These copies were called Bishop's Transcripts. On 21 Apr 1779 John Williams, the Clerk of Llandeilo'r-fân parish, submitted the 1778 Bishop's Transcripts to the court in Brecon, Breconshire, Wales.

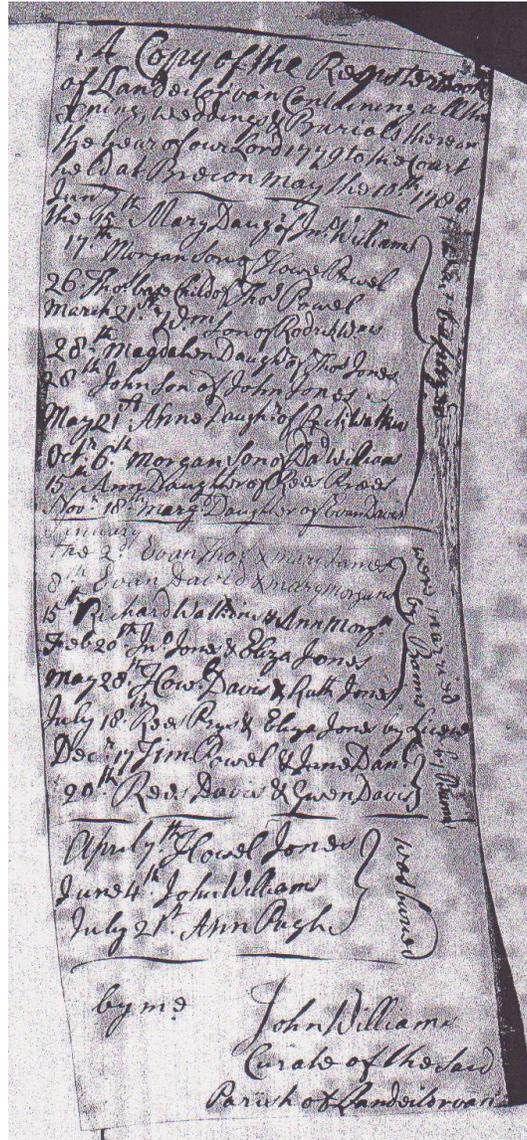
Researchers have occasionally misinterpreted the 1778 Bishop's Transcript of Llandeilo'r-fân, assuming that the ordinances were performed in 1779, because that year appears prominently at the top of the page. Some researchers have compounded the error by reading 1779 as 1772, because a segment of the dashed line under the 9 makes it look like a 2. However, a careful reading of the heading, which starts at the top and continues on the left edge of the page, clarifies that the ordinances were performed in 1778.

Accuracy: Bishop's Transcripts may contain errors. Whenever possible, they should be compared with the original Parish Registers and other sources. However, if a Bishop's Transcript is the only surviving record of an event, and if there is no particular reason to doubt its accuracy, the Bishop's Transcripts may be accepted as sufficient proof.

The pre-1810 Parish Registers for Llandeilo'r-fân are lost. The Bishop's Transcripts, then, are the most complete and authoritative source available before 1810.

Application: This document proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the parents of Daniel Williams – Roderick Williams and Elizabeth Evans – were married 28 Feb 1778 in Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.

Exhibit 5



Source: This is the 1779 Bishop's Transcript for Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales. The original is kept at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, Ceredigion County, Wales. A microfilm copy is available on FHL 104,471, item 4.

Transcription: The emphases are mine:

**A Copy of the Register Book
of Llandeilo'r vân Containing all the
Knings, Weddings & Burials there in
the year of our Lord 1779 to the Court
held at Brecon May the 10th. 1780**

Janry.
 the 15th. Mary Daugr. of Jno. Williams) **was baptized**
 17th. Morgan Son of Howel Powel)
 26. Thos. base Child of Thos Powel)
March 21st. Wm. Son of Rodrik Wms.)
 28th. Magdalen Daughr. of Thos. Jones)
 28th. John Son of John Jones)
 May 21t. Anne Daughr. of Richd. Watkin)
 Octr. 6th. Morgan son of Dad. Williams)
 15th. Ann Daughter of Rees Prees)
 Novr. 18th. Margt. Daughter of Evan Davis)

January
 the 2^d. Evan Thos. & Mary James) were married by Banns
 8th. Evan David & Mary Morgans)
 15th. Richard Watkins & Ann Morgn.)
 Feb 20th. Jno. Jones & Eliza Jones)
 May 28th. Howl. Davis & Ruth Jones)
 July 18th. Rees Prys & Eliza Jones by Licen.
 Decr. 17 Tim. Powel & Jane Danl.) by Banns
 20th. Rees Davis & Gwen Davis)

April 7th. Howel Jones) was buried
 June 4th. John Williams)
 July 21st. Ann Pugh)

by me. John Williams
 Curate of the Said
 Parish of Llandeilorvân

Explanation: Having carefully examined the Bishop's Transcripts of Llandeilo'r-fân parish, I am certain that they do not show a christening for Daniel Williams, nor for any other child of Roderick Williams and Elizabeth Evans, except William Williams. This doesn't mean that they had no other children. It was very common for some children in a family to be christened, and others to remain unchristened.

Application: This document proves beyond a reasonable doubt that Roderick Williams had a son named William, christened 21 Mar 1779 in Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.

Exhibit 6

Parish or Township of		Enumeration District of		Super-District of		County of		Village of	
No.	Name of Head, or Head, or Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abides in the House, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of Male Person	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	When Born	Whether Blind, Deaf, or Dumb	
19	<i>Tapogles</i>	<i>Daniel Williams</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>Farmer of 94 Acres</i>	<i>Breck. Brecknock</i>		
		<i>Margaret Williams</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>Farmer's Wife</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Samuel Williams</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>U.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do. Brecknock</i>		
		<i>John Williams</i>	<i>Grd. Son</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Esther Price</i>	<i>Grd. Daur.</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
20	<i>Brimmelin</i>	<i>Daniel Williams</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>Farmer of 94 Acres</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Ruth Williams</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>Farmer's Wife</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Samuel Williams</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>U.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Laterday Saint Preacher</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>John Williams</i>	<i>Grd. Son</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Errand Boy</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Esther Price</i>	<i>Grd. Daur.</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Do. Girl</i>	<i>Do. Aberiskir</i>		
21	<i>Penlybrett</i>	<i>Daniel Williams</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>Farmer of 103 Acres</i>	<i>Do. Brecknock</i>		
		<i>Margaret Williams</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Farmer's Wife</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Ruth Williams</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>U.</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Margaret Williams</i>	<i>Grd. Daur.</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
22	<i>Congarrog</i>	<i>John Price</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Margaret Price</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>Farmer's Wife</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>Esther Price</i>	<i>Grd. Daur.</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Do. Girl</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
		<i>John Price</i>	<i>Grd. Son</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Do.</i>	<i>Do. Do.</i>		
			5	Total of Persons		5	10		

Source: This is the 1851 census of Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales, Enumeration District 1b. The census is available on FHL 104,249. The Public Record Office (PRO) of the United Kingdom is one of the three organizations that make up the National Archives. Their reference for this census record is Class: HO107; Piece: 2489; Folio: 90; Page: 6.

Transcription: The family at "Brimmelin," household #20, was:

Daniel Williams	Head	Mar.	68	Farmer of 94 Acres	Do. [Breck.]	Do. [Llandilovane]
Ruth Williams	Wife	Mar.	71	Farmer's Wife	Do.	Do.
Samuel Williams	Son	U.	24	Laterday Saint Preacher	Do.	Do.
John Williams	Grd. Son		9	Errand Boy	Do.	Do.
Esther Price	Grd. Daur.		8	Do. Girl	Do.	Aberiskir

Explanation: The 1851 census was taken on 30 Mar 1851. The grandson John was a son of Daniel Williams, Jr. (household #21). The granddaughter Esther was a child of John and Ruth Williams Price. Other abbreviations are for *Married*, *Unmarried*, and *Ditto*.

Accuracy: The standardized spellings are *Bryn-melyn* rather than *Brimmelin*, *Breconshire* rather than *Breck.*, *Llandeilo'r-fân* rather than *Llandilovane*, and *Aberyscir* rather than *Aberiskir*.

There may be other errors in this record. If Daniel Williams was born 23 Aug 1783 he would have been age 67 rather than 68. However, considering the inaccuracies in Exhibit 1, it's possible that the census record is correct. Family records indicate that Ruth Jones Williams may have been born in Tirabad, Breconshire, Wales, rather than Llandeilo'r-fân.

Application: The 1851 census is my only direct evidence that Daniel Williams was born in Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales. His place of birth is confirmed by circumstantial evidence.

Summary

Exhibits 1-6 prove a few simple facts about Roderick Williams's family. These facts are undisputed and widely acknowledged:

- Roderick Williams married Elizabeth Evans 28 Feb 1778 Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales
- Their child William Williams was christened 21 Mar 1779 Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.
- Their child Daniel Williams was born 23 Aug 1783 Llandeilo'r-fân, Breconshire, Wales.

These facts are proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The only exception is the date of birth for Daniel Williams. There is reason to think that he may have been born in 1782 or even in 1781. Considering all of the available evidence, though, I think the scale tips in favor of the generally accepted date, 23 Aug 1783.



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