

Cornelius John William

Pioneer of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora

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Cornelius John Williams

b. 1816 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

d. July 1852 Wyoming on Oregon Trail

s/o William Kelly Williams and Mary Scott

m. 1840 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

Mary Jane Hervey

b. 07 Nov 1820 Lycoming County, Pennsylvania

d. 17 Dec 1901 Cascade Locks Hood River County, Oregon

d/o Benjamin Elliot Hervey and Frances Holman/Coleman

m1. Cornelius John Williams 1840

m2. Roger G. Atwell 1853 [divorced c1869]

ODLC: #5041 Wasco Co; Roger G. Atwell b. 1821 NYC; arr OR 29 Aug 1852; sc 12 Apr 1853; m'd Mary Jane Williams 16/18 May 1853 Skamania Co, WA; Boundary conflict with Chipman claim as late as 25 Mar 1867; Patent was issued 15 Mar 1878. Claims #5040 & #5041 site of present town of Cascade Locks, OR

1860: Wasco, Hood River County, Oregon, August 20, 1860; G.R. Atwill (sic), 39, master carpenter, \$6000 \$500, NY; Mary, 40, PA; Chas [Williams], 13, IL; Cassius M. [Williams], 8, OR; James [Atwell], 6, OR

1870: Falls Pct, Hood River PO, Wasco County, Oregon, July 15, 1870; Mary Atwell, 49, farming, \$2000 \$700, PA; Charles E., 22, miner, IL; Marcellus, 17, works on farm, WA; James F. [Atwell], 15, works on farm, OR; Wilbur [Atwell], 12, works on farm, OR

Children:

1. Charles Edwin Williams

b. 12/21 Apr 1849 Illinois

d. 18 Mar 1922 Sanders County, Montana

m. 30 Dec 1876 Clinton, British Columbia, Canada

Christina (McDonald) McKenzie

b. 1847 Idaho

d.

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1881: British Columbia, Canada, Chas Edwin Williams, 34, b. 1847 USA, Methodist Episcopal, farmer; Christina, 34; Alex Mcd McKenzie, 9, Catherine W McKenzie, 8; Mary Williams, 4; Charles Edwin Williams, 3, Angus McDonald, 64

1910: Spaulding, Nez Perce County, Idaho, Chas E. Williams, head, 62, m-35yrs, IL SC PA; Christina, wife, 62, m-35yrs, 4-4, ID Scot ID

1920: Spaulding, Nez Perce County, Idaho, January 2 & 3, 1920, Charles Williams, head, 72, IL Eng PA, miner-Planer River; Christina, wife, 73, ID Scot MT

2. Cassius "Sully/Celly" Marcellus Williams

b. 07 Sep 1852 Oregon Territory

d. 01 Sep 1910 Stevenson, Skamania County, Washington

buried IOOF Cemetery, Stevenson, Skamania County, Washington

m. c1872 divorced 1888 Wasco County, Oregon

Viola Potter

b. Feb 1855 Oregon

d. 10 Mar 1901 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

d/o John and Huldah Potter

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1880: Falls Pct, Wasco County, Oregon, June 2, 1880; Cassius Williams, 27, lumberman, WT unk IL; Viola, 24, wife, keeping house, OR ME IL; Minnie, 7, dau, OR WT OR; Winnie, 4, dau, OR WT OR; Georgia E., 1, dau, OR WT OR; Huldah Potter, 48, mother in law, keeping house, IL; John Potter, 78, father in law, carpenter, ME + 4 boarders

1900: Ilwaco, Pacific County, Washington, June 7, 1900; Cassius Williams, lodger, Sep 1851, 48, s, WA Wales IL; logger

1900: Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, June 1, 1900; Minnie M. Williams, head, Feb 1872, 27, s, OR OR OR, saleswoman; Viola, mother, Feb 1855, 46, wid, 2-2, OR ME IL; Alice M. Thayer, boarder, Apr 1875, 25, s, NE ME IL, saleswoman; George H. Kraggs, Aug 1830, 69, wid, SC France Scot, clerk (Aston H.)

"Sully" WILLIAMS was raised as an orphan in the Iman household.

Cassius Marcellus WILLIAMS, "Sully," "Celly," b. 7 September 1852, at Sheperd's Point, then in Clark Co. Oregon Territory; the son of John and Mary (Hervey) Williams; d. 1 September 1910, at Stevenson, Skamania Co. Washington, aged 57. He was buried in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery at Stevenson.

In the spring of 1852 the parents of Sully Williams, John and Mary Williams, with their five-year old son Eddy, left Illinois for the Oregon Territory. They traveled on the Oregon Trail. On the trail, in Wyoming, John Williams became sick and within the day, died. After burying her husband, Mary continued on the trail and arrived at Sheperd's Point, then in Clark Co., Oregon Territory, on 22 August 1852. About two weeks after her arrival she gave birth to Sully.

A week after the arrival of Mary Williams at Shepard's Point, Roger Gerald Atwell also arrived at Sheperd's Point on 29 August 1852. Mr. Atwell took an interest in Mrs. Williams, and said, "it is not right for a woman to struggle alone here and with a child." Six months later, in 1853, he married Mrs. Williams. Shortly afterward Roger and Mary Atwell took a donation land claim near the present town of Cascade Locks, Wasco Co. Oregon, across the Columbia River from Stevenson.

Until 1865 Sully lived with his mother and stepfather, Roger Atwell. In that year his stepfather, Roger Atwell, went on a trip to Texas. And from Texas, Mr. Atwell wrote letters to his family, until one day the letters suddenly stopped and he was never heard from again. The family suspected that he had probably died in Texas. At the time Sully was about 13 years old. It was after the disappearance of his stepfather that Sully began to stay with the Iman family.

Living with the Imans, Sully loved to play with all the Iman children, and Margaret was always really sweet to him, and as all the Atwells had liked Felix very much, and since Sully's mother was very stressed with her small children, the farm and the hotel which she had opened for business following her husband's disappearance, it was all right with her if Sully stayed at the Imans, though it was painful to her, she had tried as much as any mother could, when Sully called Margaret "mother."

In 1922 Margaret Iman was interviewed by Fred Lockley, a historian, and recalled her first meeting with Sully in late August 1852 when Margaret first arrived at the Bush Hospital at Shepherd's Point (now Stevenson, Washington) sick with "mountain fever." She was recovering from the fever at the Bush hospital, and "...while I lay sick in bed, I heard the cries of an infant babe in some part of the building. I asked for it to be brought to me and my bidding was granted. I took it in my arms and tried to play with it, but was so weak and worn I could not. This was the first babe I had in my arms after landing at the Cascades in 1852. This little babe was C. M. Williams who was born at the Cascades, and who was a half-brother to J. F. and J. W. Atwell of Stevenson, Wash., and who was stopping at my house in later years when he died in Stevenson at the age of some sixty odd years. He always loved me as his mother. He rests in the little cemetery above Stevenson on the bank of the lordly Columbia."

After being raised to maturity by Felix and Margaret Iman, Sully moved to California, but as stated above by Margaret Iman he died during a visit to Stevenson and was buried in the Iman Cemetery.

Conrad "Tonny" Lundy, of Stevenson, remembers, "In the early 1940's there was a daughter of Sully Williams who put an advertisement in the LADIES HOME COMPANION hoping to find the Iman family who had taken care of her father as a child. It was my grandmother, Mrs. Louis Franklin Iman, who answered the advertisement and invited the daughter, who lived in Ohio, to visit Stevenson. Sully William's daughter did come to Stevenson, and she personally thanked the Imans for taking care of her father as a child."

SKAMANIA COUNTY PIONEER, 1 September 1910, "Sully Williams expired on the street in front of States and Natsel's market Thursday afternoon. His death was due to heart failure by heavy drinking."

SKAMANIA COUNTY PIONEER, 27 August 1976, Bicentennial Edition, First White Child in Skamania Choked to Death on Meat, by Jim Atwell. "Cassius Marcellus Williams came into the new world at Bradford's Landing, Upper Cascades, Washington Territory.. . Celly grew up to be a character and was practically disowned as a half-brother by Monty and John Atwell who were born a few years later. Celly grew up with the Indians, hunted for them, bringing in 33 deer one bad winter to help feed the local Indians. He killed quite a number of cougars, eating them also. He was a noted ox team driver. It has been told that he would straighten out a lazy oxen by jumping on the back of a balky ox and walk down his back with his "cork" boots, after this the ox knew who was boss. Celly drank a lot and when crossed would fight anyone. In 1910 he walked in State's Butcher Shop in Stevenson for something to eat and asked for a hamburger. The shop was out of ground meat, so he purchased a steak and started eating it raw. He choked on it as he walked out the door and died there. He is buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in an unmarked grave
[<http://www.imanfamily.net/ged/Records/INDIs/II1272.html>]