

WHITE HOUSE

Brentsville, Virginia

The White House was built by Mrs. John Williams, nee Jane Daws, when the County Seat was moved from Dumfries, Virginia to Brentsville, Virginia, 1822.

In 1795 John Williams, Esq., bought of Robert Graham, Esq., both of Dumfries, Virginia, the Clerks Office.

We think we can say here, without giving offense to the most sensitive persons, what the "Landmarks of Old Prince" has to say: "There are no better people ever lived, than the Williams."

In 1813 John Williams, Esq. died leaving his widow, Jane Williams, and a large family of children. Phillip Devereaux Daws, Esq., the brother of Mrs. John Williams, who had been Exccheoter for the State of Virginia and also a member of the Legislature from the county of Prince Willia, qualified as Clerk for his sister, Mrs. John Williams was the guest of her brother while in Richmond, Va. and boths were present the evening the theater burned, making their escape through the windows from the burning building.

The bricks from which the White House was built were brought from England and were hauled from Dumfries by teams a distance of 18 miles. *to Brentsville*

In 1832 Phillip Devereaux Daws died and John Williams, the 2nd, became Clerk and moved into the White House. His mother built a cottage in the yard and moved there.

John Williams was made Colonel of the County Militia and I have often heard the older people tell of General Muster Day, which was celebrated Spring and Fall. In the year 1852 Col. Williams was given an office under President Buchanan, in Washington, D. C. The Clerk's Office was then electral and Mr. Phillip Daws Lipscomb became Clerk. He was a grandson of Mrs. John Williams, nee Jane Daws.

Just before the War between the States, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Iardella of Washington, D. C. moved into the White House. Mrs. Iardella was Annie Williams, daughter of John Williams, the 2nd. Mr. Iardella was in the Geodectic Coast Survey of the United States; and a Union Sympathizer. When the union forces were camped here in Manassas, there were as many as a hundred thousand men camped here at one time. Mr. Iardella would ask the officers to his home for dinner; and one day his little boy, Walter, sitting at the table with these officers, looked up and said, "Will you lend me your pistol?" The officer patted him on his head and asked, "Why do you want my pistol, little man? He answered, "to kill all the Yankees." The officer said, "Why kill the Yankees?" and Walter said, "Because they killed all of Ma's chickens." Mrs. Iardella was stricken with typhoid fever and died. Her husband was out on Lond and could not be located. He did not know that his wife was dead until he came home. His daughter, Nettie, said she would never forget going to her Mother's grave with her Father when he came home. After Mrs. Iardella's Mrs. Holland, the mother of Mrs. William E. Lipscomb moved into the White House and as she was a British Subject, she ran a Block-Aid to Washington, D. C. and many people would go with her to the city under her protection.

Brentsville.

1822 - Courthouse was moved to a site on the main stem of the Dumfries road leading to Thoroughfare Gap. This was a part of the Bristow tract of "Brent Town" then vested in the Commonwealth, and here a new courthouse was authorized in 1820. Two years later, as the transfer was made, a town was established about the court house under the name of Brentsville.

- Acts. 1821-22 - Ch. 93, p. 69.-

Description - 50 acres of land, the property of the Commonwealth, at the court house in the county of Prince William.

Trustees - John Macrae, John Gibson, Gerald Alexander, William S. Alexander, Richard Davis sr., John Mills, Charles Hunton, John Leachman, John Fox, William French, Benjamin Johnson, John Hooe, James Foster.

Brentsville remained the county seat until 1893 when as a result of a referendum, the court house was moved to Manassas.

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	Children of Viola Davis Proffitt
Parents	Emmie Lois Proffitt and Henry Black Churchill
	Sallie Lois Proffitt Daughter of
Grand Parents	Viola (NMN) Davis and Polaski Littleton Proffitt
	Viola (NMN) Davis Daughter of
Great Grand Parents	Ada (NMN) Davis and French Jackson Davis
	Ada (NMN) Davis Daughter of
Great, Great Grand Parents	Emma Jackson Williams and Lucian Alexander Davis
	Emma Jackson Williams Daughter of
Great, Great, Great Grand Parents	Lucy Anne Thornton and Robert Williams
	Robert Williams Son of
Great, Great, Great, Great Grand Parents	Jane Dawe and John Williams

John Williams, Clerk of Prince William County Court died in Office in 1813.

Mrs. Jane Dawe Williams (John Williams Widow) had her brother, Philip Devereaux Dawe qualify as clerk for her.

Philip Devereaux Dawe never married but lived with his sister, Mrs. Jane Dawe Williams and assisted her in raising her children. He died while in office in 1832. Mrs. Jane Dawe Williams son, ~~Robert~~ <sup>John</sup> Williams then became clerk.

Philip Devereaux Dawe previous to becoming clerk in 1813, was excheater (exchequer) for the State of Virginia, he was also a member of the legislature from Prince William County.

Emma Jackson Williams and Lucian Alexander Davis had two daughters: Ada (NMN) Davis  
Neva Minor Davis

Lucy Anne Thornton and Robert Williams had two daughters: Emma Jackson Williams  
Margaret Roberta Williams

Margaret Roberta Williams married Dr. Clement C. Barbour, she had no children. Dr. Barbour by a previous marriage had one son, Clement Aubrey Barbour. Clement Aubrey Barbour married twice, had no children.

Mrs. Margaret Roberta Williams Barbour lived her last years with her great niece, Mrs. Viola Davis Proffitt. Mrs. Proffitt was appointed Executrix of her estate and a copy of Mrs. Barbour's will is in the Court House at Manassas, Virginia. Mrs. Barbour before she died gave to Mrs. Proffitt all of her records and photographs of her family.



	Sallie Lois Proffitt	Daughter of
Grand Parents	Viola (MOM) Davis and Pulaski Littleton Proffitt	
	Viola (MOM) Davis	Daughter of
Great Grand Parents	Ada (MOM) Davis and French Jackson Davis	
	Ada (MOM) Davis	Daughter of
Great, Great Grand Parents	Emma Jackson Williams and Lucian Alexander Davis	
	Emma Jackson Williams	Daughter of
Great, Great, Great Grand Parents	Lucy Anne Thornton and Robert Williams	
	Robert Williams	Son of
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## Breutsville

The birthplace of Frank Jackson  
and Ada Darise's children -

Breutsville was created as a town by an Act of the Va. General Assembly on Jan 23, 1822 entitled "An Act Establishing a Town at the Court House of Prince William."

The Bricks, of which the Court House, Jail and "The White House" (The Coopers lived in this house when <sup>we</sup> were ~~and~~ children) were built, came from England - hauled <sup>to Breutsville from Dumfries,</sup> Cousin Floris Lion and Aunt Mag Barbour gave the following history:  
"The public square in Breutsville, Va., comprising the jail, Court House has 3 acres in it. The grounds had many handsome locust trees, large and

Cousan Flour Lion said; "One evening in June I remember walking past this square with Mrs (Captain) Lucian Davis (our Grand mother) and she said at this time she didnt know which was the most beautiful the Court House <sup>lot</sup> as it was on that occasion all white with locust blossoms, or in January when the trees were all laden with snow as she had so often seen it"

This square meant much to Mrs Davis because her Great-Uncle Phillip Dearry Dawe and her Uncle John Williams had been Clerks of the Court; and later her cousin Phillip D. Lipscomb (lot) & at this particular time her husband, Capt Lucian A. Davis was the clerk.

This lot had a very deep well (dug well) beautifully covered where all the inhabitants of Bretonville got their water



Children born in Brentsville

Our Parents, French Jackson Davis and Ada Davis (nee Davis) were married in Washington, D.C.

June 11, 1885. Cousin John A. Nicol was best man and Alice [unclear] bridesmaid.

Child 1st & 2nd } Viola and Margaret Davis  
twins, born Nov. 18, 1886. Margaret was born dead. Buried in the William Cemetery in Brentsville

3rd - Lucian Alexander born Feb 28 - 1888.  
died 8/16/1954 Buried. His wife, Grace died 2-15-54.

4th Eugene Davis born May 12, 1890  
died Feb. 28 - 1960 -

5th little boy premature -

6th - Emma Lois (Dinah) Davis born June 17, 1893 - married Ben C. Cornell <sup>died</sup> Oct 17, 1960

7 - Raymond Jackson Davis born July 29 - 1894

8 - Lyman French Davis born a few  
+ + + + +

1954

9-1954

7-1930 - Born 12/20/1839

me of Viola + Lett Proffitt



(planks) around it, a stile entrance <sup>at</sup> ~~front~~ the front, and also at the side opposite the jail. Originally this side stile connected the old White Tavern, which was run by Mr. Jim Davis, (no kin of ours)

The White Tavern was surrounded by 3 ~~acres~~ acres. On the West end of this lot was later built a little church - which was often used by various demon

Our mother, Mrs. Ada Davis, was the Organist. Later on Miss Ada Bowen, (Dr. Bowen's daughter) would assist her.

In Deed Book 8 - page 348, you will find a plot of the village of Brentsville, which shows the names of the streets.

Our property was on Main St. - Our Father (French Jackson Davis) was Postmaster, when he died 9-12-1895 - Congressman Meredith sent Mama word, if she wanted the Post Office he would see that she got it - which he did.

Viola Davis married Pulaski Littleton  
Proffitt, (son of Marinda Pulaski Proffitt &  
Sallie Scruggs Proffitt), was married  
by Rev. T. D. D. Clarke at his home  
out Sudby Road Manassas, Va. on June 18,  
1919. Attendants Orma Brown, later  
Mrs Raymond J. Davis; and Eugene  
Davis, who had just return from Overseas

Raymond Jackson Davis married  
Orma Jennings Brown, daughter of Robt  
Brown & Etta<sup>W</sup> Brown

Lucian A. Davis married Grace  
Brady of Washington, DC.

Eugene Davis married Mary Olive Horn  
baker, daughter of Ed and Lizzie  
Hornbaker - Sept 6, 1923 -

Dinah - married Ben C. Cornwell. 12/18/23

Andrew

Our Parents, Mr  
Davis and Ada  
were married in the

June 11, 1885.

A. Nicol was best man  
signing bridesmaid.

Child - Viola and Margie

1st & twins, born Nov 1

2nd } was born dead. Buried

ham Cemetary in Brenton

3rd - Lucian Alexander

died 8/16/1954 Buried - New

4th Eugene Davis born

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6th - Emma Lois (Dinah)

1893 - married Ben C

7 - Raymond Jackson

29 - 1894

8 - Lyman French Da.

++ ++ P. P.

1954  
Aunt Nera died Dec 19-1954

Aunt Mag died Oct 7-1930 - Born <sup>12</sup> 1/20/1839

died at my house at the home of Viola + Art Proffitt



Capt. Lucian Alexander

Born - May 26, 1838

My Grandfather, Lucian Alexander joined the Pr. Wm. Cavalry when aged in 1858-59, during the [unclear] [unclear]

In 1859 the Cavalry was re-organized by my Cousin, [unclear] (she later married Maj. Lion) and mother (at that time Miss Emma Williams)

The Cavalry was ordered in July 19, 1861, with the Albemarle Capt. Jno. Scott and supported by [unclear] of infantry, were ordered to guard between Occoquan and Dumfries

In 1862, the Cavalry was reorganized. Uncle, Philip D. Williams, was my father, Lucian A. Davis 1st Lieut.; also a great uncle of ours, [unclear]

camped at Rappahannock 18<sup>th</sup> Virginia

Capt. Lucian Alexander Davis

Born - May 26, 1838 — Died May 19, 1887.

My Grandfather, Lucian Alexander Davis, joined the Pr. Wm. Cavalry when it was organized in 1858-59, during the John Brown excitement.

In 1859 the Cavalry was presented with a flag gotten up by my cousin, Miss Fomer Williams, (she later married Maj. Lion) and my Grandmother (at that time Miss Emma Jackson Williams).

The Cavalry was ordered into service <sup>7-17-61</sup> July 19, 1861, with the Albemarle Troops under Capt. Jno. Scott and supported by a regiment of infantry, were ordered to guard the Potomac between Occoquan and Dumfries.

Camped at Roundtop 18<sup>th</sup> Georgia

In 1862, the Cavalry was reorganized, my Great Uncle, Philip D. Williams, was made Capt. My Grandfather, Lucian A. Davis 1st Lieut.; J. Taylor Williams also a great uncle of ours, 2nd Sergeant.

## Ancestors' Services.

My Ancestors' services in assisting in the establishing of American Independence during the War of the Revolution were as following:

Col. James Taylor, my great, great, great, great ~~from~~ grandfather served under General Washington in and about Winchester, Va. and helped to fortify the frontier towards Staunton. He was twice High Sheriff, Lt. Col. for his County, one of the Committee of Safety at the time of the rupture with Great Britain, and was a member of the Va. Convention that helped to ratify the Federal Constitution. He was one of the earliest patriots for the political and religious liberty of America, and so continued until his death in 1814.

From the ancestor of this Jas. Taylor, who came to this Country from England in 1682 are descended two presidents of the United States, Zachary Taylor and Jas. Madison;

Also Col. Richard Taylor a signer of the Declaration Chairman of Committee of Legislators, Colonial, Va.



constituted a portion of Col. Beverly H. Roberson's regiment & became Company "A" 4th Va.

Soon after the reorganization, said Cavalry formed a part of Stuart's Cavalry. After his death they were with Gen. Fitz Lee to the close of the war.

In what was known in history as the "Mud Run Campaign" my great Uncle P D Williams (Grandma's bro) was killed at Reccoon Ford, and my Grandfather became Capt & was afterward elected Capt & held said Office until the close of the War.

My Grandfather was with Stuart in the Gettysburg Campaign. During the retreat from Petersburg they protected the rear of the Army, and fought day and night for a week. The 4th Va Regiment of Cavalry was in most of the battles <sup>& raids</sup> in which I ~~part~~ made Stuart's Cavalry so famous, &

Captain L

sustained its reputation,

Information - from Va. Genealogies pg 682

Col. Jas. Taylor IV was the son of Jas Taylor III born 1763 - Died 1784 - His 1st wife was Alice Thornton

Jas Taylor III son of Jas Taylor II <sup>B 1674</sup> d. 1729  
His wife Martha Thompson.

- References for lineage.
- 4th New. Tyler's Quarterly Vol 4 - pg 124
- 5 " = Caroline Co. Va. Marriage Bonds - pg - 137.
- 6 " Tyler's Quarterly Vol 4 - pg 124  
Va. Genealogies, Hayden pg - 682

married } French Jackson Davis born  
6/11/1885 married Ada Davis, nee D  
in Wash. DC (

Ada Davis = daughter of  
& Lucian Alexander Davis (the son  
5/19/1887 in Brentsville, Va) married  
Williams (born 4-19-1836) at Tel  
dence in Caroline, Va. - on 3/10/1863

Emma Williams Davis died in  
on Jan. 18, 1894 -

Emma Jackson Williams is  
Maj Robt Williams (2nd son of J  
Williams) & Lucy Ann Thornton  
Lucy Ann ~~Wells~~ Thornton of Caro  
daughter of Peter Thornton (I think  
Caroline) and Mary Taylor  
Mary Taylor is the daughter  
& Ann Hubbard. They were  
See opposite sheet

from Va. Genealogies pg 682

V was the son of Jas Taylor  
died 1784 - His 1st wife was

son of Jas Taylor II <sup>B 1674</sup> d. 1729  
the Thompson.

lineage.  
Early Vol 4 - pg 124  
Va. Marriage Bonds - pg - 137.  
Early Vol 4 - pg 124  
see, Hayden pg - 682

married 6/11/1885 in Wash. DC	} French Jackson Davis born married Ada Davis, nee Davis (	Born	Died
		1862 - Rt. Mm Co - 2-11-1867 Alexandria, Va.	9-12-1895 3-14-1928

Ada Davis = daughter of Emma J. Williams Davis  
& Lucian Alexander Davis (<sup>the Jones</sup> born - 5/26/1838 - died  
5/19/1887 in Breunsville, ) Married Emma Jackson  
Williams (born 4-19-1836) at Peter Thornton's resi-  
dence in Caroline, Va. - on 3/10/1863

Emma J. Williams Davis died in Breunsville Va  
on Jan. 18, 1894 -

Emma Jackson Williams is the daughter of  
Maj Robt Williams (2nd son of Jno Williams & Jane Dawe  
Williams) & Lucy Ann Thornton Williams)  
Lucy Ann ~~Hubb~~ Thornton of Caroline Co. Va. is the  
daughter of Peter Thornton (I think he was a doctor in  
Caroline -) and Mary Taylor -  
Mary Taylor is the daughter of Col. Jas. Taylor  
& Ann Hubbard. They were married June 1758  
See opposite sheet.



