

**THE WILLIAMS FAMILY
OF
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA¹**

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JOHN JOSEPH¹ WILLIAMS was born in Belgium,² and died between 1875 and 1876.³

John married **MARY FRANCES MENSCHKE**.⁴ She was born about 1835⁵ in Baden, Baden, Germany,⁶ and died 30 April 1884 of heart disease at the age of fifty-eight, in Richmond City, Henrico County, Virginia.⁷

From 1875 to 1877, Mary, widow of John, was residing at 16 N. 18th Street in Richmond.⁸

In 1880, Mary was enumerated in the federal census of Richmond, still residing at 16 North 18th Street. She was forty-five years old, born in Prussia to Prussia-born parents. Her son John Williams was twenty-one and an engineer.⁹

Child of John and Mary (Menschke) Williams, born in Virginia:

- i. **JOHN JOSEPH² WILLIAMS**, b. 28 April 1861; m. **MARGARET M. MAHONEY**

JOHN JOSEPH² WILLIAMS (*John Joseph*¹) was born 28 April 1861 in Richmond,¹⁰ and died 14 December 1927 in Richmond.¹¹

¹ Researched by Dwight Radford and Steve Motteshard.

² Death record for John Joseph Williams, 14 December 1927, Certificate of Death, Commonwealth of Virginia, #27003 (1927), Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va., microfilm 27003.

³ Mary Williams, widow of John, first appears in the Richmond city directories in 1875/6.

⁴ Death record for John Joseph Williams.

⁵ 1880 federal census, Mary Williams household, Virginia, Henrico Co., Richmond City, Jefferson 2nd Ward Precinct, p. 263A, FHL 1255371.

⁶ Death record for John Joseph Williams.

⁷ Death record for Mary F. Williams, 30 April 1884, Richmond City Death Records (1884), p. 51, FHL 2048592.

⁸ City directory listing for Mrs. Mary E. Williams, *1875-1877 Richmond City Directory*, FHL 1377371-72.

⁹ 1880 federal census, Mary Williams household.

¹⁰ Tombstone inscription for John J. Williams, born 28 April 1861, died 14 December 1927, Mount Calvary Cemetery, Richmond, Va.. The 1900 census shows his birth as April 1860, and his tombstone records 28 April 1861. His marriage record states he was born 1858, while the 1880 census records his birth year as 1859. Oddly, his death certificate records two different birth dates, 29 March 1865 and 28 April 1865.

¹¹ Death record for John Joseph Williams; tombstone inscription for John J. Williams.

He married in St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, 7 October 1885, **MARGARET M. MAHONEY**,¹² daughter of John Mahoney and Johanna Shea¹³ from County Cork, Ireland.¹⁴ She was born 18 September 1865¹⁵ in Richmond, and died 21 September 1938 of carcinoma of the liver in Richmond.¹⁶ The Very Reverend of St. Peter's Cathedral in Richmond, A. Van DeVyver,¹⁷ performed the marriage ceremony. The witnesses were William McDonough and Joan Tafre.¹⁸

From 1877 to 1880, John, a coffee roaster, resided at 16 North 18th Street in Richmond.¹⁹

In 1880, John was enumerated in the federal census of Richmond, residing at 16 North 18th Street. John, an engineer, was twenty-one years old, born in Virginia to a Virginia-born father and a Prussia-born mother. Enumerated with John was his mother, Mary Williams (forty-five).²⁰

From 1894 to 1896, John resided at 1702 Cedar in Richmond and was a grocer and the proprietor of Richmond Coffee and Spice Mills at 3 South 15th Street. An ad in *Chataigne's Directory of Richmond, VA, 1895/1896*, page vii, stated the following: "Coffee & Peanuts Rosted [sic] Daily. Richmond Coffee and Spice Mills, Jobbers of Fancy and Staple Groceries. Teas, Coffee & Spices a Specialty. Manufacturers and grinders of all kinds Tobacco Flavorings, Roots and Spices, Minerals & c. at Lowest Prices. Office and Mills No. 3 S. Fifteenth Street. J.J. Miller, manager, John J. Williams, propr. Phone No. 924."²¹

In 1900, John and Margaret were enumerated in the federal census of Richmond, residing at 2017 E. Grace Street. John, a merchant, was forty years old, born April 1860 in Virginia to Germany-born parents. He owned his house free of a mortgage. Margaret was thirty-four, born September 1865 in Virginia to Ireland-born parents. She was listed as having six children of whom five were alive in the census year. Their children, born in Virginia, were Annie (b. October 1888, eleven), Maggie (b. January 1891, nine), Jennievier (b. December 1892, seven), John J. (b. August 1896, three), and Louise Williams (b. December 1898, one).²²

In 1910, John and Margaret were enumerated in the federal census of Richmond, residing at 2820 Franklin Street. He was forty-five years old, born in Virginia to Germany-born parents. He worked as an engineer at an engineer house. He owned his home and could read and write. He had been married to Margaret for twenty-four years. Margaret was forty-two years old, born in Virginia to Ireland-born parents. She was the mother of seven children of whom six were alive at the time of this census. Their children, born in Virginia, were Margaret (nineteen), J. (daughter, seventeen), John J. Jr. (thirteen), Louise (ten), and P.D. (son, four). Other household members were J.E. Sheridan (male cousin, twenty-seven, born in New

¹² Marriage record of John J. Williams to Margaret M. Mahoney, 7 October 1885, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Richmond, Va., Marriage Register, Book 1:103.

¹³ Marriage record of John J. Williams to Maggie M. Mahoney, 7 October 1885, Richmond City Marriage Register (1858-1896), Henrico Co., Va., p. 65, line 17, FHL 2048498.

¹⁴ Death record of Margaret M. Williams, 21 September 1938, Virginia Certificate of Death (1938), #20252, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va..

¹⁵ Tombstone inscription for Margaret M. Williams, born 18 September 1865, died 21 September 1938, Mount Calvary Cemetery, Richmond, Va..

¹⁶ Death record of Margaret M. Williams; tombstone inscription for Margaret M. Williams.

¹⁷ City directory listing for the Very Reverend A. Van De Vyver, 1888 *Chataigne's Directory of Richmond, VA*, J.H. Chataigne & Co., publisher, 45, FHL 1377375.

¹⁸ Marriage record of John J. Williams to Margaret M. Mahoney.

¹⁹ City directory listings for John J. Williams, 1877-1880 *Richmond City Directory*, FHL 1377372.

²⁰ 1880 federal census, Mary Williams household.

²¹ City directory listings for John J. Williams, 1894-1896 *Richmond City Directory*, FHLs 1377378-79.

²² 1900 federal census, John J. Williams household, Virginia, Henrico Co., Richmond City, Marshall Ward, e.d. 96, sheet 20A, p. 20, lines 32-38.

Jersey to a New Jersey-born father and an Ireland-born mother), G.H. Landers (son-in-law, twenty-two, born in Virginia to Virginia-born parents), A.M. Landers (daughter, twenty-one), and M.H. Landers (granddaughter, one).²³

In 1920, John and Margaret were enumerated in the federal census of Richmond, residing at 716 Griffin Avenue. He was fifty-three, born in Virginia to a Belgium-born father (native language was Flemish) and a Germany-born mother. He was working as an electrician at the U.S. Post Office and was making mortgage payments on his house. Margaret was fifty years old, born in Virginia to Ireland-born parents. Their children, born in Virginia, were John J. Jr. (twenty-two), Louise D. (twenty), and Paul D. (fourteen).²⁴

From 1922 to 1927, John resided at 2916 Griffin Ave in Richmond. He was a fireman in 1922. In 1923 he was an engineer. In 1924 he was a fireman. In 1925 and 1926 he was a watchman. In 1927 he was an engineer.²⁵

On 14 December 1927, John died at his home at 2910 Griffin Avenue in Richmond from a cerebral hemorrhage. He was an engineer at the Richmond Post Office. His parents were John Joseph Williams (born Belgium) and Mary Frances Menschke (born Baden, Baden, Germany).²⁶

On 17 December 1927,²⁷ John was buried in section 6 at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Richmond.²⁸

Margaret's initial obituary notice, dated 22 September 1938, stated she died at 2919 Montrose Avenue in Richmond, which was the home of her daughter and son-in-law, George H. Landers. She was survived by her two sons: Paul D. Williams of Richmond and John J. Williams Jr. of New York; by four daughters: Mrs. Landers, Mrs. Genevieve C. Brown of Richmond, Mrs. Thomas P. O'Connor of Boston, and Mrs. John Green of Newport [RI]; and sixteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.²⁹

Margaret's second obituary notice, dated 23 September 1938, stated that she was active for many years in church work and church organizations and was one of the founders of the Catholic Women's Club of Richmond. She was a member of the board of directors and auditor at the time of her death. She was also the founder and first president of the Benedictine Ladies' Auxiliary and was for several years president of the St. Patrick's Alumnae. She was active in the work of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and was a past president of the Virginia State Chapter of that Organization.³⁰

Margaret's third obituary notice, dated 24 September 1938, stated her funeral would be held at St. Paul's Catholic Church.³¹

On 24 September 1938, Margaret was buried in Mount Calvary Cemetery section 6 in Richmond and the undertaker was the Joseph W. Bliley Company.³²

²³ 1910 federal census, J.J. Williams household, Virginia, Henrico Co., Richmond City, Marshall Ward, e.d. 127, sheets 5A-B, pp. 83A-B, lines 46-56.

²⁴ 1920 federal census, John J. Williams Sr. household, Virginia, Henrico Co., Richmond City, e.d. 114, sheet 8A, p. 140, lines 7-11.

²⁵ City directory listings for John J. Williams, 1922-1927 *Richmond City Directory*, FHLs 1605957-61.

²⁶ Death record for John Joseph Williams.

²⁷ Death record for John Joseph Williams.

²⁸ Tombstone inscription for John J. Williams.

²⁹ Obituary of Mrs. Margaret M. Williams, *Richmond Times Dispatch* (Richmond, Henrico Co., Va.) 22 September 1938, p. 17, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.

³⁰ Obituary of Margaret M. Williams, *Richmond Times Dispatch* (Richmond, Henrico Co., Va.) 23 September 1938, p. 19, Virginia State Library microfilm.

³¹ Obituary of Mrs. Margaret M. Williams, *Richmond Times Dispatch* (Richmond, Henrico Co., Va.) 24 September 1938, p. 18, Virginia State Library microfilm.

³² Death record of Margaret M. Williams.

Children of John and Margaret (Mahoney) Williams, all born in Virginia:

- i. ANNIE M.³ WILLIAMS, b. 11 October 1888; m. GEORGE HENRY LANDERS.
- ii. MARGARET M. WILLIAMS, b. 15 January 1891 in Richmond;³³ m. THOMAS PATRICK O'CONNOR.
- iii. GENEVIEVE WILLIAMS, b. 1 April 1892 in Richmond.³⁴

Genevieve must have died the year she was born, although a death certificate has not been found, nor a christening record in St. Peter's Parish. However, she must not be the same person as Genevieve C. Williams, born right after her. The 1900 and 1910 federal censuses show that one child died from this family.
- iv. GENEVIEVE C. WILLIAMS, b. 11 April 1893³⁵ in Richmond;³⁶ d. 14 April 1965 in Richmond;³⁷ m. (1) in Richmond, 23 July 1917, JAMES SCHULER; b. about 1892;³⁸ m. (2) most likely in Richmond, before 1932, ROBERT E. BROWN; b. 8 June 1890;³⁹ died 16 July 1932.⁴⁰
- v. JOHN J. WILLIAMS, b. 15 August 1896 in Richmond;⁴¹ d. 1961;⁴² m. AGNES C. — , b. 1901;⁴³ d. 1980.⁴⁴
- vi. LOUISE D. WILLIAMS, b. December 1898 in Richmond;⁴⁵ m. JOHN GREEN.
- vii. PAUL D. WILLIAMS, b. 1906 in Richmond;⁴⁶ m. 23 May 1935, "KITTY" – .

³³ Birth record for Margaret Williams, January 1890, Richmond City Register of Births (1877-1890), p. 1085, FHL 2048446.

³⁴ Birth record for Genevieve Williams, 1 April 1892, Richmond City Register of Births (1890-1896), p. 1159, Richmond State Library, Richmond, Va., FHL 2048447.

³⁵ Double tombstone inscription for Robert E. Brown (born 8 June 1890, died 16 July 1932) and Genevieve W. Brown (born 11 April 1892, died 14 April 1965), Mount Calvary Cemetery, Richmond, Va., Section 6, Lot 517.

³⁶ Birth record for Genevieve Williams, 11 April 1893, Richmond City Register of Births (1890-1896), p. 1189, Richmond State Library, Richmond, Va., FHL 2048447.

³⁷ Double tombstone inscription for Robert E. Brown (born 8 June 1890, died 16 July 1932) and Genevieve W. Brown (born 11 April 1892, died 14 April 1965).

³⁸ Marriage record of James Schuler to Geneva Williams, 23 July 1917, Richmond City Marriage Register (1917), #321, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.

³⁹ Double tombstone inscription for Robert E. Brown (born 8 June 1890, died 16 July 1932) and Genevieve W. Brown (born 11 April 1892, died 14 April 1965).

⁴⁰ Double tombstone inscription for Robert E. Brown (born 8 June 1890, died 16 July 1932) and Genevieve W. Brown (born 11 April 1892, died 14 April 1965).

⁴¹ Birth record for John J. Williams Jr., 15 August 1896, Richmond City Register of Births (1890-1896), p. 1247, Richmond State Library, Richmond, Va., FHL 2048447.

⁴² Tombstone inscription for John J. Williams, 1899-1961, Mount Calvary Cemetery, Richmond, Va..

⁴³ Tombstone inscription for Agnes C. Williams, 1902-1980, Mount Calvary Cemetery Richmond, Va..

⁴⁴ Tombstone inscription for Agnes C. Williams.

⁴⁵ 1920 federal census, John J. Williams Sr. household.

⁴⁶ 1910 federal census, J.J. Williams household; 1920 federal census, John J. Williams Sr. household.