

All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication
Copyright 1993--2002 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this CD by any means is forbidden, and
copies of individual files must be made in accordance with
the restrictions stated in the B4UCopy.txt file on this CD.

* * * * *

HOW THEY ENTERED CANAAN
(A Collection of Holiness Experience Accounts)
Compiled by Duane V. Maxey

Vol. I -- Named Accounts

JOHN WILLIAMS

Rev. John A. Williams, son of James and Susanna Williams, was born March 21, 1870, at Abington, Wayne County, Indiana, and his home going was on October 14, 1981, age 61 years 6 months and 23 days. He spent his childhood in and around Abington until he was sixteen years of age, after which he spent five years in the state of Kansas, five years in Cincinnati, Ohio, and two years in New York City. He was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Cline of Brownsville, Ind., on July 4, 1897, who walked by his side through the struggles and sorrows as well as the joys and pleasures of life for more than thirty-four years. For one year after their marriage they resided in Anderson, Indiana, and in 1898 they came to Connersville to dwell until the time of his home going.

Brother Johnnie (as he was known to many) was converted January 28, 1897, under the ministry of Rev. J. B. Shannon in the United Brethren church at Abington. He was the only convert in a four weeks' revival and was sanctified wholly in a sunrise prayermeeting under a beech tree on the farm where he resided east of Connersville in the year 1903. He received his call to the ministry at the time of his conversion and with the exception of three one-year pastorates at Ogden, Fithian, Ill., and Anderson, Ind., he spent his life in the evangelistic work. He served in the Apostolic Holiness church from 1904 until February, 1910, when he united with the Church of the Nazarene. He was recognized as an ordained elder by the District Assembly held in Chicago in the same year, General Superintendent Bresee presiding and Rev. E. J. Fleming, District Secretary.

Through the labors of Brother Williams Churches of the Nazarene have been organized in Fithian, Ogden, Sidell, Sidney, Oakwood, Ill., Fortville, Warrington and Anderson, Ind., eight in all. He was a charter member of the Connersville Church of the Nazarene and when at home and able he was always in attendance in the services. He held some fine revivals in the surrounding country and three splendid revival meetings for the local church. Some of his converts are with us today, others are on the foreign fields, while others have welcomed him to the city above, among whom is Rev. John C. Stevens once pastor of this church. I suppose no one person has meant more for the salvation of souls in the past quarter of a century in Fayette County than Brother Williams.

He showed signs of failing health back in 1914 and 1915 but the real break came in 1925. Prayers of the saints and medical skill were unable to stop the advance of man's last enemy. His companion stood nobly by him with undaunted courage and strength In his battles on the evangelistic field and spared not herself as he fought his last great battle. While for her it was a losing fight it was a triumphant victory for him. His constant desire was to be able to hold a few more meetings and he made an effort within the past year, but it drained heavily on his failing strength.

He leaves to mourn their loss beside the wife, a sister, Maria Bell Williams, and a brother, Francis M. Williams, of Abington, three sisters-in-law, Mrs. Eugene Melvin who has resided In their home since the death of her husband nearly two years ago, Mrs. Francis Williams and Mrs. Jasper Williams also two brothers-in-law, James L. Cline of Eugene, Oregon, Oliver M. Cline of Indianapolis, Ind., along with his brethren in the ministry and a host of friends across the country, but a genuine faith lifts us above the bitterness of grief, a sense of Christ's living presence takes away all unbearable loneliness even when we are most alone.

Funeral services were conducted from the Church of the Nazarene Monday, October 19, 1931. He was laid to rest in beautiful Dale Cemetery beside his brother-in-law, Rev. Eugene Melvin, to await the resurrection. Sermon was preached by Rev. C. J. Quinn, District Superintendent, from Matt. 1:21, using the word "Jesus," and reading the third chapter of Ephesians for scripture lesson. -- Stephen C. Johnson, Pastor

Source: "Herald Of Holiness, December 1931"

* * * * *

THE END