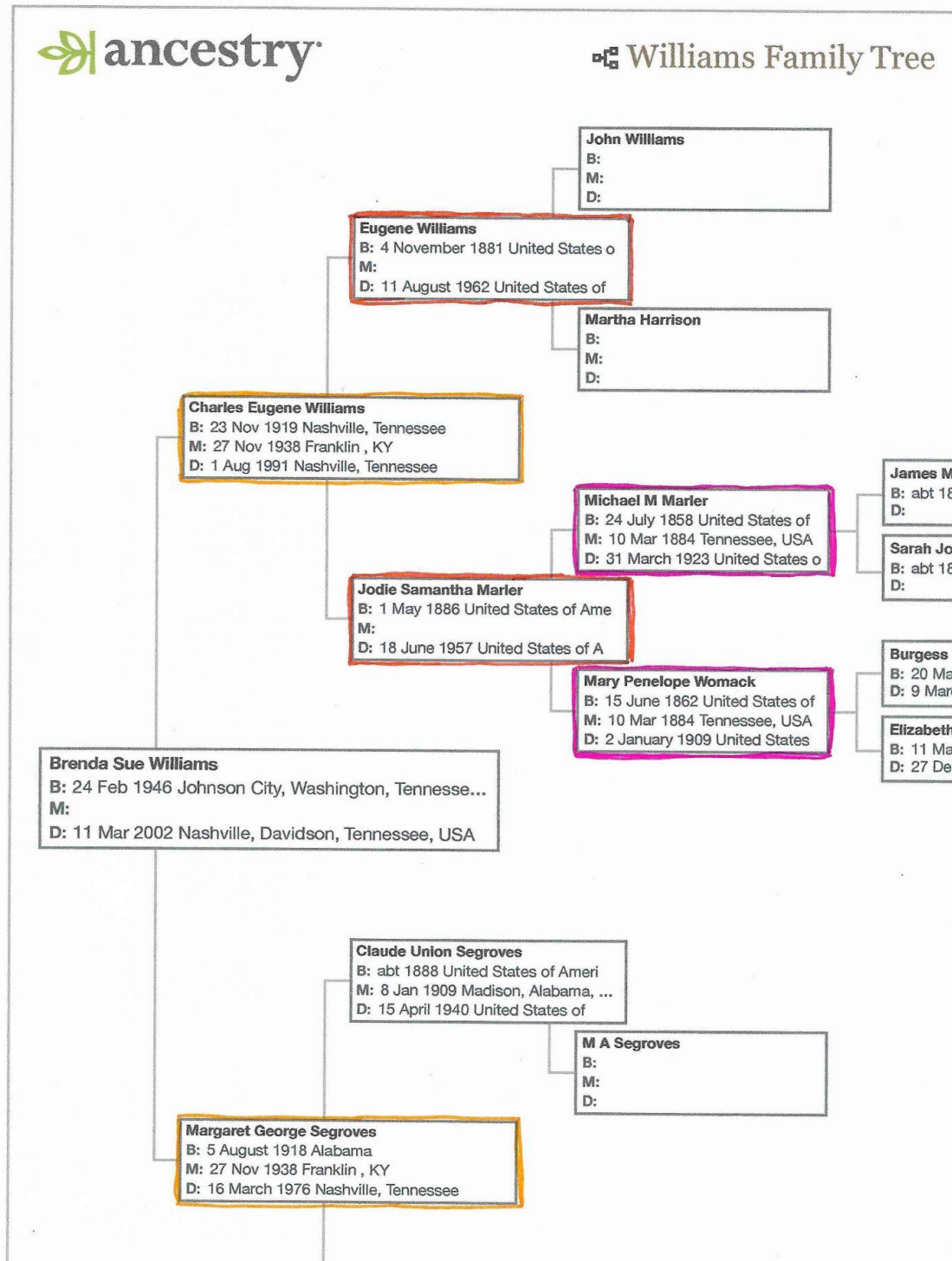


Margaret Finley

LIS5937

Kinship Determination Project

May 1, 2022



The Family on Nassau Street

Michael M Marler and Mary Penelope “Penno” Womack are the first couple I’d like to introduce you to. Michael was born in Tennessee on 24 July 1858, and Penno was born in Tennessee on 15 June 1862. While neither appears to have an official birth certificate on record, I have located a certificate of death for Penno that clearly states her date of birth, on authority of her husband, and have located both Penno’s and Michael’s listings on the Find A Grave index, and birth dates are given for each, though no photo is posted of either gravemarker.

(a)

While they were married on 10 March 1884, as evidenced by the Tennessee marriage book entry from that date, they do appear to have been a couple for several years at that time.

(b)

In the 1880 census, which was done 4 years before they were officially married, Michael is present in Penno’s family home, listed as “son in law” under Burgess Womack’s (Penno’s father) name. This census is where I got the information that they were both born in Tennessee. (Note: the highlighting function was skewed a bit off the family record, so you can see Penno and Michael under the highlighted area, though it’s clear they were part of that household.) By the time of the 1910 census, they had moved from Penno’s family home in Warren County into their own house, which they did own, in Davidson County. This house was at 1708 Nassau Street in Nashville.

(C)

122	21	Martha	W F 24	Wife	1	Keeping horse	
123	21	Larry H.	W F 4	Daugh	1		
124	21	Walter E.	W F 2	Daugh	1		
125	21	Glenn	W M 1	Son	1		
126	21						
127	21	3394 Horrocks B. H.	W F 61		1	Farmer	
128	21	Elizabeth	W F 57	Wife	1	Keeping horse	
129	21	Lester P.	W M 25	Son	1	Working farm	
130	21	Martha	W F 26	Daugh	1	At home	
131	21	Martha Penne	W F 17	Daugh	1	At home	
132	21	Charles Michael	W M 26	Son	1	Working farm	
133	21	Clarence George	W M 30	Boarder	1	Photo Artist	
134	21						
135	21						

They also had 8 children, one of which arrived before they were officially married. In 1880, they had daughter Hallie E Marler who married John Wesley, then in 1884, daughter Susan Elizabeth “Bettie” Marler who married Robert Earls. In 1886, they had another daughter, Jodie Samantha Marler, who married Eugene Williams (we’ll talk about these two in greater detail in a moment). In 1889, they welcomed their first son, James B. Marler, then in 1891, John Edward “Edward” Marler, and in 1893, Clarence Wilson Marler. Then two more daughters- Lemyra Mae “Mai” Marler in 1899, and Nona L. Marler in 1904. Mai and her husband appear on Nona’s marriage license as witnesses.

- Hallie E. was born 24 September 1880 (per Social Security death index), married John Wesley sometime before 1920 (per the census records) and died in February 1971, per the Social Security death index. (*Hallie and John Wesley lived at 1704 Nassau Street*)
- Susan Elizabeth was born on 23 January 1884, married Robert Earls sometime before 1910 (per the census), and died on 22 June 1940. (*Susan and Robert Earls lived at 1702 Nassau Street*)
- Jodie Samantha was born 1 May 1886, married Eugene Williams 13 December 1903, and died on 18 June 1957. (*Jodie and Eugene Williams lived at 1706 Nassau Street*)
- James was born 25 October 1889 (per his 2nd marriage license which lists his exact birth date), married Gertrude Marsh on 22 July 1933 (per marriage license and certificate) and Willie Celina Parsley on 14 December 1940 (per marriage license and certificate), and passed away on 9 July 1961.
- John Edward was born 24 August 1891, married Daisy Mai Earhart Cox on 25 October 1926, and died 17 May 1942 (per info on FindAGrave). (*John Edward lived at 1702 Nassau Street in the 1920 census*)
- Clarence Wilson was born 23 August 1893, married Bevie Anderson (date unkn) , and died 17 February 1937 (per his headstone at FindAGrave).
- Lemyra Mae was born 13 September 1899, married Frank H. Brazil before 5 June 1917 (registration card from WW1 lists him as married already), lived briefly in Detroit (per 1930 census) and died 21 November 1974 (per FindAGrave site).
- Nona L. was born 12 January 1904, married Herman S. Ritter on 22 December 1922, per the marriage record in the state of Michigan, and died October 1985 (per the Social Security index). (*Nona and Herman Ritter lived at 1808 Nassau St*)

As noted above on the death certificate, Penno died on 2 January 1909 of pneumonia. Michael went on to marry again, a woman named Lucy Bomar, and died 31 March 1923 of apoplexy. His death certificate was harder to find, since the type on the document was very faint- I just had to browse the death certificates for that year until I found his.

(d)

Mrs. Mary P. Marler.
Mrs. Mary P. Marler, wife of M. M. Marler, died Saturday afternoon at the family residence, 1708 Nassau street, aged 46. She is survived by the following children: Mrs. J. N. Wesley, Mrs. Albert Earls, Mrs. Eugene Williams, James Marler, John E. Marler, Clarence Marler, May Marler and Nora Marler. The funeral will be from the family residence Monday afternoon with services at the Spruce-street Christian Church, Rev. Joe McPherson officiating. The interment will be at Mt. Olivet.
George Luther Campbell

(e)

MARLER—Saturday morning at 12:05 o'clock, March 31, 1923, at his home, No. 1708 Nassau street, Michael M. Marler, in the 65th year of his age. Survived by his wife, Mrs. Lucy Bomar Marler, and eight children, Mrs. John Wesley, Mrs. Robert Earls, Mrs. Eugene Williams, J. E. and C. W. Marler, all of this city, Mrs. F. H. Brazil and Mrs. J. B. Marler of Evansville, Ind. Funeral services from the Twelfth avenue Church of Christ, Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, conducted by Elder Silas W. Moody and H. Leo Bales. The following will serve as honorary pallbearers: Mark Robinson, Henry Hickerson, Ed Parker, A. A. McNabb, J. T. Keef and Sam McGuire. Bona Vista Lodge No. 639 F. and A. M., will serve as active pallbearers and have charge at the grave. Interment at Mt. Olivet cemetery. Roesch - Johnson - Charlton Company, funeral directors, McMinnville and Smithville papers please copy.

(f)

STATE OF TENNESSEE 675
Bureau of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Davidson
Civil Dist. 1st
Village Nashville
City Nashville (No. 1708, Nassau Street St. 1st Ward)

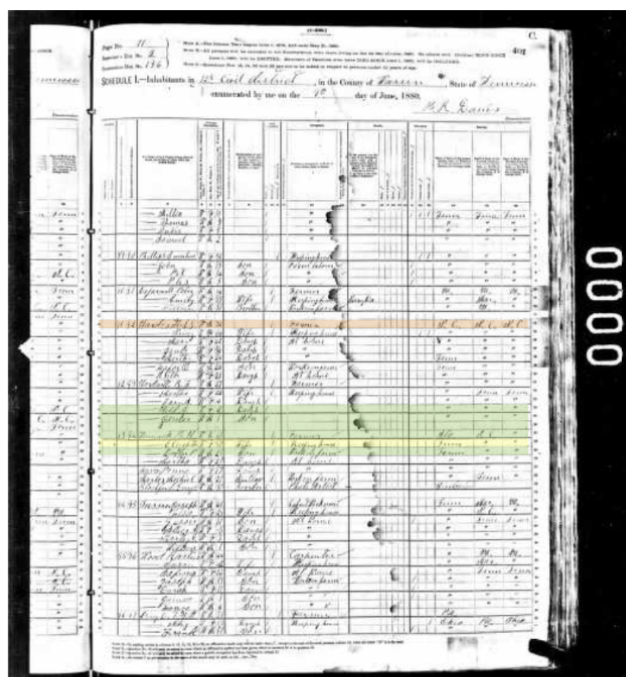
2 FULL NAME Michael M. Marler

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
3 SEX Male
4 COLOR OR RACE White
5 MARRIAGE Single
6 DATE OF BIRTH July 24 1857
7 AGE 64
8 OCCUPATION RA Watchman
9 BIRTHPLACE Tenn
10 NAME OF FATHER Thomas Marler
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Tenn
12 MARRIAGE OF MOTHER Sarah Jones
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Tenn
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
15 SIGNATURE [Signature]
16 DATE OF DEATH March 31 1923
17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from [Signature]
18 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Asylums, or Public Buildings)
19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Mt. Olivet Cemetery
20 UNDERTAKER Roesch - Johnson - Charlton Co.

Michael, Penno, Susan, Edward, Clarence, and Mae are all buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee.

A few conflicts that I found along the way for this couple include: one child (James B. Marler) was listed as "Mrs. J.B. Marler" in the obituary for Michael Marler. This was resolved by finding multiple census reports and the obituary for Penno Womack which all list 8 children, and using the process of elimination to find out that it must be a rogue "s" added to a "Mr" designation in one instance instead of all other sources being wrong, including his marriage certificate, which lists his parents' names and he is listed as

the groom. Another conflict was the 1880 census which lists Michael and Penno already being married, and living with her family. He is designated as the “son in law” clearly here.



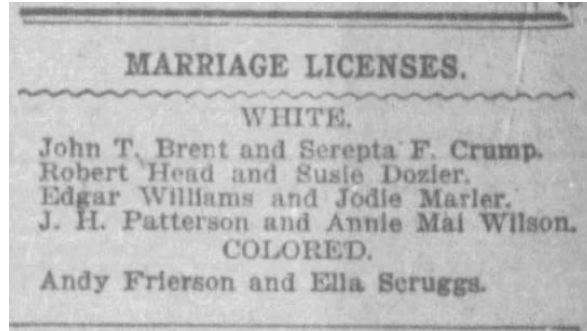
(c)

I was not sure how to resolve this, but there was a child born three years before the official marriage record of 1884. And another child was born IN 1884, so I am guessing that the second child being imminently due was the reason for them to make things official?

The last conflict for this couple is that he is listed as William in the marriage record. Everything else seems to line up from the marriage record, including the date and the county of marriage, and only one marriage was recorded from that day. I can find no other mention of William being part of his name. That said, I can't find any mention of his middle name. He might have been named William Michael, giving us the M for the middle initial, but everyone called him Michael from the start? This is something that would require much further research to fully resolve, and for now, I will note it as a discrepancy.

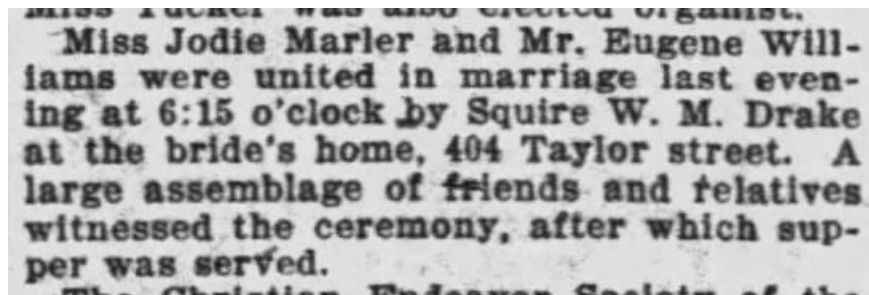
1706 Nassau Street Residents

Jodie Samantha Marler would later come to be known as “Miss Jodie” and married Eugene Williams on 13 December 1903. While I don't have a copy of their marriage license, we can see that one was issued that day from this post in the Tennessean newspaper (which lists an incorrect name of Edgar instead of Eugene) dated 13 December 1903



(g)

And the following day in the Nashville Banner, the news of their marriage ceremony was announced, including the bride's address, seen here:



(h)

Jodie, as we know, was born 1 May 1886, which so far is verified via FindAGrave (no picture available) and because her age matches up for the 1920, 1930, and 1940 census and Eugene was born 4 November 1881, which is confirmed via his death certificate, with information certified by his oldest son, Oren.

Jodie and Eugene had two sons, Oren Michael born on 11 March 1905, verified with a birth certificate and a draft card dated 16 October 1940, showing military service during WW2. Oren passed away 13 February 1980, verified by obituary in the Tennessean on 14 February 1980.

Charles (Charlie) Eugene Williams, their younger son, was born 23 November 1919, which is a tricky year to find a birth certificate for someone born in Tennessee. This isn't exactly a conflict, but should be addressed. For the years 1881-1915, Ancestry has Tennessee birth records available. For birth certificates from 1921-now, they can be ordered online from the state's authorized system. For that gap from 1916-1920, well, you have to go to the state archive. Perhaps one day, I will be able to make a trip to the Tennessee archives to access this document, but for now, I will have to rely on other sources for his birth date, including his grave marker and his draft card. We will go into more detail for Charles soon.



(i)

Jodie Samantha Marler and Eugene Williams

Jodie passed away from a heart attack on 18 June 1957, verified by her death certificate, below.

1954
2160
1994

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CERTIFICATE OF DEATH DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
STATE OF TENNESSEE

DEATH NO. 57-13605

1. NAME JODIE SAM WILLIAMS 2. DATE OF DEATH 6-18-57

3. COLOR W FEM 4. SEX FEM 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, SEPARATED, OR OTHER STATUS MARRIED 6. DATE OF BIRTH 5-1-1886 7. AGE IN YEARS 71

8. PLACE OF DEATH A. COUNTY DAVIDSON B. CITY OR TOWN NASHVILLE C. DISTRICT 1 D. LENGTH OF STAY 100 YRS E. CIVIL DISTRICT 1 F. STREET ADDRESS 1736 VANDERBILT ST. G. INSIDE CITY LIMITS YES H. OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS NO I. RESIDENCE CITY A. FARM YES B. CITY YES C. RURAL NO

10. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION NASHVILLE HOSPITAL 11. NAME OF PHYSICIAN M. MARLER 12. NAME OF NURSE EUGENE WILLIAMS 13. NAME OF CHAPLAIN 14. NAME OF MINISTER 15. NAME OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 16. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN 17. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN 18. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN 19. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN 20. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN

19. CAUSE OF DEATH PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: Myocardial infarction 420.1 1 day PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I. 1 day

21. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, HOMICIDE 22. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED 23. TIME OF INJURY 24. PLACE OF INJURY 25. PLACE OF DEATH 26. PLACE OF BIRTH 27. PLACE OF DEATH 28. PLACE OF BIRTH 29. PLACE OF DEATH 30. PLACE OF BIRTH

31. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 32. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 33. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 34. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 35. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 36. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 37. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 38. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 39. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 40. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME

(j)

and Eugene passed away from pneumonia on 11 August 1962, verified by his death certificate, below.

1994
3027
1994

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CERTIFICATE OF DEATH DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
STATE OF TENNESSEE

DEATH NO. 62-20895

1. NAME Eugene WILLIAMS 2. DATE OF DEATH August 11, 1962

3. COLOR W M 4. SEX M 5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, SEPARATED, OR OTHER STATUS MARRIED 6. DATE OF BIRTH 11/4/81 7. AGE IN YEARS 80

8. PLACE OF DEATH A. COUNTY Davidson B. CITY OR TOWN Nashville C. DISTRICT 1 D. LENGTH OF STAY 100 YRS E. CIVIL DISTRICT 1 F. STREET ADDRESS 7008 Nassau G. INSIDE CITY LIMITS YES H. OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS NO I. RESIDENCE CITY A. FARM YES B. CITY YES C. RURAL NO

10. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION Vanderbilt University Hospital 11. NAME OF PHYSICIAN J. Williams 12. NAME OF NURSE J. Williams 13. NAME OF CHAPLAIN 14. NAME OF MINISTER 15. NAME OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 16. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN 17. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN 18. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN 19. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN 20. NAME OF DECEASED'S NEXT OF KIN

19. CAUSE OF DEATH PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY: Pneumonia 493 10 d PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I. 10 d

21. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, HOMICIDE 22. DESCRIBE HOW INJURY OCCURRED 23. TIME OF INJURY 24. PLACE OF INJURY 25. PLACE OF DEATH 26. PLACE OF BIRTH 27. PLACE OF DEATH 28. PLACE OF BIRTH 29. PLACE OF DEATH 30. PLACE OF BIRTH

31. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 32. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 33. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 34. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 35. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 36. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 37. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 38. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 39. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME 40. NAME OF FUNERAL HOME

(k)

Eugene's death certificate indicates that he had no military involvement. But he did support the war effort while his sons were in the Navy during WW2, as seen in this advertising mailer for Milam Optical, where his son worked before going to war.



(1)

Conflicts that I encountered during this part of my research included the incorrect name in one of the newspaper reports, and a different address for the bride in the other newspaper marriage announcement than the well-established address on Nassau Street. The name error is, in my opinion, not a concern- this would have been the same day the license was issued and was likely just someone rushing to finish the info before it went to press. The address of the bride for the marriage announcement in the other paper is curious- but the house listed in the announcement is a 3 min drive or a 15 min walk from her family's home, so it was likely a friend's house and the details were mixed up. Or maybe it was Eugene's family's house? I have tried to locate more about his family to see if they lived on Taylor Street, but I have almost no information about his parents, no clues in Ancestry, no birth or death dates for them- not even middle names. Because the best census to get information from for this detail would be the 1890 or 1900 census (marriage being in 1903), I will need to get very creative to find out who lived at 404 Taylor Street at the time, as those census records are no longer available.



(m)

And that brings us to Charlie and Margaret, seen above with their daughter, Brenda Sue. Charles Eugene, whom everyone called Charlie, was born 23 November 1919, and Margaret George Segroves was born 5 August 1918.

Charlie's birth is verified via the US Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007, and Margaret's so far is only verified via her grave marker. *UPDATE: When I had almost completed this project, I found that a relative living in Nashville was able to get a copy of his birth certificate and mailed it down to me.*

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING
WRITE ONLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
N.B.—In case of more than one child at a birth, a SEPARATE RETURN must be made for each, and the number of each, in order of birth, stated

1. PLACE OF BIRTH County of <u>DeKalb</u> City <u>Nashville</u> Inc. <u>Town</u>		STATE OF TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS Registration District No. <u>21961-</u> Primary Registration Dist. No. _____		CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH File No. _____ Registered No. <u>2164</u> St. <u>2</u> Ward)	
2. FULL NAME OF CHILD <u>Charles Eugene Williams</u>					
3. Sex of Child <u>Male</u>	4. Twin, Triplet, or other? (To be answered only in event of plural births)	Number in order of birth? _____	5. Legitimate? <u>Yes</u>	Date of birth <u>23 Nov 19</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)	
FATHER 6. FULL NAME <u>Eugene Williams</u> 7. RESIDENCE <u>11706 Nassau St</u> 8. COLOR <u>White</u> 9. BIRTHPLACE <u>Harrison County, West Virginia</u> 10. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>33</u> Years 11. OCCUPATION <u>Coal Miner</u>			MOTHER 12. FULL MAIDEN NAME <u>Fannie Warner</u> 13. RESIDENCE <u>11706 Nassau St</u> 14. COLOR <u>White</u> 15. BIRTHPLACE <u>Harrison County, West Virginia</u> 16. AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY <u>33</u> Years 17. OCCUPATION <u>Housekeeper</u>		
18. Number of children born to this mother including present birth Number of children of this mother now living <u>2</u>			19. Born at full term <u>Yes</u>		
20. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was <u>born alive</u> at <u>8 P.M.</u> on the day above stated. *When there was no attending physician or midwife, then the father, householder, etc., should make this return. *A stillborn child is one that neither breathes nor shows other evidence of life after birth. Given name added from a supplemental report _____ 19____ (Signature) <u>George Prosser M.D.</u> Address <u>608 Monroe St</u> 21. DEC 2 1919 Filed _____ 19____ Post Office Address _____ REGISTRAR					

(n)



(o)

Charlie and Margaret, according to sources who knew them toward the end of Margaret's life, were absolutely smitten with each other. They ran off to Kentucky to get married on 27 November 1937, when Charlie was just 18 years old and Margaret was 19, but both of them listed their age as 21, and Margaret, who didn't like her middle name, listed herself as Margaret Joyce.



(p)

Marriage Bond

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

County Court. No. 216

BE IT KNOWN, That we Charles E. Williams as principal,
and Margaret Joyce Seguros as surety, are jointly and severally bound
to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.
THIS BOND IS CONDITIONED AS FOLLOWS: That, whereas Marriage is intended to be solemnized between
Charles E. Williams and Margaret Joyce Seguros.
Now, if there is no lawful cause to obstruct said Marriage, this bond shall be void, otherwise it shall be and remain in full force
and effect.
Witness our hands, this 27 day of Nov, 1937.
Attest: Charles E. Williams Principal.
D. B. Caudill Clerk. J. Randall Wilson Surety.

By _____ D. C.

REGISTER OF MARRIAGE No. _____

Full names of parties, Husband Charles E. Williams
Wife Margaret Joyce Seguros

*By Whom Married _____

*Place of Marriage Franklin County of Anderson Kentucky.

*Date of Marriage Nov 27 1937

*Witnesses _____ and _____

Age of Husband 27 years; Condition (single, widowed, divorced) Single
Age of Wife 27 years; Condition (single, widowed, divorced) Single
Race: (white or colored) White
Husband's Place of Birth Franklin, Tenn. Residence Franklin, Tenn.
Wife's Place of Birth Huntsville, Ala. Residence Franklin, Tenn.
Names of Parents of Husband August Williams
and Jessie Marsh
Names of Parents of Wife Blond Seguros
and Mary Wilson
Occupation of Husband Optician
Date of License 27 day of Nov, 1937.
Subscribed and sworn to before me by
this 27 day of Nov, 1937.
By D. B. Caudill Clerk. D. C.

*RECORD OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

"I, J. J. Barrow, Minister of the Presbyterian Church,
or religious order of that name, do certify that on the 27 day of November, 1937, at Franklin,
Kentucky, under authority of the above license, I united in Marriage Charles E. Williams
and Margaret Joyce Seguros the persons named and described therein, in the presence of
J. R. Wilson and Cordelia E. King.
I qualified and gave bond, according to law, authorizing me to celebrate the rites of Marriage in the County (or city) of
Anderson State of Kentucky.
Given under my hand, this 27 day of November, 1937.
A Copy, Attest: J. J. Barrow Clerk.
By Margaret Jackson D. C.

*Thanks to be filed by Clerk after return of License.

Marriage Bond

THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY.

County Court. No. 217

BE IT KNOWN, That we Paul Clifton Boyd as principal,
and Mary Frances Wilson as surety, are jointly and severally bound
to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.
THIS BOND IS CONDITIONED AS FOLLOWS: That, whereas Marriage is intended to be solemnized between
Paul Clifton Boyd and Mary Frances Wilson.
Now, if there is no lawful cause to obstruct said Marriage, this bond shall be void, otherwise it shall be and remain in full force
and effect.
Witness our hands, this 27 day of Nov, 1937.
Attest: Paul Clifton Boyd Principal.
D. B. Caudill Clerk. Mary Frances Wilson Surety.

By _____ D. C.

REGISTER OF MARRIAGE No. _____

Full names of parties, Husband Paul Clifton Boyd
Wife Mary Frances Wilson

*By Whom Married _____

*Place of Marriage Franklin County of Anderson Kentucky.

*Date of Marriage Nov 27 1937

*Witnesses _____ and _____

Age of Husband 27 years; Condition (single, widowed, divorced) Single
Age of Wife 27 years; Condition (single, widowed, divorced) Single
Race: (white or colored) White
Husband's Place of Birth Franklin, Tenn. Residence Franklin, Tenn.
Wife's Place of Birth Franklin, Tenn. Residence Franklin, Tenn.
Names of Parents of Husband Paul H. Boyd
and Elizabeth Boone
Names of Parents of Wife J. R. Wilson
and Mary Wilson
Occupation of Husband Farmer
Date of License 27 day of Nov, 1937.
Subscribed and sworn to before me by
this 27 day of Nov, 1937.
By D. B. Caudill Clerk. D. C.

*RECORD OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

"I, J. J. Barrow, Minister of the Presbyterian Church,
or religious order of that name, do certify that on the 27 day of Nov, 1937, at Franklin,
Kentucky, under authority of the above license, I united in Marriage Paul Clifton Boyd
and Mary Frances Wilson the persons named and described therein, in the presence of
Mrs. M. B. McFadden and Mrs. Owen Mary.
I qualified and gave bond, according to law, authorizing me to celebrate the rites of Marriage in the County (or city) of
Anderson State of Kentucky.
Given under my hand, this 27 day of November, 1937.
A Copy, Attest: J. J. Barrow Clerk.
By D. B. Caudill D. C.

*Thanks to be filed by Clerk after return of License.

(q)

Charlie started with the John S. Milam Optical Company and in a letter dated 22 September 1938, a friend wrote to congratulate him on becoming a "big traveling salesman" for them. I'm not sure how long he was a traveling salesman, but I did find this telegram from shortly after he started the new position. Dated 23 October 1938, it was to Margaret at 1706 Nassau Street, and said "I am ok will be there Saturday don't worry love Charlie". The telegram was sent from Harlan, Kentucky. That was during the Harlan County War, which was a nearly decade-long union effort by coal miners that sometimes got violent.

WESTERN UNION

CLAIM OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram, or Cablegram, unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

You pay time shown in the rate list on telegrams and day letters in STANDARD TIME (Eastern Standard Time).

Received at Nashville, Tennessee
KVA460 TO XC-HARLAN KY 28 629P
MRS CHARLIE WILLIAMS
1706 NASSAU ST NASH=

I AM OK WILL BE THERE SATURDAY DONT WORRY LOVE=

CHARLIE.

SYMBOLS

TC=Day Letter
NM=Night Message
NL=Night Letter
LC=Deferred Cable
LW=Deferred Letter

673 OCT 23 PM 6 40

XC No other telegraph office where this message originated

ONLY WESTERN UNION can carry your message there by TELEGRAPH. Quickly, accurately

not

WESTERN UNION GIFT ORDERS ARE APPROPRIATE GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

(r)

The next document, Charlie's draft card, seen below, dated 1 July 1941, shows their address as 1211 East Holston, Johnson City, Tennessee. I believe that this was a temporary address, however.

REGISTRATION CARD

SERIAL NUMBER S-70	1. NAME (Print) CHARLES EUGENE WILLIAMS	ORDER NUMBER S-1702
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 1211 EAST HOLSTON, JOHNSON CITY, WASH. TENN. <small>(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)</small>		
<small>[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]</small>		
3. MAILING ADDRESS Box 910, Johnson City, Tenn. <small>(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)</small>		
4. TELEPHONE Johnson City Tenn. 2366 <small>(Exchange) (Number)</small>	5. AGE IN YEARS 21 DATE OF BIRTH 11 23 1919 <small>(Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)</small>	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Davidson <small>(County) (State or country)</small>
7. OCCUPATION mgr		
8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs Margaret Williams, 1211 East Holston, Johnson City, Tenn.		
9. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Mrs S. Milam, Nashville, Tenn.		
10. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 303 S. Room St. Johnson City Wash. Tenn. <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 6-9-41) (over) 16-21630 Charles Eugene Williams (Registrant's signature)		

(s)

I did find a war ration book for Margaret and on that, the 1706 Nassau Street address was listed. I hadn't thought much of it until I looked up the dates that those books were first used- 1942. So it appears that they only used that Johnson City address briefly. Johnson City was also the city in which they adopted their first child.

4

Nº 56225EU
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION

WAR RATION BOOK FOUR

Issued to _____
(Print first, middle, and last names)

Complete address _____
1706 Nassau St

READ BEFORE SIGNING

In accepting this book, I recognize that it remains the property of the United States Government. I will use it only in the manner and for the purposes authorized by the Office of Price Administration.

Void if Altered _____
(Signature)

It is a criminal offense to violate rationing regulations.

OPA Form R-145 16-35370-1

(t)

On 10 October 1943, he wrote a letter to his wife on US Naval Training Center stationery about possibly being a Physical Instructor, and having to go to sea. There is a picture of the "Hall of Fame Company" from the Great Lakes training center dated 31 August 1944, and we know that he was serving in 1945 when his employer's monthly newsletter featured his father in their newsletter.

At some point between 1940 and 1950, they moved away from Nassau Street, as they no longer appear at that house in the 1950 census.

Charlie and Margaret had two children, both adopted. The oldest was Brenda Sue (the name she was given at birth) who was adopted a few months after she was born in Johnson City on 24 February 1946. That date is confirmed through the Social Security death index. She passed away on 11 March 2002, and despite what her obituary said, her death was not due to drug use. (That is personal knowledge, as I was in fairly close contact with my Aunt Brenda in the last several years of her life. I wish I still had the answering machine tape that had her singing Happy Birthday to me in her VERY strong southern drawl from the year that I wasn't home when she called. Usually I got the live version because she tried to call when I was home.) She was briefly married and had two sons, but I am unsure of the date of that marriage and with the two last names being Williams and Davis, well, it's been a bit difficult to track down, but I will keep looking.

Nashville, TN
DAVIS, Brenda Williams—
Age 56. March 11, 2002.
Daughter of the late Charles
E. Williams, founder of Wil-
liams Optical Laboratory,
and Margaret Seagroves
Williams. Survived by sons;
Brad (Debbie) Davis, Chris
Davis; brother, David (Ka-
ren) Williams; grandchil-
dren, Tommy and Kelsi Da-
vis; stepmother, Neika
Stephens. Graveside service
and interment 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Woodlawn Me-
morial Park, Dr. Russ Corley
officiating. In lieu of flowers,
memorials may be made to
Encouragement Ministries,
P.O. Box 2082 Brentwood,
TN 37024. Encourage your
family to say no to drugs.
Visitation with the family
12:00 to 2:45 p.m. at
WOODLAWN FUNERAL
HOME, 660 Thompson Ln.,
383-4754. A Dignity Memo-
rial Provider.

(u)

Their second child was born 31 December 1951, to a mother who was widowed and already had a child. Because of the social stigma at the time, she was basically forced to give him up for adoption and suffered some severe consequences for this secret. (Her family thought she was going crazy when she would speak of wanting to see her baby boy on his 8th birthday, and doctors gave her shock treatment to 'fix' her.) He was born Edward Oliver, after his birth father, and when he was 6 months old, she finally gave up trying to keep custody of him and allowed his adoption to proceed. His name was changed at the point of adoption and he was known thereafter as Charles David. He is still alive and living in Nashville, TN.

In 1951, Charlie started Williams-Tender Optical with a partner, but bought out Tender's portion of the business in the 1960s. Thereafter, it was known as Williams Optical Laboratory, and was eventually located at 501 Merritt Street, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Margaret passed away at the young age of 57, on 16 March 1976. I unfortunately did not ever get a chance to meet her, as I was born nearly a year later. So far, this is the only place I have located that officially lists her name as Margaret George.

WILLIAMS, Mrs. Margaret George—Tuesday March 16, 1976 at a Local Hospital. Survived by Husband, Charlie Williams; Son, Charles David Williams of Nashville; Daughter, Mrs. Brenda W. Davis of Nashville; Three Sisters, Mrs. Delmas Baird of Cotton-town, Tenn., Mrs. Robert Petty of Donelson, Tenn. and Mrs. Larry Davidson of Goodlettsville; Two Grandchildren. Mrs. Williams is in the Dogwood Room of Woodlawn Funeral Home, Thompson Lane. Funeral Services will be conducted Thursday March 18, 1976 at 10:30 A.M. from the Woodlawn Chapel Of Roses with Jim Bill McInteer and Carol Ellis officiating. Honorary Pallbearers: Elders and Deacons of Otter Creek Church Of Christ, Doug Bigham, Dr. W.D. Sullins, Dr. J. Travis McCord, Dr. W.W. Davis, Henry Shyer, Lloyd Scoby Sr., and John Porter. Active Pallbearers: Gerald F. Ritter, Carney Johnson, Dr. Robert D. Sullivan, Roy J. Williams, Oren M. Williams Jr., Bob Petty, Don Petty, Mark Segroves, Ricky Noland, Steve Davidson, Gregory Segroves. Interment Woodlawn Memorial Park. Arrangements By WOOD-LAWN FUNERAL HOME. 383-4754.

(v)

Ten years later, in 1986, Charlie sold the business and retired to raise Tennessee Walking Horses, one of which would be given to Camp David in 1989.

I had many wonderful memories of holidays and summers and weekends spent with my grandfather, though. Charlie passed away on 1 August 1991, and the conditions were, unfortunately, suspicious.

Services slated for optometrist C.E. Williams

FRANKLIN — Charles Edward Williams, 71, of 1490 Lewisburg Pike, a retired optometrist and co-owner of Williams-Tender Optical, died yesterday in Williamson Medical Center.

Services will begin at 1 p.m. tomorrow at Harpeth Hills Church of Christ with Jim Bill McInteer, Bob Barnill and Russell Corley officiating.

Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

A native of Nashville, Mr. Williams started his optical business when he was 15, after his high school graduation. He served as a Navy physical training instructor at Great Lakes Naval Training Center during World War II, then resumed his optical career with John S. Milam Co. in 1946.

Mr. Williams and a partner formed Williams-Tender Optical in 1951. Williams bought out Tender's share of the business in the mid-1960s. In 1981, he received an honorary doctorate degree from the Southern College of Optometry.

He served on the executive committee of the Better Vision Institute as national vice president of the Optical Laboratories Association. He also was on the board of the American Optometric Foundation and was president of the Southern Optical Laboratory Association.

In honor of his first 50 years in the optical business, the Charles Williams Scholarship Fund was established in 1985 at the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis.

In 1986, Mr. Williams sold Williams-Tender Optical to Southern Optical of Greensboro, N.C., and began 20/20 Farm Inc. to raise and train Tennessee Walking Horses.

Mr. Williams served on the boards of the Tennessee Orphans Home and the Pleasure Walking Horse Association of Tennessee. He also served on the advisory council of David Lipscomb University.

Survivors include his wife, Neika Brewer Williams; a daughter, Brenda Williams Davis, Columbia; a son, Charles David Williams, Orlando, Fla.; and three grandchildren. ■

(w)

Even though this couple was much more close in time to me than the other two couples, I still did encounter some conflicts. The most frustrating one was the spelling of Margaret's name. I have seen it as

Seagroves, Seagraves, Segroves, and Segraves. After examining various sources, I have decided to go forward using Segroves, because that seems to be the most common, and the one most connected to official uses. Also troubling was the discrepancy with her middle name- in her marriage bond and in her wedding announcements in the papers, she lists her name as Margaret Joyce, but as far as I know through other sources (people), her name was Margaret George. Also, my grandfather's obituary has him listed as Charles Edward Williams, but it's literally the only time I have ever seen that, and it was from 1991, and I know it's just plain wrong. His signature on his draft registration card very clearly shows Eugene as his middle name, too. The obituary also had some information that doesn't quite line up with what I have, such as the start of his optical business being before the war, which, according to that newsletter from his workplace and a letter I have from a friend of his advising him when he got a new position in 1938, is just wrong. He started *in the* optical business after graduation, but didn't start his own company for many years after the war.



(x)

Margaret

I really appreciate doing this project, as I had been building my family tree based on blood relatives in Ancestry, which gave me new and interesting information, because my father (Charles David) was adopted. But these people, the folks I have introduced you to today, THESE are the people's names that I heard growing up. These brought back memories of stories told when I was too young to connect the dots as to which relative was which. In fact, when I was telling my Mom what I had found, and she was telling me what she knew, and I mentioned Nona marrying someone with the last name Ritter, she said "oh, yes, their child was Gerald of Gerald and Jane" and it CLICKED for me. All my life I knew that Gerald and Jane Ritter were family friends, but didn't realize they were actually FAMILY to me. When I was 6 years old, I just thought they were some nice older people who hung out with my grandparents, and never imagined Gerald was my grandfather's cousin.

Additionally, I have to share that this entire project, like every project and class I have taken in grad school, was completed at this desk:



(y)

The wood is smooth and soft, I've cleaned it off, and there is now a glass top for it. But this was how I found it in my Mom's house when I cleaned it out back in 2016. My Mom had mentioned "oh, that was Miss Jodie's desk" and until now, that was just a piece of trivia about this desk. But now? It means a little more to me. I feel so much more connected to all of these people in a way that I honestly never expected. I confess that I was mildly curious about genealogy before this class, but never on the level that I am now. It's an addictive and gratifying hobby, when you find some detail or connection that helps the story to unfold.

To find the information above, I made liberal use of the FamilySearch site, the Ancestry site, and Newspapers.com. Additionally, I consulted the Tennessee state records site. The "hints" that the genealogy tree-building sites had were helpful, but were only a match about 75% of the time. Because of the timing of this project, I was also able to make use of the 1950 census by entering a known address and finding the zone, and scrolling through pages to find names (or to find a new name at an address that had previously been under a family member's name.)

I was elated to learn that in Ancestry I could designate adopted parents and biological parents, with more options for foster parents, step parents, guardians, and more. I'm sure it was there before, but I had not yet figured that out until I was nearly done with this project.

References:

- a. TN, Davidson County, City of Nashville death record #10; 1909
- b. TN, Warren County marriage records, page 481
- c. 1880 Federal Census; TN, Warren County, district 12, enumeration district 36, family 94

- d. M. Penno Marler obituary; The Nashville American, 3 January 1909, page 6
- e. Michael Marler obituary: The Nashville Tennessean, 1 April 1923, page 12
- f. TN State certificate of death #783; 1923
- g. The Nashville American, 13 December 1903, marriage licenses, page 17
- h. Nashville Banner, 14 December 1903, social announcements, page 5
- i. Photo from author's personal collection
- j. TN State certificate of death #57-13605
- k. TN State certificate of death #62-20895
- l. Milam Messenger, November 1945
- m. Photo from author's personal collection
- n. TN State certificate of birth #2164, 1919
- o. Photo from FindaGrave, memorial ID #58167373
- p. Margaret Segroves marriage announcement; The Nashville Tennessean, 2 January 1938, page 2
- q. Commonwealth of KY marriage bond and marriage certificate, 27 November 1937, #216
- r. Western Union telegram from author's personal collection
- s. World War II Draft Cards Young Men 1940-1947, order #S-1702, serial #S-70
- t. War Ration book from author's personal collection
- u. Brenda Davis obituary; The Tennessean, 13 March 2002, page 6-B
- v. Margaret Williams obituary; The Tennessean, 17 March 1976, page 44
- w. Charlie Williams obituary; The Tennessean, 2 August 1991, page 5-B
- x. Photo from author's personal collection
- y. Photo from author's personal collection