

## Williamsburg, Iowa Early Settlers

**Source: Owen R. Jones Williamsburg, IA Historical Research** - The following summary of Williamsburg early settler as compiled by Owen R. Jones from his research of county and historical records.

### Early Settlers of Troy Township

Evan D. Evans, Richard Pugh and Williams Evans were the first white settlers in Troy Township. They all came at the same time and located on section 15 in the autumn of 1844. These three men were of Welsh descent, coming from Wales to American in 1840. Evan and William were brothers, and Richard Pugh afterward became their brother-in-law.

These three men were all married near Cincinnati, and very soon afterward started westward to Iowa Territory. They came by boat from Cincinnati to Burlington; then hired an ox-team to bring them to the place where they settled. They soon had thrown up a crude cabin near the east line of section 15, township 79, range 10, and in this first primitive house the three families lived during the winter of 1844-45. The next spring, Richard Pugh constructed a house of heavy logs just east of the center of section 15, which was the second house in the township.

Then Williams Evans built a longhouse near Old Man's Creek, a little west of the other two. All had large families, the most of whom lived in the township settled by their fathers. Jane Evans, the daughter of Evan D. Evans, was the first white child born in the township. She was born in 1845 and died in 1848. David E. Evans was born December 31, 1847. Evan D. Evans was naturalized on May 24, 1847.

For religious services, these families traveled 26 miles by oxen-team to Old Man's Creek Church which is six miles southwest of Iowa City. This was an older Welsh settlement and services were held in the Welsh language. It wasn't until 1856 that the first church (the Welsh Congregational in the home of Richard Williams) was dedicated in Williamsburg.

Thomas and Stephen Hanson were the next settlers in the township. They located on section 23 in the spring of 1845. Thomas Hanson was born in Ireland in 1809. Hugh Hanson, son of Thomas, is said to have been born July 2, 1846. Joseph Hanson came to the township in 1849; John Hanson came in the fall of 1846; Edward Hanson in the spring of 1846; John Watkins, Richard Williams and other coming in the few years afterward.

**The “First Lady” of Williamsburg (Anne Evans Pugh Williams)**



Mrs. Anne Evans Pugh Williams (bottom row, second from left) is important in Williamsburg history for two reasons. As Mrs. Richard Pugh, she was one of the first white settlers in Troy Township. Then after the death of Mr. Pugh she married Richard Williams who later founded Williamsburg. This picture of her six children was supplied by her granddaughter, Mrs. Clara Gittins Jones.

Those in the front row with her are children by her first husband Richard Pugh. Those in the back row with her are her children by Richard Williams. On the bottom row from left to right are: Mary Ann Pugh (Mrs. T. E. Gittins), Mrs. Anne Evans Pugh Williams, David Pugh, and Richard Pugh Jr. On the top row from left to right are: Sarah Williams (Mrs. Ed H. Jones), John Williams, Jennie Williams (Mrs. Tom P. Jones)

Mary Ann Pugh was the mother of Ed Gittins and Clara Gittins Jones. Richard Pugh, Jr. was the father of the late Elmer Pugh, consequently grandfather to the late Richard Pugh. Sarah Williams was the mother of O.E. Jones and Charlie Jones of the Farmers Trust and Saving Bank and the late Mrs. Tom Lewis, who was the mother of Mrs. Jeanette Lewis, wife of the late Dr. Lewis.

**Burial Sites of Early Settlers**

Following are the burial sites of the early settlers who founded Williamsburg. The names in bold were the first settlers of Troy Township.

Name	Dates	Burial Site	Notes
<b>Richard Pugh</b>	1805-1850	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
<b>Anne Evans Pugh</b>	1820-1885	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Wife of Richard Pugh
<b>William Evans</b>	1815-1870	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
<b>Sara Evans</b>	1819-1904	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Wife of William Pugh
<b>Evan D. Evans</b>	1812-1872	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
<b>Jane Evans</b>	1809-1887	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Wife of Evan D. Evans
Dave Evans <sup>1</sup>	1787-1846	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
Jane Evans	1784-1846	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Wife of Dave Evans
<b>Richard Williams</b>	1814-1860	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
<b>Jane Williams</b> <sup>2</sup>	1820-1848	Sharon Center <sup>3</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> wife of Richard Williams
<b>Anne Evans Pugh</b> <sup>4</sup>	1820-1885	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	2 <sup>nd</sup> wife of Richard Williams
<b>Thomas Hanson</b>			
<b>Stephen Hanson</b>			
William Long	1819-1917	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
Hannah Long <sup>5</sup>	1827-1885	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Wife of William Long

The following are children of Anne Evans' (e.g. Anne Evans Pugh Williams) first marriage to Richard Pugh and her second marriage to Richard Williams (see picture on page 2).

Richard Pugh, Jr.	1847-1885	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
Sarah Jones	1849-1940	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Wife of Richard Pugh, Jr.
Dave Pugh	1849-1885	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
Sarah Jones	1851-1935	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Wife of Dave Pugh
Mary Ann Pugh Gittens	1850-1936	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
Tom Gittens	1850-1917	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Husband of Mary Ann Pugh
Sarah Williams Jones	1852-1940	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	
Edward Jones	1852-1922	Oak Hill - Williamsburg	Husband of Sarah Williams
Jennie Williams	These two children moved to California and are buried there.		
Tom P. Jones		Husband of Jennie Williams	
John Williams			
N. Walker		Wife of John Williams	

<sup>1</sup> Dave and Jane Evans were the parents of Evan D., William, and Ann. They came to Iowa in 1846, but died 6 months later and within ½ hour of each other. They were the first burials in the Oak Hill Cemetery. The land that is now Oak Hill Cemetery was owned by the Evans family.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Williams' first wife Jane (1820-1848) is buried in the Welsh Church cemetery at Sharon Center, IA. We believe their daughter Jane (1843-1845) is also buried there, but records of early parishioners were destroyed in a church fire and gravestones were not always erected for small children.

<sup>3</sup> This is the Welsh Church cemetery at Sharon Center, IA. These early settlers traveled 26 miles from Williamsburg to Sharon Center by ox-team to attend church. They joined the church by bringing with them a letter of recommendation from their previous church.

<sup>4</sup> Anne Evans Pugh was married twice. Her first marriage was to Richard Pugh who died in 1850. After he died, she married Richard Williams in 1851.

<sup>5</sup> Hannah Long was the first teacher in Troy Township about 1851.