

## George and Jerusha Williams Story

In the Columbia Central Burying Ground there is an interesting mystery or at least a startling coincidence. At one of the high points of the graveyard there is a family grouping of six graves for the George and Jerusha Williams Family. Four of the gravestones are carved with the same day of death - August 20. This August 20<sup>th</sup> date was not for the same year *but for four different years!*

George Williams (Father) **August 20**, 1864 aged 64

Jerusha C. Williams (Mother) June 3, 1898 aged 91

Martha P. Williams (Daughter) **August 20**, 1857

James B. T. Williams (Son) **August 20**, 1858

Fanny P. Cone (Jerusha's sister) **August 20**, 1885

Emily C. Williams (daughter) died in 1919

Intrigued by this family's story, here's what our research using town and local records found out:

- **Martha P. Williams** (daughter) died of scrofula consumption at age 23 on August 20, 1857
- **James B. T. Williams** (son) died of consumption at age 18 on August 20, 1858
- **George Williams** (Father) died of dysentery at age 64 on **August 26, 1864** (day of death on headstone shown as August 20)
- **Fanny P. Cone** (Sister to Mother) died of apoplexy at age 80 on August 20, 1885

So it appears that three of this family actually did die on August 20<sup>th</sup> in a remarkable coincidence.

Other information related to these past residents of Columbia:

In the 1910 Federal Census, Emily C. Williams (eldest daughter of George and Jerusha Williams) at age 79 was head of the household that included her nephew Howard A. Rice and niece Lillian P. Rice. Lillian Rice and Gladys Rice Soracchi (Lillian's daughter) were librarians of the Saxton B. Little Library from 1908-1959 and 1959-1975 respectively.

It is believed that the Williams family lived on the current Rte 66 just south of the intersection of Hennequin Rd and Pine Street

If anyone has any more information on this branch of the Williams family and would like to share, please contact us at [deramm1@yahoo.com](mailto:deramm1@yahoo.com) or [p\\_ewing\\_grabel@yahoo.com](mailto:p_ewing_grabel@yahoo.com).