

## Royal Joy Williams Settler, Farmer, Town Official

Royal Joy Williams, farmer. Sec. 1; P. O. Geneva; he is numbered among the very earliest settlers of the town of Walworth. He was born in Franklin Co., Mass., May 1, 1818; his parents were Israel and Lavina (Joy) Williams. Mr. Williams lived in Massachusetts till his 18th year, or till August, 1836, when he came to Walworth Co. with his younger brother Austin, while two other brothers, Moses D. and Israel, had arrived here in July of that year.

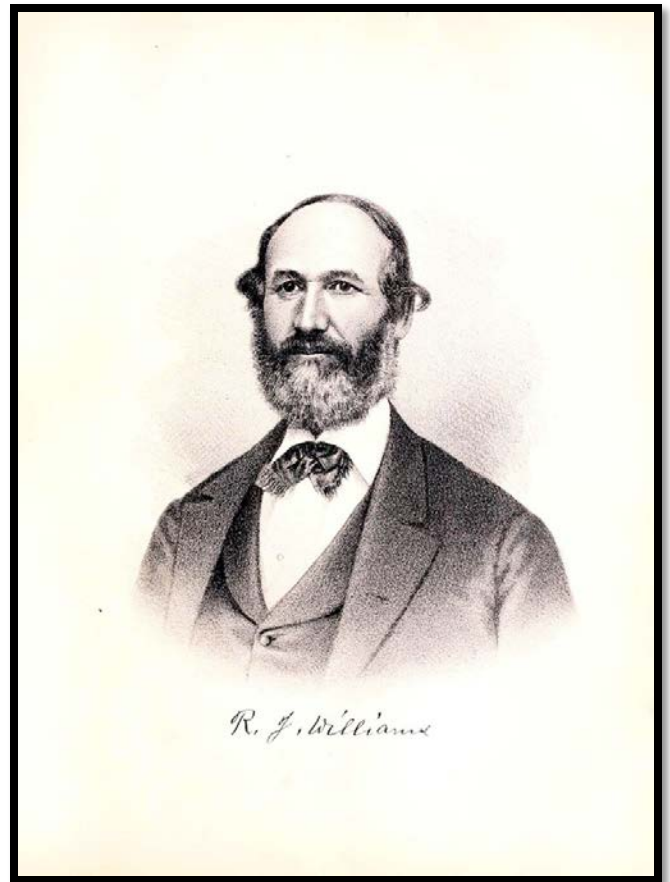
Moses, on his arrival, made a claim for Royal J., comprising the north fractional half of Sec. 13; as soon as Royal came he took possession of his claim Moses' wife (Lucida S.), taught the first school in the town of Walworth during the winter of 1838 and 1839. Probably no living settler of the town of Walworth had made a claim at that time. At this time no settlement had been made on the prairies in the town of Walworth, but a few claims had been made on the lake shore. Mr. Williams made his home for a time with his brother Moses, whose claim was across the line in the town of Linn; his other brother also made claims. Royal Williams is the earliest settler of the town of Walworth now living, and when he

came to Walworth there was but one white man (James Van Slyke) living in the town; Indians were living there at this time.\* His father came in July, 1837, and brought the remainder of the family, including the children's grandmother, Hannah L. Joy, who died in 1839. The father died in 1846, mother in 1852, and all died at the old homestead where Royal now lives. He purchased the claims of his sons when the land came into market in 1840. Royal J. now owns the farm where his father settled and died in 1846.

His brothers, Moses and Austin, died of typhoid fever in 1844. He has three brothers living—Israel (resides in Minneapolis), Francis (a minister of the Congregational Church in Connecticut), and Festus A. (who resides in the town of Geneva).

Mr. Williams was married to Lucretia S. Warren, born in Franklin Co., Mass. They have three children—George B., Edward F. and Harley; lost one daughter, Ellen.

His farm contains 200 acres; he has held several town offices; he was Assessor first in 1860, and has held that office several times since; was appointed by the Government to enroll the town in 1862; he has been engaged as Surveyor since 1842 more or less; and Notary Public for fifteen years. He went to Virginia in 1865 and leased a plantation, where he remained two years; he has also passed a number of years since he became a resident of Walworth, in New England.



(Article and photo excerpt from *History of Walworth County Wisconsin*, published by Western Historical Company, 1882, page 807 and 851)

Royal Joy Williams died on August 26, 1886 at the Williams homestead in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. He was 68 years of age. Royal and Lucretia are buried in Walworth Center Cemetery, Walworth county, Walworth, Wisconsin.