

More details regarding Billy Williams' parents

From:

[Memories of Matagorda](#)

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Billy Williams' parents were John Aaron Williams (1816 - 1865) and Catharine Elizabeth Franz Williams (1827- 1914). Nancy Jane Williams was Billy's sister.

"My grandma was born in 1862 and she was born on Matagorda Peninsula which, of course, we call the beach now. She was born Nancy Jane Williams. Her mother and father were both immigrants. Her mother came from Germany. Her mother was Catherine Franz and there are a lot of Franz and descendents of Franz in this county. Grandma Williams, Catherine, emigrated from Bremen, Germany, probably in the 1845 immigration also and she was with her mother and father. And some brothers and sisters. Now, they landed in Indianola. But they didn't stay in Indianola; they came almost immediately to Matagorda and settled on the Peninsula.

My grandmother's father was John Williams, now this is a name he took for himself. He was from Denmark and his name was Erasmussen. But he fled from Denmark to escape a compulsory conscription into the Danish army. He did not want to serve in the army and I don't know why he thought it was necessary to change his name when he came to this country. Surely they weren't going to follow him all the way from Denmark, but anyway he changed it to John Williams. His name was probably John or Johan Wilhelm Erasmussen. And he just Americanized it took the first two names and was John Williams then.

So when they married and settled on the peninsula, they built a big house. Big for that time. And it was called the Red House. Quite a settlement on the peninsula at that time. They had 11 children and my grandmother was next to the youngest. And she told some interesting tales about old times living on the peninsula."