

The following two transcriptions were kindly sent to me by **Allison Smith** and the originals had been exhibited at a meeting of the descendants of Uriah and Elizabeth Williams held in Australia in 1992 – they are owned by Lucy Flood, a great grand daughter of the couple.. A booklet was also produced by another descendant, Roderick Williams (b. 1915), from which the photograph of Uriah and Elizabeth is taken.

The 1855 letter unfortunately doesn't have the name of the author and the last/late pages are missing. It was written by an elderly lady who could obviously write and lived in Butleigh. Both Uriah's mother and grandmother had died before 1855 and I don't think any of Elizabeth's relatives lived in Butleigh and I would guess that the writer was possibly a neighbour – possibly Maria Millard who was herself born in Wedmore as had Elizabeth Williams.

Betsey is Uriah's oldest daughter and who was just 17 when she married in April 1855, **John** was Uriah's oldest son. **William Andoe** is the **William Isaac Andoe** b. 1823 Butleigh Wootton who left for Tasmania aboard the '*Indian*' which sailed from London on 5th Nov 1841 (he is missing from the 1851 census) then returned to England where he married in 1855. There is a mysterious **Isaac Williams** who appears on the ship's manifest alongside the Williams family on the *Arab* in 1842 and Uriah interestingly named one of his own sons after him – William Isaac b. 1852 – Isaac being William Isaac Andoe's mother's maiden name. A **John Higgins** travelled out on the *Arab* with the Williams family and this is almost certainly the **John Higgins** b. 8 Feb 1818 Butleigh (aged 23 on the *Arab* in 1842) who is missing on the 1851 census and returned to England to marry in 1857. **Frederick Look Frampton** also of Butleigh sailed on the '*Indian*' with **William Andoe**.

The reference to **Scotland** is not the country but a place in Wedmore, Somerset where Elizabeth Beach/Williams' parents lived – presently shown on maps as Scotland Lane, Wedmore

Butleigh 31st October 1855

My dear Uriah & Elizth,

I received your kind and welcome letter the 29th of this month, but was very sorry to hear of your illness in the Quinsy, & my advise to you is always to keep a little Brandy in the house to gargle your throat with when you feel it coming as it is the best thing you can do.

My kindest love to Betsey & her husband with thanks for the cards & Bride-Cake which certainly much surprised me as I thought she was much too young to think of matrimony, but I wish them both every happiness this world can afford & hope they will be spared many years & be a comfort and blessing to each other.

My kind love to **John** I should be very happy to see him but fear I must never hope to have that pleasure. I am obliged to him for saying I might sell my things but would rather he wd come and see me. I am now got old & my health is far from good & want more help than I am receiving but must live in hopes of better days.

I must tell you **William Andoe** is married and living at Weston Super Mare keeping an Inn he sent for me to come down & see him but I was too ill to go. They were married Easter Monday last & are getting on pretty well. He has said to me many times he wished he was along with Williams. I have not seen your Mother & Father living in **Scotland** since **William Andoe** came home when they came up. I feel I always acted as a mother by you & hope to find you good & dutiful children to me. I am surprised they have not written to you since.

I forgot to tell you **John Higgins** came home last Spring. He told me he saw

(remaining page(s) missing)
Transcript of letter received by Uriah & Elizabeth from Nephew Robert Williams

Sussex House
Southgate Road
Islington
London Dec 30th 1867

Dear Uncle & Aunt

I have no doubt that you have been looking for this a long time but you must please to excuse me for you know young people are apt to be forgetful and I have left my situation and am staying at my uncle's at Sussex House and I have been waiting for my Cartes de visite for I have had some more taken. So you see Aunt I have plenty of excuses ready.

I hope dear Aunt this will find you well although it may be a vain hope. I was glad to hear you were better when you wrote last but you must keep your spirits up, if you bend you must not break. Pardon me for talking to you like this. I must thank all my cousins who have promised to send me their portraits and I shall be so pleased when I get them for I have plenty of room in my album for them, and as you are all so kind to send them to me I thought it fair to send one more of my own.

I daresay some of my cousins will accept of it so I leave to you to decide who is to have it. I was down home in August and all were well at home. I showed my brother John your letter but I don't know whether he is going to write to you or not.

I expect to get in work directly but you must please to write to the same address for my Uncle's people always takes care of any letter that comes for me. My Dear Uncle & Aunt things are rather bad at home this winter. Trade is backward & consequently great numbers of men has nothing to do.

I daresay you will hear about the Fenians trying to blow up the House of Detention through the English papers. I heard the explosion & thought it was a piece of artillery being fired off.

Now dear Aunt & Uncle I must say good bye with love to all my cousins & yourselves from your ever loving Nephew.

Robt Williams

Robert Williams was born in 1844, Wedmore, the son of Elizabeth Beach/Williams' brother **Joel Williams** and his wife Phoebe. He appears aged 27, a baker, at 4, Bentley Gardens, Islington on the 1871 census. By 1881 he lived at 52, Balls Pond Road, Islington with his wife Eliz Mary (b. 1855 Islington) and was a master baker. I haven't found him on the 1891 census – but his photograph album would be of great interest to the family!

