

JOHN WILLIAMS



No Picture Available
 Born: 26 Jan 1679 Wales
 Married: Mary Keeling
 Died: 1741 Hanover, VA Parents: Unknown

John's wife was named Mary____, b. 26 Sept 1684. (Mary's full name is generally accepted as Mary Keeling, the d/o of Capt. George Keeling and Ursula Fleming. If so she was born in America.) John is believed to have immigrated to America in the 1690's. He appears to have first settled on Queens' Creek in York County, Virginia but they later moved to Hanover County, Virginia and built their home "Studley" sometime before 1712.

Why was John wealthy? Some surmise he earned his wealth like other immigrants to Virginia often did, by growing tobacco. That is possible. He probably was a good wheeler-dealer, made money off that, possibly land as well. But most definitely, the early generations of the family were involved in the distilling of Whiskey. This I am sure is a trade that was brought over from Wales, as it seems to be a popular beverage from all the countries that border the Irish Sea. In fact as late as 1904, the family was advertising the sale of Old Williams Whiskey from their distillery in Williams, Surry County, North Carolina. It states that "The Old Williams Company" of Williams, N.C. was founded in 1768. This business was run by the descendants of John's son Nathaniel (b. 1712). It is probably a family trade handed down over the generations dating much earlier. Just my guess.

John and Mary Williams had eight American born children ([I. John](#) (b. 1704), [II. Mary](#) (b. 1706), [III. Ann](#) (b. 1708), [IV. Daniel](#) (b. 1710), [V. Nathaniel](#) (b. 1712), [VI. Elizabeth](#) (b. 1714), [VII. Sarah W.](#) (b. 1716), [VIII. Joseph](#), (b. 1721).



Ancestral home ("Studley") in Hanover County, Virginia, circa 1700-1712. From Appleton's Cyclopaedia, 1888.

. <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/mo/county/stlouis/williams/>