

Andrew James Williams (1906-1970)

When Andrew James Williams was born on April 25, 1906, in Belfast, Ireland, his father, Andrew, was 47 and his mother, Jane, was 44.

The 1911 Census of Ireland shows the Williams family at 37 Humber Street, Belfast Ireland. Parents and 4 siblings at home. Andrew is 16 years old.

There was no census taken in Northern Ireland in 1921 and apparently the 1926 census was destroyed, so we have no records available to determine where Andrew was or what he did during that period.

The next we find Andrew is his emigration to Canada in 1927. He departed Belfast 19 Mar 1927 aboard the Cunard liner Carmania. The ship's list shows him as a farm worker, age 21, from Bliany Lurgan, intending to make Canada as his permanent residence. Canadian Immigration Service paperwork shows his arrival in Halifax 26 Mar. The only additional information on this list was that his father, Mr. J Williams lives at Bleary, Lurgan, Co Armagh. Bliany does not seem to exist but Bleary is a small village about 2 km south of Lurgan, so it is suspect that the ship's list is a typographical error. Ironically Andrew's father died a month later.

Andrew went West to Alberta, no doubt because his sister Annie was in Edmonton and brother John near Czar. When the stock markets crashed in 1929, brother Robert moved West to find work in Lethbridge.

He married Marjory Irene Agnew on September 3, 1930 in Calgary. His home was listed as Red Deer Alberta.

Andrew and Marge had three children;

Reginald Neil Williams (1931-)

Ronald Wilfred Williams (1935-1968)

Beverly Ann Williams (1937-)



A US Border Crossing Card from 1939 lists home as Red Deer and previous permanent residence as Metiskow which is where his brother John lived.

Reg married in Canada and divorced without children then moved to California and remarried.

Ron married and had 3 children while living in Vancouver. He was a jockey and died in 1968 in a horse racing accident.

Bev was married 4 times and was last known to be living in Vancouver.

We are still trying to determine where family horse racing activity came from. In the picture below, Andy has a large number of horse racing pictures on his wall. Ron's son and grandson are both well know jockeys.



Madge and the kids



Andrew had mental health issues in his last years. He lived on the streets for a while, dying November 17, 1970, in Calgary, Alberta at the age of 64. He is buried there.

