

James Walter Williams

When James Walter Williams was born on January 10, 1888, his father, Andrew, was 29 and his mother, Jane, was 26. Walter's birthplace is listed as 5 Faulkner St., Gorton West, Manchester, England (the source of this information is uncertain). One would have to assume that his father James was working there at that time as there were no known relatives in the area. Oral history in Walter's family suggests that when in Manchester, Andrew was a fairly senior employee (maybe Mill Manager or Maintenance ?), in the cotton textile mills which were abundant throughout Manchester, but particularly too in the eastern side of that city.

The 1891 Scotland Census has the family at 21 Newton Street and Walter is listed as 3 years of age born in England. Father is a Boilermakers riveter.

The 1901 Scotland Census has the family at 27 Glen Street, Paisley. Walter is a 'Grocers message boy', born in England.

A Walter Williams, born 1888 in England, is shown in the 1911 Irish Census, living as a boarder in Downpatrick, County Down, working as a 'bread server'. Not the restaurant waiter type but rather a breadman who delivered to homes based on his bakery association after the war.

He married Florence Gibson in 1912 daughter of William Gibson of Ballyverge, Downpatrick. Forence died in childbirth in 1913 but their daughter, Winifred survived.

Walter enlisted during the First World War with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Research is ongoing with regard to his service.



Walter married Annie 'Nan' Woods about 1925, daughter of Thomas Woods and Annie Kandal. The 1911 Census has Annie at home with her parents on Avenue Road in Lurgan. The marriage took place at St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, Ireland. They lived in Lurgan, Northern Ireland and had six children together.

Dorothy – 1929-2001
Walter – 1931-2011
Brian – 1932-1995
Thomas – 1935-1999
Jack – 1938-2009
Thelma – 1943-



Grandson Merv Rea says;

“Walter Williams owned a few farms in his time around the Crumlin area of County Antrim, one of which was I believed passed down to his son Tom (Thomas) and then on to his son, Andrew and is still owned by him to this day. It is a striking three story house, and we used to be told as kids that it was an American who built it, and imported the red bricks from the USA. It was once the home of Lord Abingdon. It is a splendid building, and had servants quarters on the third floor attic, with separate servants staircase. It is called Glendona House. Walter Williams also owned Gobrana House, a neighbouring farm.

Lurgan was home for Walter Williams, and where all the children were born. I’ve been past the house, but can’t remember the address. I will get my mum to remind me. They later lived on Windsor Avenue, Lurgan. I believe he went there after fighting in the First World War. He was manager of Inglis’ bakery there, and is listed in the Lurgan Business Directory as their Manager, from 1935 to 1945. I believe too that before The Great War, as a young boy and adult, he delivered bread by bicycle, hence the term, ‘Bread Server’. See this webpage and scroll down to Walter Williams, where he is listed. I see David Williams listed there too, and addressed as Gilford Road. That may have been the previous family home I was going to ask my mum about.

<http://www.lurganancestry.com/lurgand1935p4.htm>

The attached photos is NOT Walter, but it is an Inglis Bakery Delivery Cart from 1944, and the photos was taken in Belfast, where they had a much larger commercial bakery. Before managing the bakery, Walter would have delivered bread on a cart like this. My mum recalls a story, not long after the First World War, when the old IRA confronted Walter (an ex-soldier at this stage) and shots were fired (by both parties).



The Lurgan Ancestry website is useful. I’ve been looking through some of the images (scans) of Business Directories. In the mid-1940’s Walter Williams is still listed, but his address is simply ‘Çornreaney’. I believe this to be a typing error, as the place should be more accurately Corcreaney, or Corcreeney, which is on the GILFORD ROAD !! At some point, the Williams’ family moved from Lurgan to near Crumlin, and lived at Dundesert Bridge. I recall going there as a young boy to visit Tom (Walter’s son) and June, his wife, and their two boys, James and Andrew. My mum recalls living there, and it is because she lived there that she met my father, Mervyn, through the Young Farmers Club at Lylehill.”

Walter died on January 31, 1976, in Crumlin, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, at the age of 88, and was buried in Lurgan, Armagh, Northern Ireland with his parents.

