

Willis Brazeale was born in Henrico County, **Virginia in 1736**. He apparently married twice.

He first married **Sarah Woods** on **July 1, 1761** when he was 25 years old and when she was only 16. Apparently, they did not have children right away. Sarah's brother, Michael, wrote that they left Virginia on October 11, 1764 and settled on the Savannah River near Abbeville in South Carolina in January 1765. There, their first two children were born.

In 1769 Willis' father, **Henry, Jr.**, died leaving Willis the 200 acre plantation on Long Cane Creek nearby in South Carolina. During the next 25 years Willis prospered, acquiring more land around Abbeville while he fathered seven children by Sarah Woods.

Sarah was the daughter of **Colonel Michael Woods**. She died in 1776 when she was only around 31 years old.

After his first wife, Sarah, died in 1776, Willis went to Tennessee in 1777. Later, he returned to South Carolina to marry **Sarah Dillashaw** who had previously been a neighbor. He married Sarah Dillashaw around 1779 and had four more sons, including our ancestor.

In the **1790 US Census, for the 96th District of South Carolina, p. 61**: it lists: Brazell, Willis: 4 males over 16, 5 males under 16, 4 females, 2 slaves. Nearby James Dela Shaw; Elizabeth Dilleshaw, Joel and Drury Brazeel, Jr. not far away.

Willis died on or near his plantation near Abbeville in 1795.

In his 1795 will he was concerned that his young widow, Sarah Dillashaw, wouldn't behave herself after he died. In his will he demands that she loses her inheritance if she remarries. In 1808 she may have had a baby by Dr. Joseph Gibert. This would be the "grandson Joseph" mentioned in her father's will, the only grandchild named. He would have been much younger than her other children. This would also explain why Sarah had not remarried as of 1820....speculation by Maryann Skinner in letter of 1987. (See letter from Mary Ann Skinner, 2617 Lemon Tree Lane, Vienna, VA 22180, in Breazeale file.)

WILL: Breazeale, Willis Sr.

Will dated 6 Nov 1794 in Abbeville Dist, received 25 Mar. 1795. Executors: **Wife Sara, son Elisha, Brother Drury**. Witnesses: Alexander, Robert, Clark and Thomas Mc Kedy. Chn: Elisha, Benjamin Frankling, Kinsman, Archibald, Drury, Willis, Elijah, George Washington, Mary, Sarah, Patty. Inventory made 5 May 1795 by Richard Barksdale, William Scott and William Mc Gaw.

Willis' will: "**wife Sarah**, 25 pounds during her widowhood and prudent behavior. Residue of my estate to my **sons George Washington, Benjamin Frankling, Kinsman and Archibald Breazeales**...the money bequeathed to Sarah my wife if she should behave imprudent or keep a disorderly house after my decease is to be taken from her and divided between my four youngest sons by her begotten."

Brother Drury mentioned. Will proved 12 May 1795 Abbeville SC.

In Abbeville 1789 and 1792. Rev. War AA724-ASE1598 Z502.

He served under **Capt. John Cowan 12 May 1780 to 20 Feb 1783**. In Battle of Kettle Creek he lost hose, saddle, bridle, saddle bags, one Duffie's blanket on 14 Feb 1779.

Acc. to John Bridger of OKC in 1989, his sons Joel M and Elijah led a caravan of Breazeales to Tuscaloosa Co, AL in 1823. He referred me to Mrs. Lois Plotts, 4120 Olive St., Vancouver, WA 98660 (over 90 y. o. but the best); Mrs. Janice Still, 4401 Sprague Dr. Raleigh, NC 27612 (next best--see letters from her); and Mrs. Gwen Pryor, 8701 S. Braeswood #113, Houston, TX 77031.

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