

Descendants of James Murphy

Generation No. 1

1. JAMES³ MURPHY (*WILSON*², *JOHN*¹) was born Abt. 1838 in Butler County, Alabama¹, and died Abt. 1859². He married PRUDENCE WATTS^{3,4} 21 Oct 1858 in Butler County, Alabama⁵, daughter of WILEY WATTS and MARY PAUL. She was born Abt. 1842 in Alabama⁶, and died 1922 in Butler County, Alabama⁷.

Notes for JAMES MURPHY:

Married Prudence Watts 21 Oct 1858 at home of Mrs. Mary M. Watts. On 8 Nov 1859 Mrs. Prudence Murphy married William Thigpen at home of Mrs. Mary Watts. Assume James dead by then. Neither he nor his heirs mentioned in Wilson's estate papers 1878.

Notes for PRUDENCE WATTS:

Age 8 on 1850 census. Daughter of Wiley T. and Mary M. Watts. Granddaughter of John H. and Prudence Hill Watts. Mentioned as heir in estate papers of both Wiley T. and Prudence Hill Watts. Marriage record for her and James Murphy; "at Mrs. Mary M. Watts' "; bond by Charles Timothy Watts (her brother). Marriage record for Mrs. Prudence Murphy and William Thigpen 8 Nov 1859, also "at Mrs. Mary Watts' ".

According to Joe C Sanders' family data on worldconnect.rootsweb.com, March 2002, she was born Jul 1833 (typo?, almost 10 years difference from 1850 census and 1880, if this is her family below) in Alabama and died 1922 in Butler County. He has her parents' names as Timothy Wiley Watts and Mary Mariah Paul.

<http://www.familysearch.org> :

1880 US Census, Butler County, Alabama, Manningham, pg 443C:

Prudence THIGPEN	37 (married)	Keeps House	AL AL AL
Wyly G. THIGPEN	19 Son	Farmer	AL AL AL
William THIGPEN	17 Son		AL AL AL
Leena THIGPEN	11 Dau		AL AL AL
Elizabeth THIGPEN	6 Dau		AL AL AL
Walter THIGPEN	1 Son		AL AL AL
Gideon PEAGLER	33 Other single white male	Farmer	AL AL AL

All footnoted as "orig. data".

(On pg 431D, also in Manningham, is William Thigpen 52 and sister Mary.)

William THIGPEN	Self	M Male	W 52	AL	Farmer	NC	NC
Mary THIGPEN	Sister	S Female	W 59	AL	Keeps House	NC	NC

These are the only 2 William Thigpens indexed in Butler County.

Did Prudence and William separate and divorce?

<http://www.wattsgenealogy.com/family.asp?husband=178&wife=46> (as of 22 Sep 2004):

Wyley Timothy Watts b. 3/26/1820 d. 8/27/1853

Mary Mariah Paul b. 8/22/1822 d. 2/12/1908

dau:

Prudence Watts b. 7/0/1843 d. buried Oakwood Cemetery

William T Thigpen Sr. b. 0/0/1829 d. 0/0/1900

children:

Wiley G Thigpen	b. 11/0/1860	d.
William T Thigpen Jr.	b. 0/0/1863	d.
Watts Thigpen	b. 0/0/1867	d. m. 11/8/1859 Butler County, AL
Mary Elizabeth Thigpen	b. 2/0/1874	d.
Lena Thigpen	b. 0/0/1877	d. 12/19/1881
Lola Thigpen	b. 2/0/1874	d.

The Thigpen Tribe, by Alice Whitley Smith, 1961, copy located at Orlando Public Library, pg. 139, gives her name as Prudence Hill Watts, William's first wife, with their four children:

NEWTON THIGPEN, b. 1846.
HENRIETTA THIGPEN, b. 1846.
ELLEN THIGPEN, b. 1849.
ROBERT THIGPEN, b. 1851.

The same page also lists a second wife, Polly with three more children:

GEORGE THIGPEN, b. 1861. (could be Wiley G)
WILLIAM THIGPEN, b. 1863. (this one fits)
LAURA THIGPEN, b. 1868. (could be the Leena listed on census)

Something is obviously not right about the data given in **The Thigpen Tribe**. First of all, Prudence wasn't even born until abt 1841-42. At best, author Smith must have the wives' order reversed. William's children by his second wife, Polly, start in 1861, but Prudence is not mentioned as deceased in 1866-68 estate papers of Prudence Watts. She is listed as Mrs. Prudence Thigpen, heir of Wiley Watts, dec'd. **Estate Book 5**, pg 228-230 (1862? estate of Wiley T Watts) lists her as wife of William Thigpen. In the 1880 census listing, Wyly G could be the George mentioned and Leena could be Laura (the LDS transcription of some names has been rather strange.) This family needs further research to verify.

Endnotes

1. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
2. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*, On 8 Nov 1859 Mrs. Prudence Murphy married William Thigpen at home of Mrs. Mary Watts. Assume James dead by then. Neither he nor his heirs mentioned in Wilson's estate papers 1878.
3. *Prudence Watts estate papers, 29 Dec 1866 and 14 Mar 1868*, listed as heir, Mrs. Prudence Thigpen.
4. *Thigpen Tribe, The*, by Alice Whitley Smith, 1961, located at Orlando Public Library, pg. 139, her name given as Prudence Hill Watts, William's first wife, with four children, but author apparently has wives' order reversed, and Prudence would have to be wife #2.
5. *Butler County, Alabama marriage records*.
6. US Census 1850 Butler County, Alabama.
7. Sanders, Joe, *Sanders family history data*, (<http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com>), "Electronic," not verified; he has her birthyear as 1833, when her father was only 13 yrs old.