

The Totoket Historical Society, Inc

Stanley T. Williams

by

Leander F. Williams

Date unknown

2012-035-001

Stanley Todd Williams was born in Northford December 17, 1887, the youngest of six brothers born to Lewis H. and Cornelia Hine Williams. His formal schooling was in the 6th District single room school located approximately where the present William Douglas school now stands. After completing six years of education he returned to the home farm and helped with a milk route retailing milk and some produce in the town of Wallingford. He continued this until 1905 at which time he left Northford, moved to New Haven and shared an apartment with an older brother. Soon he secured a job with the Connecticut Company as a conductor on the street railway system that had only a few years earlier been converted from horse drawn cars to electric service. During this time he became involved with industrial league baseball and played right field for the company team. From then on he always had a special interest in baseball. In later years as he traveled about the state on business or pleasure he would often stop and watch an inning or two of a baseball game though he might not know the names of the teams playing.

In 1919 he passed a competitive examination for a position with the City of New Haven in the Department of Health and was appointed to the position of inspector which he held until his retirement. This examination was not easy for one who had so little formal education, but he was tutored by his friend whom he met playing baseball with the Connecticut Company, Charles E. Lockhart, a graduate of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University. They spent many long hours together in tutoring and learning and he passed this examination with the top grade.

This change in position gave him much more personal time and he used it to develop the interests for which he became well known in his home town and state.

On July 10, 1908 he married Mary Olivia Farnham, the second daughter of Leander A. Farnham of New Haven, an electrical engineer. They had one son born September 27, 1910 named Leander Farnham Williams. The family resided in New Haven until May 30, 1930 at which time he purchased the T. A. Smith house in Northford from an uncle, Henry A. Hull who had a few years earlier

purchased it from the estate of Mrs. T. A. Smith following her demise. This brought him back to Northford and back with people he enjoyed. He had no ambition to leave Northford although he had very lucrative offers for his services in Taunton, Massachusetts and also in the Health Department in New York City.

Stanley was successful in his position and after on the job training, became supervisor of inspectors. The area in which he made his greatest contribution was in food sanitation. During his time many changes were made and the cleanliness of food establishments in New Haven improved markedly. He was a member of the United States Public Health Association, The Connecticut Association of Public Health Sanitarians, the first food sanitation instructor of the New Haven Culinary Institute and was also a lecturer at the Yale Public Health School. He retired from this position with the city of New Haven on January 1, 1957 after having worked there for 36 years.

His greatest pleasure was to organize a project and get people to support and complete it successfully. In 1925 when the William Douglas School was built replacing the one room school that was there, the old building was sold to the Northford Village Improvement Society. He organized the men of the community and dug the cellar hole for a foundation and after the building was moved to the new foundation they remodeled the interior. For many years he organized and ran the pre Memorial Day clean up of the cemeteries and for many years guided the celebration which was then under the sponsorship of the Village Improvement Society. He also organized the men in town to level off a piece of land loaned by Mr. Richard D. Shipman for use as an athletic field. For many years he was active in other ways in the Village Improvement Society.

In 1908 he joined Corinthian Lodge #103 A F & A M. He lead a full and active Masonic life and eventually became a 32° Mason. In 1913 he became Master of Corinthian Lodge and held that office when the Lodge was transferred from Northford to North Haven. He was re-elected Master in 1914, the first year

that the Lodge met in North Haven. He advanced from the Blue Lodge to the Chapter and was elected M E H P in 1921. In 1925 he was elected TIM in Crawford Council. In 1939 he became District Deputy of the 4th Masonic District, a signal honor which he enjoyed and worked at with diligence. In his 2 years as District Deputy he made 149 visitations to Lodges in his area, He joined the New Haven Commandry of the Knight Templars in 1944.

In 1942 he joined the State Guard, a military organization which replaced the National Guard when the latter was federalized. He entered as a sargent and soon rose to the rank of captain and was put in charge of health related aspects of the unit. He retired from this activity with the return of the National Guard at the end of World War II.

S. T. Williams became active in Grace Episcopal Church when he was living in New Haven, which at the time was a very active parish. This church, in the period 1916 to 1920 was afflicted with a population shift from Fair Haven to the Westville section. More than 50% of the families in the parish left and started another parish (St. James the Apostle) there. With the demise of the parish he transferred for a short while to another parish in Fair Haven and then to St. Andrew's in Northford. After serving on the vestry for a while he became treasurer upon the retirement of George W. Cooke and held this position the rest of his life. In 1938, when old St. Andrew's church burned he undertook to organize the parish to replace the structure. The present church is the result of their labors and when the church was dedicated in 1940 it was free of debt.

He was active in the Republican party and served on the Town Committee for many years. He also served on the School Board of the town of North Branford from 1935 to 1949, many years of which he was chairman. From 1951 to 1957 he was Town Treasurer. In 1956 he was elected Representative to the state Legislature from the town of North Branford.

As the Northford Cemeteries Association grew he became interested in this activity and eventually became president and

carried this on also until his death. Under his guidance and with the help of other dedicated people this organization became well established and the present use and care of the Northford Cemeteries is based on the principles laid down many years ago. This was the one public spirited project which was closest to him and was never neglected.

He died on March 10, 1957 and is buried in the New Cemetery section of the Northford Cemeteries.