Benjamin Williams

It is difficult to recreate the history of Benjamin Williams. He was born in 1811 in Ohio. Nothing is known about his parents or childhood. He married Mary Ann Gray who was born December 7, 1815. No information is available concerning her parents or childhood. They married on March 9, 1836 in Mason County, Kentucky.

There is an entry in the Big Pigeon Tithing Records under the name of Bishop Wm. Lane: "the property of Benjamin Williams deceased June 1852." From that we assume that Benjamin Williams and his family lived in Big Pigeon before he died.

On the 1850 U. S. Census, his family was enumerated in Fremont County, Iowa Territory. Listed were Benjamin, age 39, a farmer; Mary Ann, age 33; Sarah, age 13, born in Indiana; Thomas B., age 9, born in Missouri; Bethena, age 7, born in Missouri; Armintia, age 5, born in Missouri; Robert, age 2, born in Missouri; and Zacharia, age 11, born in Iowa. FamilySearch provides an exact birth date for Zacharia Taylor as July 15, 1849 in Sydney, Fremont County, Iowa. The family probably lived in Big Pigeon before the birth of Zacharia.

Benjamin died in June 1852 in Sydney. Mary Ann remarried. She married Asa Fall. He was born on May 19, 1808 in Ohio. He was a widower. His previous wife was Agness Davis who he married in 1832 in Ohio. In the 1860 U. S. Census, the families are combined and listed as: Asa, age 52; Mary A., age 41; Amos D., age 16; Daniel W., 12; Andrew J., age 9; Robert C., age 6; Theodosia, age 2; Elias F., age 1; Thos. B., age 19; Bathania, age 17; Araminta, age 14; Robert G., age 13; and Zachariah, age 11.

Mary Ann died on August 24, 1897 in Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Washington. Her tombstone in Mountain View Cemetery gives her birth and death date.

Between 1870 and 1880, Asa and Mary Ann moved from Sydney, Iowa to Columbia County, Washington. Asa died on March 24, 1900 in Walla Walla. His death certificate listed his birth date as about 1809 in Indiana. It listed his father as William Fall and his mother as Catherine Gift.