

The **Willey** families of western North Carolina, and southwest Virginia, ca. 1800.

We are rounding up members of this family to further the genealogy on the origins of this family. We are sure that all the families are related, but we aren't quite sure how. Here is what is known so far: Christley & Andrew Willey first appear in Surry Co. NC tax lists in the first decade of the 1800's. Andrew moved over the Blue Ridge Mountains into present Alleghany Co. NC. Samuel and Levi Willey are also found in present Alleghany County in 1850. Given names within the children of all 4 men are frequently the same. They lived on neighboring creeks, and from deed searches, their land adjoined. It is most probable that they were brothers, although a half brother relationship seems to exist. Only Levi Willey in a marriage license indicated his mother was Katie and his father was not named. Tradition within Samuel's family, written by a grandson, was that Samuel's father was a German soldier of the Revolution, while tradition in Andrew's family, written by a granddaughter in 1958, is that Andrew's father was "of Irish blood" and immigrated to the USA.

Andrew Willey

Andrew Willey Sr. was born about 1792 in Virginia. He was probably in Grayson County, VA in 1810 because he appears, with 2 polls, on a tax list. His name appears in 1811 court records in Grayson County. He next appears in the adjoining county of Surry, NC in a 1814 Muster list. He appears from 1816-1822 in Surry County tax lists, but owned no property. He lived in the Mitchell River area/Allen settlement of Surry/Wilkes County next to Christley Willey. It is thought that he married first, Mary Wolfe ca. 1814, then Rachel Isaacs, ca. 1832.

Andy, as he was known, may have lived in Russell Co. VA in 1840. Andrew sold 100 acres of land to Chesley Cheek in Ashe Co. NC in 1846 on Moccasin Creek, near the VA/NC state line. He and wife Rachel were in the 1850 Ashe Co. NC census living near his son Ambrose Willey. Andy & Rachel moved to Russell County, VA to Bickley's Mill and are in the 1860 census record. Andrew Willey Sr. died in Russell Co. VA in 1864, leaving a Will, but naming no heirs by name. His profession was that of a wheelwright. His wife Rachel survived him many years.

Andrew's children by Mary Wolfe, Ambrose(1821), Hezekiah(1815), and possibly Elizabeth Willey(1824), stayed in North Carolina in the counties of Surry, and Alleghany, while his daughter thought to be Mary Wolfe's daughter, Mary and his children by Rachel Isaacs, Andrew Jr.(1837), and Margaret (1838), resided in Russell Co. VA with he and Rachel. The fate of daughter Margaret (1838) is unknown. To see a list of Andrew's descendants, click here.

Andrew

Christley Willey

In Surry Co. NC census records, Christley indicated that he was born about 1796 in VA. It is thought that Christley was a younger brother of Andrew Willey, since they first appeared together in Surry County NC. Christley also lived in the Allen Settlement and married Margaret Snow in 1821. He appears on the 1822 Surry Co. NC tax list. Christley & Margaret had several children, and as far as known, Christley's family remained in Surry County, NC.

*Christley Willey
Margaret Snow Willey
N.A.T. daughter
willspnc/willey.htm
Daughter*

*Has a marker at Zephyr Cemetery
in Willey row.
by Emily Southard 9.3. grand father*

Descendants of Andrew Willey

1. Andrew² Willey (?1) was born Bet. 1792 - 1794 in VA, and died Bef. August 02, 1864 in Russell Co. VA. He married (1) Mary Wolfe Abt. 1814. She was born Bet. 1792 - 1796, and died Bet. 1831 - 1836 in Surry Co. NC. He married (2) Rachel Isaacs Abt. 1836 in Surry Co. NC, daughter of Elisha Isaacs and Sarah Gentry. She was born 1794 in NC, and died November 01, 1870 in Russell Co. VA.

Children of Andrew Willey and Mary Wolfe are:

- + 2 i. Hezekiah³ Willey, born 1815; died 1891 in Alleghany Co NC.
- + 3 ii. Ambrous Willey, born September 1821 in Ashe Co., NC; died Bet. 1900 - 1910 in Alleghany Co., NC.
- + 4 iii. Elizabeth Willey, born Abt. 1827.
- + 5 iv. Mary Willey, born 1831; died Aft. 1880 in Russell Co VA.

Children of Andrew Willey and Rachel Isaacs are:

- + 6 i. Andrew³ Willey, born 1837; died Abt. November 1866 in Civil War.
- 7 ii. Margaret Willey, born 1838.

Generation No. 2

2. Hezekiah³ Willey (Andrew², ?1) was born 1815, and died 1891 in Alleghany Co NC. He married Mary Pollie Andrews, daughter of Henry Andrews and Julia Hall.

Children of Hezekiah Willey and Mary Andrews are:

- 8 i. Levi⁴ Willey, born Abt. 1842; died October 10, 1864 in Richmond, VA. He married Jane.
- 9 ii. Elizabeth Eliza Willey, born Abt. 1845. She married ? Conklin.
- 10 iii. William Willey, born Abt. 1858.
- 11 iv. Ellis Willey, born Abt. 1860. He married Ellen Hudson February 15, 1882 in Alleghany Co NC; born 1864.

3. Ambrous³ Willey (Andrew², ?1) was born September 1821 in Ashe Co., NC, and died Bet. 1900 - 1910 in Alleghany Co., NC. He married (1) Mary Andrews Abt. 1841, daughter of Alfred Andrews and Patsy Atwood. She was born Abt. 1824 in Ireland ?, and died Bet. 1891 - 1895 in Alleghany Co., NC. He married (2) Nancy Brannock February 11, 1897 in Alleghany Co. NC, daughter of William Brannock and Katherine Frye. She was born 1858.

Children of Ambrous Willey and Mary Andrews are:

- + 12 i. Andrew⁴ Willey, born 1842 in Alleghany Co., NC; died Aft. 1900 in Stonewall, Chickasaw Nation, OK.
- 13 ii. Allen Willey, born 1843; died May 03, 1863 in Chancellorsville, VA (Battle).
- + 14 iii. Thomas Ambrous Willey, born September 07, 1846 in Ashe Co., NC; died April 19, 1926 in Baywood, VA.
- 15 iv. Hezekiah Willey, born 1845 in Ashe Co. NC; died Abt. 1856 in Ashe Co. NC.
- 16 v. Martha Willey, born 1848; died Abt. 1866 in Alleghany Co. NC.
- + 17 vi. Nancy Willey, born 1850 in NC.
- + 18 vii. Mary Willey, born 1852.
- + 19 viii. Margaret Jane Willey, born October 10, 1853 in NC; died February 19, 1934 in Surry Co. NC.
- + 20 ix. Julia Ann Willey, born October 03, 1854 in NC; died April 12, 1925 in Alleghany Co., NC.
- + 21 x. Frances Susan Willey, born January 14, 1857 in Ashe Co., NC; died August 23, 1927 in Alleghany Co., NC.
- + 22 xi. Cynthia Caroline Willey, born October 23, 1860 in Alleghany Co., NC; died March 19, 1906 in Alleghany Co., NC.
- + 23 xii. Adeline Willey, born December 19, 1862 in Alleghany Co., NC; died May 22, 1917 in

Sparta, Alleghany Co., NC.

+ 24 xiii. Sarah Ellen Willey, born March 04, 1867 in Alleghany Co., NC; died November 10, 1958 in Denver, Co.

4. Elizabeth³ Willey (Andrew², ?¹) was born Abt. 1827.

Children of Elizabeth Willey are:

25 i. Martha J.⁴ Willey, born 1846.

26 ii. Sarah A. Willey, born 1848.

27 iii. Mary L. Willey, born 1850.

5. Mary³ Willey (Andrew², ?¹) was born 1831, and died Aft. 1880 in Russell Co VA. She married Robert Hall March 13, 1852 in Russell Co. VA. He was born 1832, and died Bet. 1861 - 1864 in CSA.

Children of Mary Willey and Robert Hall are:

28 i. Martha L.⁴ Hall, born December 18, 1852; died August 31, 1900. She married Christopher Bradley September 10, 1872 in Russell Co. VA.

+ 29 ii. John Andrew Hall, born February 16, 1852 in Russell Co. VA; died April 18, 1928 in Russell Co. VA.

+ 30 iii. William H. Hall, born October 1856.

31 iv. Martin Hall, born May 1860.

32 v. Sarah J. Hall, born Bet. 1864 - 1865. She married Charles M. Holmes December 05, 1882 in Russell Co. VA.

6. Andrew³ Willey (Andrew², ?¹) was born 1837, and died Abt. November 1866 in Civil War. He married Elizabeth Wright February 10, 1860 in Wise Co VA, daughter of John Wright and Martha ?. She was born Abt. 1840.

Children of Andrew Willey and Elizabeth Wright are:

33 i. Cowan⁴ Willey, born Abt. 1860; died in in infancy, Russell Co. VA.

34 ii. Wilburn Willey, born June 19, 1861 in Russell Co. VA.

Generation No. 3

12. Andrew⁴ Willey (Ambrous³, Andrew², ?¹) was born 1842 in Alleghany Co., NC, and died Aft. 1900 in Stonewall, Chickasaw Nation, OK. He married Mary Carpenter February 17, 1866, daughter of William Carpenter and Melinda Richardson. She was born 1841.

Children of Andrew Willey and Mary Carpenter are:

+ 35 i. Nancy Jennie⁵ Willey, born February 08, 1867 in NC; died August 23, 1929 in Seminole Co. Oklahoma.

36 ii. Sarah C. Willey, born Abt. 1868 in NC. She married George Odom.

37 iii. James Ambrose Willey, born 1869.

38 iv. Andrew M. Willey, born 1870 in NC. He married Nancy E. Turner December 22, 1895 in Pontotoc Co. OK.

39 v. Ennis Willey, born 1874 in NC.

40 vi. Polly Ann Willey, born 1875 in NC.

14. Thomas Ambrous⁴ Willey (Ambrous³, Andrew², ?¹) was born September 07, 1846 in Ashe Co., NC, and died April 19, 1926 in Baywood, VA. He married Martha Jane Carpenter Abt. 1878, daughter of William Carpenter and Melinda Richardson. She was born April 12, 1857 in Ashe Co., NC, and died February 02, 1914 in Baywood, VA.

Oakley/Willey



Robert T. Oakley, according to his tombstone at New Life Baptist Church, Pine Ridge, in Surry County, North Carolina, was born June 7, 1849, and died December 23, 1919. According to records in the Surry County Courthouse, Dobson, N.C., a marriage certificate was issued for Robert Oakly(sic) and Jane Willey on February 2, 1878 in Franklin Township.

Margaret Jane Willey (photograph at left) was buried beside her husband at New Life. Her birth date is given as October 10, 1853, death, February 19, 1934. At the time of the 1920 census, she lived in Franklin Township in Surry County and farmed for a living.

Her parents were **Ambrose Willey** (1821-ca.1910) of Ashe County and **Mary Andrews**, (ca.1824-ca.1895) who is thought to have been born in Ireland. (Pictured at right.) Jane was one of thirteen children. Ambrose and Mary Andrews Willey both died in North Carolina. Ambrose was the son of **Andrew Willey** (ca. 1792-1864) of Virginia and **Mary Wolfe**, who were married around 1814. More information about the Willey family can be found on the [Willey Family Page](#) on the Web.



Robert Oakley and Jane Willey had six sons:

George Washington Oakley was born January 1, 1879 in Surry County. He married **Etta Sparks**, and they had two children. He was a Baptist minister. When he died March 28, 1957, his home was in Baywood, Virginia. He was buried at Ennice, North Carolina.

James Ambrose (Jim) Oakley was born June 1, 1880. His wife was **Etta Isaacs**, July 14, 1877-March 4, 1951. They lived at Route 1, Dobson. (photograph at right, about 1940) He died April 25, 1960, and they are buried at Liberty Union Baptist Church in Low Gap, N.C. Their son **Hubert Oakley** (May 23, 1908-September 6, 1952), is also buried at Liberty. They also had a daughter. Jim is said to have had a saw mill.





William Edgar (Ed) Oakley (photograph at left, man on right) was born March 27, 1889 and died June 7, 1956. His daughter Hazel said he was born in Surry County. He married Maggie J. Snow about 1911, and they had one daughter, Reba. Maggie Snow died March 20, 1915, of tuberculosis, according to Hazel. Maggie was buried at Franklin Primitive Baptist Church in Surry County. Ed married Jessie Fannie Johnson on December 24, 1917. They had eight children. Ed worked in a furniture factory in Mount Airy and lived on Franklin Road in Toast until about 1936, when he moved his family to Cameron, N.C., in Moore County. He farmed tobacco until his death. At that time he lived next to the church on Rocky Fork Church Road in Lee County.

T. Claude Oakley was buried at New Life Baptist Church. Birth date is given as 1891, death as 1960. His wife, **Effie Isaacs**, was born in 1895 and died in 1975. They farmed and lived in the Franklin Township in Surry County. Their son, **Arnold Lee Oakley** (January 30, 1919-July 26, 1977), is also buried at New Life Baptist.

Robert Oscar Oakley (photograph above, man on left) was born October 12, 1893 and moved to the Moore/Lee County area around the same time as Ed. He was a farmer. His wife was **Ida D. Goble** (May 1, 1894-January 27, 1983) of Surry County. They had at least two children. Their daughter, **Ruby**, is buried with her husband, **Harvey Edwards**, along with her parents at Rocky Fork. Oscar died August 4, 1943.

Charlie R. Oakley was buried alone at New Life Baptist Church. His birth and death dates are May 29, 1895 and December 26, 1955. In 1920 he lived with his mother in Franklin Township and later he lived in Galax, Virginia.

Return to Names list

Do you have ancestors or relatives on this page? [Go here.](#)

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Ancestors of Ralph Bailey Willey

Parents

Grandparents

Great-Grandparents

Ralph Bailey Willey
b: April 19, 1933 in Fries, VA
d: December 26, 1976 in Kernersville, NC

Walter Bailey Willey
b: September 27, 1905 in Fries, VA
d: May 05, 1988 in Ridgeway, Va

Stephen Vestal Stoneman
b: July 14, 1867 in Carroll County, VA
d: October 18, 1938 in Fries, VA buried in Fr

Mary Ellen Willey
b: January 17, 1881 in Alleghany Co., NC
d: June 19, 1940 in Fries, VA

John Easley Burcham
b: July 05, 1874 in Carroll County, VA
d: December 18, 1958 in Wytheville, VA hosp

Ethel Charlotte Burcham
b: June 11, 1914 in Carroll County, VA
d: June 11, 1988 in Danville VA Hospital

Laura Alice Sumner
b: October 24, 1882 in Carroll County, VA
d: April 19, 1924 in Woodlawn, VA at age 42

Milton Stoneman
b: September 1818 in Elkhorn Comm, Grayso
d: February 1895 in Carroll Co., VA

Caroline Matilda Adams
b: March 26, 1826 in Surry CO, NC
d: June 25, 1887

Thomas Ambrous Willey
b: September 07, 1846 in Ashe Co., NC
d: April 19, 1926 in Baywood, VA

Martha J. Carpenter
b: April 12, 1857 in Ashe Co., NC
d: February 02, 1914 in Baywood, VA

James Smith Burcham
b: June 14, 1838 in Grayson Co. VA
d: June 09, 1886 in Carroll County, VA

Thursa Mahala Smith
b: July 15, 1842 in Surry Co. NC
d: March 04, 1915 in Carroll Co. VA

Stephen Nicholas Sumner
b: February 19, 1852 in Carroll County, VA
d: March 19, 1936 in Carroll County, VA

Mary Irena Lundy
b: May 17, 1858 in Carroll County, VA
d: June 03, 1898 in Carroll County, VA

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Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. 0 on chart no. 1

2 Christly WILLEY (42)

B: abt 1798
P: VA
M: 8 Jan 1821
P: NC
D: 13 Sep 1872
P: Zephyr, Surry Co, NC

1 Pharabe WILLEY (21)

B: 9 Oct 1832
P: probably in Surry Co, NC
M: 30 Sep 1856
P: Surry Co., NC
D: 3 Jan 1908
P: Surry Co

Godfrey L. ISAACKS (20)

Spouse

3 Margaret "Peggy" SNOW (43)

B: abt 1800
P:
D: abt 1875
P: Zephyr, Surry Co. NC

4

B:
P:
M:
P:
D:
P:

5

B:
P:
D:
P:

6 Obediah SNOW (86 & 164)

B: abt 1762
P: Orange Co VA
M: abt 1784
P:
D: 1823
P: Surry Co NC

7 Abigail RIGGS (87 & 165)

B: abt 1765
P: Morris Co, NJ
D: abt 1821
P: Surry Co NC

8

B:
P:
M:
P:
D:
P:

cont. ____

9

B:
P:
D:
P:

cont. ____

10

B:
P:
M:
P:
D:
P:

cont. ____

11

B:
P:
D:
P:

cont. ____

12 Thomas SNOW (172 & 328)

B:
P:
M:
P:
D:
P:

cont. ____

13 Mary ? (173 & 329)

B:
P:
D:
P:

cont. ____

14 S RIGGS, JR. (174 & 330)

B: abt 1720
P: Morris Co, NJ
M: 5 Jan 1749
P: Hanover, Morris Co, NJ
D: 1800
P: Surry Co NC

cont. ____

15 E TOMPKINS (175 & 331)

B:
P:
D: abt 1810
P: Surry Co NC

cont. ____

Prepared 16 Sep 1999 by:
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Husband: Andrew Willey

Born: Abt. 1792 in: VA
Married: in:
Died: in:
Father:
Mother:

Other Spouses: Rachel Isaacs

Wife: Mary Wolfe

Born: in:
Died: Aft. 1831 in:
Father:
Mother:

Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

1 Name: Ambrous Willey
Born: September 1821 in: Ashe Co., NC
M Married: 1840-1841 in:
Died: 1900-1910 in: Alleghany Co., NC
Spouses: Mary Andrews, Nancy Brannock Carpenter

2 Name: Hezekiah Willey
Born: 1815 in:
M Married: in:
Died: October 1891 in: Alleghany Co NC
Spouse: Mary Polly ?

3 Name: Mary Willey
Born: 1831 in:
F Married: 1858 in: Russell Co. VA
Died: in:
Spouse: Robert Hall

4 Name:
Born: in:
Married: in:
Died: in:
Spouse:

5 Name:
Born: in:
Married: in:
Died: in:
Spouse:

6 Name:
Born: in:
Married: in:
Died: in:
Spouse:

7 Name:
Born: in:
Married: in:
Died: in:
Spouse:

8 Name:
Born: in:
Married: in:
Died: in:
Spouse:

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Husband:	Andrew Willey
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Notes

per census born in VA. Shows on 1810 Grayson Co. VA tax list with 2 tithables.

In 1816-1822 Surry Co. NC tax list, no property. Signed deed in 1846. In Ashe Co. NC census in 1850.

In Russell Co. VA 1860 census and in 1840 census.

Wife:	Mary Wolfe
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Notes

Child:	Ambrous Willey
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Notes

Child:	Hezekiah Willey
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Notes

Child:	Mary Willey
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Notes

Husband: Andrew Willey

Born: Abt. 1792 in: VA
Married: in: Surry Co. NC
Died: in:
Father:
Mother:

Other Spouses: Mary Wolfe

Wife: Rachel Isaacs

Born: 1794 in: NC
Died: in:
Father: Elisha Isaacs
Mother: Sarah

Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

1	Name: Andrew Willey	
	Born: 1837	in:
M	Married:	in: Russell Co. VA
	Died:	in:
	Spouse: Elizabeth Cowan	
2	Name: Margaret Willey	
	Born: 1838	in:
F	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
3	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
4	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
5	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
6	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
7	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	
8	Name:	
	Born:	in:
	Married:	in:
	Died:	in:
	Spouse:	

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