

## **DETAILED QUERY ANSWER**

One of my colleagues on the board of the Historical Society of St. Catharines passed along to me your recent request for information about Reason Williams and other members of the Williams family during the time they lived in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Because the St. Catharines Library and St Catharines Museum are currently closed because of the current Corona virus crisis, there are limits to the research that I can do at the moment. All that I have been able to do is consult materials that I have at hand in my computer – mainly random newspaper research notes and copies of local directories.

I'm attaching the results of that research. I'm happy to know that at least one finding – a mention of Walter H. Williams, son of Reason Williams – must be relevant. (When I can resume work in our local library and museum I'll search for further mention of the Williams family and will send you a report on what more I find.)

A final comment – it seems that the Williams family were part of the local African-Canadian community. It's worth noting that while Canada was a refuge for slaves escaping from the United States, that does not mean that the local population had any particular respect for or understanding of those refugees. That is all too evident from the disrespectful manner in which the Williams family is discussed in the newspaper notes that I am forwarding to you.

Best wishes,

Dennis Gannon - Historical Society of St. Catharines