This class aims to bring about an antiracist social change through research and conversations. In this class, we look at African Americans who have been lynched in Warren County to find their living descendants, finding out as much information as we can on the family. We further conduct interviews with any living descendants found in order to learn about their experiences and what struggles they may face in their lives.

Poster by: Cierra Davis, Nautica Harvin, Jania Richards, Tylar Workman

Throughout our journey, we have found many new resources to use that broaden our research on the Williams family and finding new information. Resources we have used include, but are not limited to, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, DigitalNC.org, as well as FamilyEcho.com to organize our research. In the future, we would hope that the future participants are able to use these resources to assist them in finding further information on this family to find a possible living descendant through looking more into the children of Mary and by possibly finding more information on Wash and Indie as well.

Wash
Williams

Mary
Williams*

Indie B
Williams*

* represents female

The Families of: Wash, Mary and Indie B Williams

Sucesses and Struggles

Wash Williams

- George Washington Williams, nicknamed Wash
- Birth: around 1898
- Death: died of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1924
- Marriage: Laura Williams (mentioned in death report)

- Struggles:
  - Misidentified WWI draft card as his, but it was the wrong person
  - Unable to locate marriage or birth certificates or any children
- Conclusion/ending point of research: We eventually decided to focus our research efforts on locating living descendants of his sister Mary, especially since Wash was so young when he died, making him less likely to have offspring.

Mary Williams*

- Birth: December 26th, 1901
- Marriage: Jack Towns (November 23rd, 1919)
- Death: June 7th, 1942
- Successes:
  - Finding a marriage certificate for her and Jack Towns
  - Finding all 10 children
- Struggles:
  - Mary’s daughter Temple’s marriage license showing the mother of the bride as Pealia Townes.
  - Identifying the right Jack Townes
- Conclusion:
  - Jack Townes got remarried to Pealia when Mary died

Indie B Williams*

- Birth: December 26th, 1901
- Marriage: Jack Towns (November 23rd, 1919)
- Death: June 7th, 1942
- Successes:
  - Finding a marriage certificate for her and Jack Towns
  - Finding all 10 children
- Struggles:
  - Mary’s daughter Temple’s marriage license showing the mother of the bride as Pealia Townes.
  - Identifying the right Jack Townes
- Conclusion:
  - Jack Townes got remarried to Pealia when Mary died

Moving Forward

Throughout our journey, we have found many new resources to use that broaden our research on the Williams family and finding new information. Resources we have used include, but are not limited to, Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, DigitalNC.org, as well as FamilyEcho.com to organize our research. In the future, we would hope that the future participants are able to use these resources to assist them in finding further information on this family to find a possible living descendant through looking more into the children of Mary and by possibly finding more information on Wash and Indie as well.

ANTH 370: Southern Legacies: The Descendants Project

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