



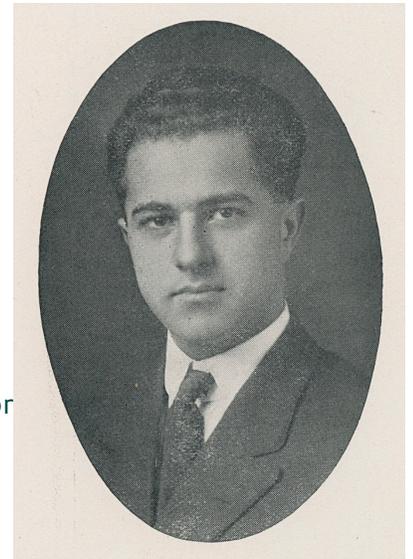
# 150 Stories for 150 Years

## Williams Family Has Century-Long Impact at WC

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**Submitted By:** Bonnie Sandy '92  
Columbus OH

I was told little about my grandfather, James W.D. Williams, from my dad, David Rombach Williams. I just learned recently that he graduated from the Ohio State University in 1917 after Wilmington College in 1915. I never knew he graduated from OSU while I have been living in Columbus – it's only 10 minutes away from my house! I now am a proud fan of the OSU! He was deaf since boyhood. He lost his hearing from what was called "whopping cough," my dad told me. He played "foot ball" (old days term) at Wilmington College. After he graduated from both WC and the OSU, he continued farming, scouting and actively involved in business in Wilmington. His name became James W.D. Williams, Sr. after he had a son named James W.D. Williams, Jr. He received an early education at Clarke School for the Deaf in Massachusetts to receive speech/lipreading training. He continued his education at a Boys Academy here in Columbus.



My dad, David Rombach Williams, the second son of James W.D. Williams, Sr., and graduated from Wilmington College in 1950s. He became deaf during his boyhood, too. He lost hearing as a result of an ear infection when he fell from the second-floor window. (Science and medicine were not as advanced in 1920s and 1930s). He received an early education at Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, MO, and then continued his high school at the Boys Academy here in Columbus. He followed his father's footsteps – farming, scouting and businesses in Wilmington. He married to my mom, Elizabeth W. Williams, and had three children: James W.D., III, Abigail Lou and (me) Bonnie Marie.

My parents, David and Elizabeth, contributed so much to Wilmington College. My mom was on the Board of Trustees at Wilmington College after my dad's passing until her death.

Abby graduated from Wilmington College as Abigail Lou Honnerlaw and now uses her maiden name, Abigail Lou Williams.

I graduated from Wilmington College as Bonnie Marie Williams in May 1992 and immediately married to Steve Sandy the same month. I had various jobs here in Columbus until we started a family with two children, now attending high school. Ever since, I have been called myself a "domestic engineer" and an artist. I received an early education at Central Institute for the Deaf like my dad and at a mainstreaming public high school.