

## Additional Notes on Eleazer Williams

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By Lyman C. Draper

It is not pertinent to the subject of Eleazer Williams' claims to the dauphinship to prove, or disprove, whether young Louis actually died in his prison in the Temple, in June, 1795.

In 1852, there appeared in Paris a work on *Louis XVII—his Life—his Sufferings—his Death*, by A. De Beauchesne. This work was translated into English and edited by William Hazlitt; it appeared in London in 1853, and was published the same year in New York by the Harpers. An abbreviated edition of the same work also appeared in New York in that year; and a second French edition at Paris in 1871. This work has, on all hands, been regarded as faithful, painstaking, and trustworthy.

De Beauchesne gives the records of the Temple as to the dauphin's death. The corpse was visited, and its identity recognized, by above twenty persons, of whom five were officers, and four commissioners on duty at the post; and the majority of those persons certified that they had seen the dauphin at the Tuilleries or the Temple, and *knew the dead body to be his*. The author intimately knew Lasne and Gomin, the two last keepers of the Tower, and in whose arms Louis the Seventeenth expired. This able writer has produced what he asserts, and all unprejudiced readers believe, "not only the certitude, but also the material, authentic proof that the dauphin of France, son of Louis XVI, really died within the Temple" in 1795; that his *convictions* of the dauphin's death have "the character of a *certainly authentically demonstrated*," and adds: "A curse upon me if my mind, in possession of the truth, should suffer my pen to lie."

But were it possible that the dauphin escaped from his prison, all the facts in the case go to prove that Eleazer Williams could