

thirty years old, and claimed to be about twenty-seven;" and Hon. H. S. Baird, who knew him well, says when he first became acquainted with him, in 1823, he judged him to have been about thirty. Hon. M. L. Martin, who became acquainted with him some four years later, thinks his appearance at that time indicated a person born about 1790-92. A careful examination of Catlin's portrait of Williams, taken in 1832, and which his widow and others pronounce a faithful likeness, left the strong conviction on the minds of Judge Martin and the writer, that he could not much, if any, have exceeded forty when taken.

But Williams' own statement—in his own handwriting, penned many years before the dauphin scheme had been concocted, fixes his birth-year in 1792. This curious document, his application for membership in the Masonic lodge at Green Bay, now preserved, through the kindness of the late Hon. H. S. Baird, in the archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is as follows:

*"To the Master, Wardens and Brothers of Menomonee Lodge:*

"Your petitioner humbly states, that having long had a favorable opinion of your ancient institution, he is desirous of becoming a member thereof, if found worthy.

"He was born at Sault St. Louis; is thirty-two years of age; by profession a clergyman.

ELEAZER WILLIAMS."

"GREEN BAY, Oct. 7, 1824."

Although Mr. Williams asserts positively that he was born in 1792, yet it is quite certain that neither he nor his parents knew the exact time of his birth. His parents—part Indian—and uneducated, evidently kept no family record; and Mr. Williams approximated, as nearly as he could, to the period when he was born. His mother, in her first, and doubtless only genuine affidavit, stated that Eleazer was "about nine years old" when he went to the Long Meadow school—which was in January, 1800; and this would point to about 1790 as his birth-year. His mother also declared that he was her fourth child, and was born in the spring, or in June. Eleazer Williams, in his information communicated to Dr. S. W. Williams for his *Genealogy of the Williams' Family*, places himself as the fourth in the order of births