

## Anton Williams Creates New Ventures for Old Business Legacies in Pennsylvania and Ohio



**Kalamazoo, Michigan Jun 3, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com))** - Anton Williams Holding Co. and GMNF Missions Co-Host Forum to Examine Multi-Generational Business Models and Midwest Growth Strategies

Anton Williams Holding Co. (AWHC) and GMNF Missions today announced a joint academic research partnership to host an upcoming educational forum, “New Ventures for Old Legacies,” on June 25, 2026. The collaborative event will investigate modern corporate stewardship models for family offices, utilizing the unique historical archives of Archie P. Williams as a foundational business case study while outlining AWHC’s contemporary regional expansion.

## Historical Precedent of New Ventures for Legacy Businesses: The Legacy of Archie P. Williams

The core case study focuses on the life of Archie P. Williams (1843–1928), a free person of color and the great-great-great-grandfather of current AWHC Owner Anton Williams. A. P. Williams was raised alongside his ultra-wealthy family, his career demonstrates a rare 19th-century intersection of race, economic privilege, and new ventures of old legacy asset expansion. Some of the family line of businesses has changed but some things have remained the same since the originator David Williams of Wales, England migrated to US territories in the mid 1700s to start businesses. Agriculture, Real Estate and Timber are still industries of activity but the 1920s brought Oil and Gas, the 2010s brought in derivative trading for oil and gas, gold and other commodities.

The forum will evaluate key archival records regarding A. P. Williams unique socioeconomic standing in the 1800s:

- **Capital Transmission:** Legal deeds from the 1850s document the direct transfer of real estate, capital assets, and property rights from David Percy (D.P.) Williams to his son. This helped boost business in Pennsylvania and Ohio.
- **Social Elite Status:** 19th-century media and legal documents consistently grouped the mix race Archie P. Williams with upper-class white gentlemen.
- **Legislative Interventions:** Archival records show D.P. Williams co-led an 1859 petition to the Mississippi Legislature to secure property and legal residency rights for select free Black individuals but primarily his mix race son Archie P Williams whom he raised as he did the sons through his marriage
- **Federal Recognition:** An 1855 and 1910s Postmaster notice verifies A.P. Williams public reality as part of the household with his Williams family during an era of widespread restrictions for black people. This dynamic made new ventures easier for him to enact

## Modern Corporate Stewardship and Financial Modernization

Both sponsoring entities are directed by Anton Williams, a ninth-generation custodian of the family enterprise founded in the 1760s by David Williams. Following a critical restructuring led by Archie P Williams in the 1870s-1930s to his namesake grandson, Archie J. Williams ventures in the 1920s-1940s, to the modern holding company continues to manage its legacy footprint while deploying new growth capital by Anton Williams. Anton is the great grandson of Archie J Williams, great great great grandson of Archie P Williams.

Reflecting the forum's focus on enterprise evolution, AWHC has executed a strategic geographic expansion into Pennsylvania and Ohio—regions where the family holds historic roots since the 1700s. To support this multi-state expansion, the firm has integrated sophisticated capital market strategies into its asset management toolkit. Modern operational capabilities now include active derivative trading alongside private equity-style strategic corporate acquisitions and divestitures. The owner, Anton R Williams, is quoted as saying “Growth for a family business doesn’t necessarily involve re-inventing the wheel. A lot of times it’s adding new products or services in their current industry or maybe adding a new supplemental line of business to existing commercial realities.”

## About Anton Williams Holding Co. & GMNF Missions

Headquartered in Kalamazoo, Michigan, Anton Williams Holding Co. owns a corporate portfolio across real estate, timber, energy assets, commodity trading, derivatives, and private equity investments. Based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, GMNF Missions partners with corporate and academic organizations

to fund historical research initiatives exploring early American economic, legal, and social frameworks.

<http://gmnf-inc.org>



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of our most noted pioneer families such as the Ellis, Williams, and Starkes. The Williams and Thomp- sons were related by marriage to Mrs. Winthrop Sargent, Mrs. Thomp- son being Anna Williams, a sister to David Williams, who was Mrs. Sar- gent's first husband.

Richard G. Ellis was descended from the first Richard Ellis, for 18

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the oldest and wealthiest families of Adams county. She was the daugh- ter of the late James Cadwallader and Jane Percy Williams and sister-

master.

THE COUNTY.

The financial affairs of Adams county, of which Natchez is the capital, are in a very satisfactory condition. A Board of Supervisors is the legislative body of the county, and is made up of the following named gentlemen, who are planters, and understand fully the needs of the county (outside of the city): Hon. Oliver N. Wilds, President; Messrs. George N. Clark, John Stowers, James H. Row- an and A. P. Williams, the latter a colored Republican.

The taxes imposed by the county on property within the city, for county purposes, are: general county, four mills; bridge fund, two and a half mills; railroad coupon fund, four mills; rail-

### Source Citation

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## Media Contact

Global Missions Network Foundation GMS

\*\*\*\*\*@gmnf-inc.org

616-406-5714

<http://GMNF-Inc.org>

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