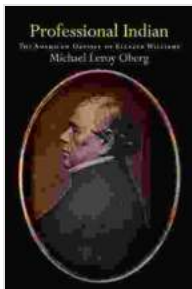


# The American Odyssey of Eleazer Williams

## Early Life and Education

Eleazer Williams was born in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, on March 17, 1787. His father, Thomas Williams, was a Protestant minister who had been a chaplain in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. His mother, Eunice Williams, was the daughter of Colonel Ephraim Williams, the founder of Williams College.



## Professional Indian: The American Odyssey of Eleazer Williams (Early American Studies) by Michael Leroy Oberg

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1681 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 281 pages



Williams was a precocious child and showed a talent for languages. He learned to read and write English, French, and Mohawk at a young age. He also studied Latin, Greek, and Hebrew.

In 1803, Williams enrolled at Williams College. He was a brilliant student and graduated with honors in 1808. After graduating from college, Williams studied theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1810.

## **Missionary Work with the Native Americans**

In 1812, Williams was sent by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions to work with the Native Americans in the Northwest Territory. He spent the next several years traveling and preaching among the Iroquois, Wyandot, and Ojibwe tribes.

Williams was a gifted missionary and had a great deal of success in converting the Native Americans to Christianity. He also played an important role in promoting peace between the Native Americans and the white settlers.

## **The Lost Dauphin**

In 1825, Williams began to claim that he was the son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. He said that he had been smuggled out of France during the French Revolution and adopted by a Mohawk family.

Williams' claims were met with skepticism by many people, but they also gained a great deal of support. Some people believed that Williams was the true Dauphin, while others believed that he was a sincere but deluded man.

Williams' claims were never proven, but they continued to circulate for many years. He even wrote a book about his life, titled "The Life and Adventures of Eleazer Williams, the Dauphin of France." The story of the Lost Dauphin is still a popular legend in the United States today.

## **Later Life and Death**

Williams continued to work as a missionary among the Native Americans until his death in 1858. He died in Hogsburg, New York, and was buried in the Episcopal Cemetery in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

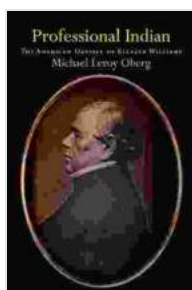
## Legacy

Eleazer Williams was a complex and fascinating figure who played an important role in American history. He was a gifted missionary, a strong advocate for the Native Americans, and a man who claimed to be the lost Dauphin of France.

Williams' story is a reminder of the American dream of opportunity and reinvention. He was a man who rose from humble beginnings to achieve great things. He also showed the world that even the most unlikely stories can sometimes be true.

## Additional Resources

- The Lost Dauphin: The Story of Eleazer Williams
- The Lost Dauphin of France and the American Who Claimed to Be Him
- The Life and Adventures of Eleazer Williams, the Dauphin of France



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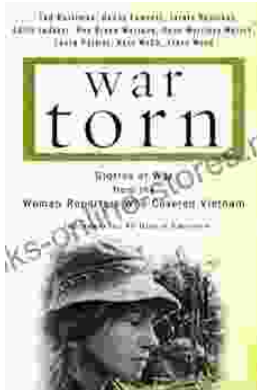
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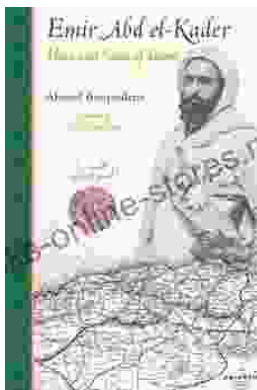
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