

Offious Grosset Williams

Offious Grosset Williams was born in Northern Iredell County on June 30, 1835. He was the son of Theophilious and Nancy Shaver Williams and grandson of Samuel and Molly Williams, who settled on Rocky Creek from Virginia in 1779.

O.G. married Mary Chenault. She was born on November 18, 1839 and was daughter of William and Mary Arena Redman Chenault. Her father came to Iredell County from Rockingham County, NC and was the son of Abner and Mary Ferguson Chenault. Both were born near the time of the American Revolution.

Mary's mother's parents were John and Jane Williams Redman. John Redman was the son of Thomas Redman who fought in the American Revolution and Mary Elizabeth Tapley Redman.

On March 15, 1864, O.G. enlisted into the Confederate Army for the war. He joined Company F of the 22nd Regiment at Camp Vance, Virginia. On May 5, 1864, he was wounded in the right hand "between the thumb and the index finger" at or near Wilderness, Virginia. He was hospitalized at Farmersville, Virginia until he was furloughed for 60 days on May 13, 1864. Later that year on December 1, 1864, O.G. was discharged.

O.G. and Mary reared five children: Talula, Vance, Lee, Bobbie F., and **Dacia. They were all born in Iredell County, NC and lived there their entire lives.**

O.G. and Mary traveled to Missouri in 1869 by stagecoach to visit Mary's brother, Abner Chenault. Mary had received notification from a law firm in New York concerning a deed to a chateau in France that she and her brother had apparently inherited. Since Abner already owned land in Missouri, and Mary and O.G. owned their farm in NC, it was decided not to contact the law firm. They returned to Iredell County later that year to their home just south of Rocky Creek, and one half mile west of present day Hwy 115. They lived there until the house was destroyed by fire, along with the family bible and the deed to the unclaimed land in France.

O.G. was a member of New Prospect Baptist Church in northern Iredell County and a member of Wilson Masonic Lodge in Olin, NC.

It is said that O.G. always wore white shirts wherever he went, even plowing in the fields.

In 1875, he purchased 56 acres of land on Rocky Creek through a state land grant for \$7 per acre. This land has remained in the Williams family for over 100 years.

O.G. died May 10, 1915. Mary died one year later on June 11, 1916. They are both buried at New Prospect Baptist Church.

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