

**HISTORY OF TENNESSEE**

**from the earliest time**

**to the present;**

**together with**

**an historical and a biographical sketch of**

**from twenty-five to thirty counties**

**of east Tennessee.**

**East Tennessee ed..**

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Gen. Morgan. In 1881 our subject was united in marriage with Mary Patten for a second wife. She was an intelligent woman of noble character, and a devoted Christian, and her death occurred fourteen months after her marriage with our subject. Mr. Williams is a practical farmer, and owns and cultivates a portion of the Greeneville College farm. He is a man decisive in character, and is a faithful friend, and a well respected citizen.

Thomas L. Williams was born in Greeneville, Tenn., September 7, 1838, and is the son of Dr. Alexander and Catherine (Dickson) Williams. The father was born in Surry County, N. C., in November, 1793, and died in Greeneville, Tenn., in August, 1852. The mother was a native of Greeneville, Tenn., and was born in 1802, and died in 1870. She was the daughter of William Dickson, an early settler of East Tennessee. She was the mother of six sons and four daughters, of which family there are now (1887) living only three sons, viz: William D., Joseph A. and our subject, who was reared in Greeneville, and educated at Greeneville, Knoxville and Chapel Hill, N. C. At the outbreak of the war, he left college at Knoxville, and entered the Confederate Army, in Company E, Sixteenth Battalion, Buckner's Legion, and afterward was transferred to Vaughn's Brigade. He became captain, and was paroled as such, and surrendered at Anderson Court House, S. C. Such was the prejudice against him in his native community, which was principally of Union sentiment, that he was forced to leave his native county, and went to Baltimore and elsewhere. About six years after the war he settled in Greene County, and has farmed ever since. He owns and cultivates a portion of the Greeneville College farm, and is a practical farmer. In 1870 he married Mary Simpson, daughter of Hon. Richard F. Simpson, of South Carolina. She was born March 1, 1842, and is the mother of nine children, of whom only six now (1887) live, viz: Eliza S., Richard F., William D., Thomas L., Maria L. and Anna Simpson.

William Houston Williams, merchant, was born December 5, 1834, in Blount County, and is the son of W. B. and Elizabeth (Hubbell) Williams, natives of Smyth County, Va., the former born in 1796, being the son of Major Samuel Williams, a native of Rye Valley, Va., and a soldier of the Continental war. He was also an extensive iron works owner in his native state. He settled in Blount County in 1822, and was a farmer, a captain in the militia, and also a deputy sheriff, and died in 1852. The mother was born in 1806, being the daughter of Joel Hubbell, a farmer of Smyth County, Va. She died in 1826, when our subject was a child. Both parents were Baptists. Our subject was educated at Maryville College, Blount County, and Mossy Creek (now Carson) College, and taught for one year, when he joined Company K, Fifth Tennessee Cavalry (Confederate), as orderly sergeant. In December, 1863, he was captured at Knoxville, but escaped near Richmond, while *en route* for Camp Chase, Ohio. He taught then two years in Kentucky, one in Alabama and three in Tennessee. In 1871 he began extensive wheat dealing in Greeneville for the Kenesaw (Ga.) mills, continuing up to 1882, gaining the title by which he is generally known, of "Wheat William." Since that date he has been a successful merchant. He is a stockholder in the public schools, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is also a Knight of Honor. In 1874 he married Mary J., a daughter of Lemuel White, a Methodist divine of Hawkins County, where she was born in 1844. She taught several years in Greene and Washington Counties, and at Weaverville, N. C. Two of their four children are deceased. His wife is a Methodist.