

KATHLEEN WILLIAMS

Granddaughter of Chief M. Wacomac

I grew up in Skamania County in the 1920's, before the dams were built and the Columbia river actually flowed, when most of the roads were unpaved and many not even gravelled so that a passing car left behind a cloud of dust. We were transported by bus to school in Stevenson — those busses being “home made,” a box constructed on a small truck chassis. Fishwheels were still in operation and I recall laying on my stomach at #5 wheel at North Bonneville watching the fish come in. I remember tough times when we had to get along as best we could after my father died when I was six years old and my mother had five children to raise. She took in washing for the mill crew. There was no social security then. We lived in the woods about a mile north of the old town of North Bonneville and one time in dead of winter when the snow was on the ground the wind blew the the stove pipe off our house and my brother walked the mile to “camp” to get another length. As he walked along, he felt his hair stand on end but he kept going. On his return by the same route he saw cougar tracks in each of his steps. Our main source of travel was on foot or by train. In fact, my older sister went by train to Stevenson during her first year of high school in 1923. The busses started the next year. I remember when the Bridge of the Gods was built in the mid-20s, was fascinated to see they could start at each side and then connect perfectly in the middle. We passed the project each day on our way to school in the bus.

P. O. Box 776
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Sharon Tiffany, Director
Skamania County Historical Society
Box 396
Stevenson, WA 98648

Dear Sharon:

This is to let you know the pictures did arrive in good shape. Thanks so much. Also to include a contribution for the Interpretive Center.

About the story on my grandmother: one thing I forgot to mention to Cliff (Crawford) was that my mother always said the cause of her mother's death was from lifting something very heavy — probably internal injury. I note that Ida said it was from an injury to her arm. So, that fact would be disputable. Carrie Grenia might have information. She would have been ten years old at the time of our grandmother's death.

Another thing that you might find interesting: My mother told me that her mother had said she would not live to see the completion of the railroad that went through her property. She died in December of 1906. If memory serve me right that railroad was not completed until 1907 or 1908. You probably have material at your disposal to ascertain those dates.

Sincerely,
KATHEEN R. WILLIAMS



MARY STOOQUIN, who was a little girl, fled in terror when federal troops rounded up Cascade Indians following the Fort Rains Massacre, is seen with grandchildren in photo taken about 1902. Mary Stouquin was the daughter of Chief Tumulth who was summarily hanged. Familiarly known as “Indian Mary,” she had a contract to carry the U. S. Mail from Marr’s Landing, (near present Skamania Landing) to Stevenson and Cape Horn, and was later awarded a land grant by special Congressional action. The children are, from left: Ray Williams, Nina Williams, Pearl Williams Cushing and Carrie Williams Grenia. Mrs. Grenia survives and is living in Washougal.

NOTE FROM KATHLEEN WILLIAMS:

It’s possible that this picture is reversed. In Chuck’s book, *Bridge of the Gods*, etc., the people are in the opposite order. The above photo was in the Pioneer’s 1967 Bicentennial edition.

You’ll notice in the story I wrote she was given title to land SHE ALREADY OWNED AND HAD LIVED ON FOR 15 or 20 years. She did not get it as a reward for carrying the mail, but having connections in high places in the government may have helped.

I corrected my new friend, Cliff Crawford, on this but the story had apparently spread meantime.

There are several different spellings of the name, of course, but I prefer StOOquin because my mother pronounced it St OO quin, OO as in stool.

Her name was never “Mary Henry Will-w-ity” as written on the file identification picture in the historical societies. “Henry” was the first name of Mr. Will-w-ity, her first husband.



Indian Mary Will-wi-ity Stooquin, daughter of Chief Tumulth, with her daughter Abbie Williams. Mary's Indian name was Kalliah Tumulth. She was born in 1854 and died in 1906.



Amanda Williams, 1882-1953. She was a daughter of Indian Mary and sister to Abbie Williams Reynolds Estabrook.

