Olivia Briggs Jaquith was the first librarian of the Norman Williams public library. She was described as being “eminently efficient,” running the library and taking care of the needs of its 3,500 patrons with the aid of just one assistant.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that Olivia ran a tight ship. She didn’t allow people to take books out on rainy days, and she reprimanded at least some of those who returned books that had not been properly treated.

When Doctor Williams suggested putting a statue of *Greek Slave* in the library, Olivia expressed concern because the statue portrayed a woman who was unclothed. Supposedly Doctor Williams attempted to assuage her concerns by telling her he’d put a mackinaw on the statue if the patrons were offended.
Olivia was a talented artist. At age thirteen, she completed a drawing of George Washington that currently hangs in the Woodstock History Center. In addition to creating the picture, she also supposedly decorated the frame with pieces of glove leather cut into the shapes of leaves, acorns, and grapes, and then painted and varnished to make the frame appear like carved wood.

Olivia’s half sister, Marenda Briggs Randall, is also featured on this year’s cemetery tour.

- Courtesy of the Woodstock History Center
  October 2015