Margaret C. Williams was more than just "a lady of leisure." She was a wife, a mother, and even a business woman. She was born in 1815, in Chatham County. Her life began like most young girls lives do. She grew up and got married at the young age of 17. She had eight children, two girls and six boys. After the death of her husband, she became the head of her house. Because of her ability to deal in business, she was able to take care of them.

April 28, 1812, David E. Adams married Mrs. Sarah Spencer Clingell. They were married on a Tuesday evening at Skidaway Island in Savannah, Georgia, by the Rev. Mr. Sartow. This was Margaret's mother. Sarah had been married previously. She was the widow of Major Charles Clingell. Sarah and Charles had no children together. He died on June 25, 1826. Charles Clingell was obviously a very wealthy man. He owned a lot of land and slaves. In his will he left his slaves to many different people. He left to his wife Sarah the house and all the furniture on the Skidaway plantation, two horses named bryan and Jack, and the stock of sheep and cattle. He also left her five slaves; Joe, Fancy, Cupid, Cicilla, and Bellah. These slaves were to remain with Sarah whether or not she remarried. Charles wanted to make sure that if Sarah did remarry and have children that they would be well-looked after. When Sarah did remarry to David E. Adams they kept the Skidaway Island plantation and started a family. David and Sarah had four children: Sarah Elizabeth, Margaret Godding, Mary Augusta, and Frances Marion. Margaret was the second oldest of the four girls. Margaret's father David was a very wealthy man. He owned land all over Chatham County. He also owned many slaves. Some slaves he inherited and some he bought and sold. On March 27, 1822, David's
brother, Samuel Adams, gave seven slaves to him and his family. These slaves were to be used for David’s children. He also owned many other slaves. On April 27, 1810, he bought from Peter Sherard for $6,500 seventeen negro slaves. These slaves kept the Skidaway plantation running. On January 21, 1859, Sarah Edingsell Adams died of paralysis. She was 75 years old. She was buried in Samuel Grove Cemetery, in Savannah. I found no record of David L. Adams’ death.

On December 22, 1832, Margaret Goulding Adams married Benjamin Hills Williams. The Rev. M. Preston conducted the Independent Presbyterian ceremony. Margaret was 17 years old and Zeb was 18 years old. They had eight children together. They were: Thomas A., Clarence A., Mark A., Lydia M., Zeb A., Sarah N., Clarence A., and Alexander J.

Zeb was also a very successful landowner. On January 11, 1833, Zeb sold 50 acres of land to his brother, Richard H. Williams, for the Georgia Infirmary for the relief and protection of the aged and afflicted Negroes. On April 1, 1834, Zeb sold numbers 15, 16, and 18 Oak Grove Ward to John Jews, the Sheriff of Chatham County, for $4,000.21 Zeb bought land as often as he sold it. On December 22, 1835, George Glen of Savannah sold Zeb some land on Skidaway Island in Chatham County for $2,100.22 The land totaled 400 acres. This also included the land between Skidaway Island and Bathside Island, known as Bathside Island. Along with the land came the house, outbuildings, the water courses, and any slaves. This was formerly the property of General Macklan. On December 9, 1836, Sarah and George M. Owens sold numbers 7 and 8 Green Ward to Zeb for $2,500.27 These houses were located at the corner of Price and Slaughter Streets. 
It contained 96 feet on Price Street and 120 feet on Broughton Street. On December 22, 1873, George Glen sold to then one 10 year old Negro man named Peter for $800.00. This was the only record I found of them ever buying a slave.

Peter lived a short but productive life. He died on December 11, 1854. His body was buried on December 12, 1854, at Laurel Grove Cemetery in Savannah. Records show that his body was to be removed from Laurel Grove and moved to Bonaventure Cemetery because of the building of Interstate 16. After going to Bonaventure, I found that his body was never removed and that he is still buried under what is now I-16. When T. Williams nominated his wife Margaret G. Williams as executor of his last will and testament, he specifically left Margaret the house and kitchen furniture. He left to his first born son, Thomas E. Williams, his library. He left his worldly goods and property to his wife and children. This will was written on September 27, 1854.

After the death of her husband, Margaret became the head of the household. Along with herself and children lived her sisters, Sarah A. Adams and Frances Marion Adams. Margaret wrote to the honorable Justice of the Inferior Court of Chatham County to show that she was the executor of her husband's last will and testament. From his estate she received one Negro man, a few articles of personal property, and the following real estate: an undivided half of 250 acres at Laurel Green in Chatham County, 500 acres in Liberty County, 25 acres in Bryan County, 800 acres at Half Moon Sluff on the Altamaha River, 180 acres of Orphan House Tract in Chatham County, lots 298 Wilkinson, 192 Baldwin, 7 and 8 Carey Street, lots 12, 21, 26, and 37 in
Mount Crown, and lots and buildings numbers 12 and 17 Reynolds Street in Savannah. All of this land and property was rented out. This is how Margaret came to support her family. Margaret sold some land to Isaac M. Morrell on June 15, 1866, for $1,500. The land was all on White bluff in Chatham County, eastward along the Vernon River. Isaac had a total of 12 months to pay her. Margaret stayed active in the buying and selling of her land until her death. Margaret G. Williams died on December 17, 1879. She was 64 years old. Her doctor, Dr. Conner, reported that she died of pneumonia. Her funeral was held at her residence, 62 Liberty Street at 11:00 a.m. on December 1879. She was buried at Laurel Grove Cemetery, but just like her husband, her body was to be removed, but it never was. She too is believed to still be buried in the same place, under 16.51

Margaret G. Williams had no trade outside of her home. She became a businesswoman after the death of her young husband. She was "a lady of leisure in a sense, but her real purpose in life was to raise her eight children. From what I have uncovered, Margaret G. Williams was a very good mother."
The only living relative that I was able to locate was Anne Adams, a
great-great granddaughter of Margaret G. Williams. Anne Adams married Mr.
Lewis Colton on Saturday July 12, 1952, at the Christ Episcopal Church here
in Savannah, Georgia. The couple moved to Tampa, Florida after their
marriage. I did not have time to pursue the couple any further.
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2. Columbia Museum and Savannah Advertiser 1812 pg. 3
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5. ibid
6. ibid
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8. ibid
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