

Dr. William Ollie Irving 1887 - 1941  
Dorothy Granberry, Geneva Miller Historical Society

On a bright spring day in 1911, twenty-four year old William Ollie Irving from Brownsville, TN received a doctor of medicine degree from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN.

The newly minted MD returned to Brownsville and according to the account written by Ms. Willie Bell Rawls in the 1989 History of Haywood County began practicing medicine in an office above the ice cream parlor/restaurant/grocery owned and operated by his father, Jordan Irving, on East Main Street. From available evidence, it seems this ice cream parlor/restaurant/grocery was located in a building in the vicinity of what used to be First State Bank on the corner of Washington and East Main St.

W. O. Irving, born around 1887, was the oldest child of Jordan and Nannie Loving Irving. Nannie Loving Irving is shown in the accompanying photo, made around the beginnings of the 1900s. There were two other children in the Irving Family, a brother, Langston Irving who married Matilda Elkins and a sister, Louise Irving. Louise married Cleve Williams and in 1940 was living at 221 Bradford Avenue in Brownsville.

Dr. William Ollie Irving's paternal grandmother, Agnes Irving married the widower Charlie Loving in 1887 when she was thirty-four years old. Charlie Loving was the father of Agnes' daughter in law, Nannie Loving Irving. Agnes Loving died at age 82 in 1935, fifteen years after her son and only child, Jordan Irving. Agnes' parents, Abraham and Susan Irving, came to Haywood County from Virginia. Dr. Irving's grandparents on his mother's side were Charlie and Kitty Loving. Charlie Loving was also Dr. Irving's step grandfather having married his father's mother, Agnes Irving.

Elijah Whitelaw, the insurance agent, was Dr. Irving's uncle. He and Jordan Irving married sisters. Whitelaw married Chaney Loving and Irving married Nannie Loving.

From 1911 through the first half of the 1930s, Dr. W. O. Irving practiced medicine in Brownsville. He moved his medical practice, along with his wife, Bettie Mae Irving, to Chicago, IL during the last half of the decade of the 1930s. In 1940 he was resided on South Dearborn in Chicago. Brownsville native, Dr. William Ollie Irving died in Chicago in 1941.