

## CHARLES LEAVITT BOTSFORD

*By David Martin Botsford*

Charles Leavitt Botsford and family moved to Norman in 1893 from Concordia, Kansas, and first lived in the brick home still standing and occupied, at 912 North Peters Avenue. (In 1902 the Botsfords built a new home south of the Bessent home, now the site of the Wilson School. The Crawfords live there now.)

Mr. Botsford established a law practice and at different times was a partner of Ben Williams, W. N. Newell and J. B. Dudley. In 1898 he ran on the Republican ticket for county attorney of Cleveland County and lost by only a hundred votes. In 1900 he was elected probate judge of Cleveland County.

Mr. Botsford was born November 2, 1849, on a farm near Waukesha, Wisconsin. His father, Samuel Botsford, had moved from New York state, and married Miss Rhoda Look, a native of New York state. The Botsfords were descendants of Henry and Elizabeth Botsford, pioneer planters who settled in Milford, Connecticut in 1639. In recent years The Band of Botsford with thousands of descendants who trace their ancestry back to Henry and Elizabeth, hold an annual meeting at Milford in the old home which Botsfords occupied a hundred and more years ago. The original plot where Henry and Elizabeth lived, is adjoining.

Charles Leavitt received a good education; he attended Beloit College and later received his diploma from the law school of the University of Michigan. He practiced law in Atchison and later at Concordia, Kansas. He was first married to Miss Nellie Ostrander of Minneapolis, Kansas. They had three sons -- one who died in infancy, and Fredrick and Charles J., both of whom lived in Norman and were well known. Carl attended Norman High School and the University of Oklahoma. Fred was with the City National Bank.

President David Boyd of the University of Oklahoma, called on Mr. Botsford for advice and guidance during the early years of the University of Oklahoma. In March 1899, Governor C. M. Barnes appointed Mr. Botsford a regent of the University and later he was elected secretary of the board. He was a member of the Territorial Bar Association, the Odd Fellows Lodge, Ancient Order of United Workmen and of St. John's Episcopal Church.

After the death of Nellie Ostrander Botsford in Minneapolis, Mr. Botsford married Miss Annie Kipp of Atchison, Kansas. Of this second marriage, the Botsfords had three sons - David Martin, William Kipp and George Sherman. David Martin was married to Miss Alice Himes in 1915, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Himes, who were natives of Oskaloosa, Iowa. Martin Botsford, as he is best known in Norman, and Alice Himes both attended Norman High School and graduated in 1907. Alice went to the University of Oklahoma, graduating in 1912. For several years after, she was an assistant to her father in the Norman State Bank.

Mr. Botsford became ill in Norman in 1907, and early in 1908, the

family moved to Oklahoma City where Martin became a reporter on the Oklahoma City Times and later on The Oklahoman. Soon after, the Botsfords moved to Kansas City where Martin secured a job as reporter on the Kansas City Star. Later he left the newspaper field to work as a writer in the advertising department of a large store. Advertising became his chosen work, as he moved on to become advertising manager of a store in Beaumont, Texas, and later to Portland, Oregon, with Meier & Frank Company, one of the largest stores on the Pacific Coast.

In 1912, Martin founded an advertising agency of his own, which became known in later years as Botsford, Constantine & Gardner. They had offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle and New York. They handled the national advertising for many of the large national and regional firms of the West. One of these was Jantzen, who originated the swimming suit with the red diving girl trademark. They handled this account for over 40 years. The advertising agency now known as Botsford Ketchum Company, is headed by David Martin Botsford, Jr. They have offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Tokyo, Japan. Martin Botsford, the founder, retired in 1957 and lives with his wife, Alice, in Menlo Park, California. They have the one son who also lives in Menlo Park, and two daughters, one in Salem, Oregon, and the other at Whittier, California. There are nine grandchildren and one great grandson. Martin is the sole survivor of the Botsford family.

In recent years, Mr. and Mrs. Botsford have visited Norman frequently. Just recently they attended the 80th Anniversary celebration of St. John's Episcopal Church. of which Martin Botsford, his father and brother, became members in 1903.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed K. Himes, the parents of Mrs. Martin Botsford, came to Norman by way of Joplin, Missouri, in 1901. Osklahoosa, Iowa, was their old home where Alice was born. Most of the 21 years the Himes spent in Norman were spent at their home on North Peters Avenue, often called by Normanites of that day "Silk Stocking Row". In later years in Norman, Mr. Himes was an officer of the Norman State Bank and an enthusiastic worker for the Masonic Lodge. He was a Knight Templar. The Masonic Temple on South Peters Avenue, was largely planned and designed by Mr. Himes.

In 1921, Mr. and Mrs. Himes left Norman for Portland, Oregon, where their daughter, Mrs. Martin Botsford lived. The Himes moved to suburban Portland where they enjoyed life until the early Forties, when both passed away. The Martin Botsfords moved from Portland to Menlo Park, California, where they now reside.