

THE LA COUNT and THE BRANDON FAMILIES

By Sharron Standifer Ashton

Benjamin Carter La Count was born February 29, 1852, in Indiana, the son of James La Count and Elizabeth Eddy. On September 11, 1874 he married Olivia Bell Brandon, born August 23, 1855, in Missouri. She was the only child of Charles Peter Brandon and Elizabeth, both originally from Virginia. Olivia's mother was killed when struck by lightning when Olivia was two or three years old.

In 1885 Olivia La Count bought a farm in Daviess County, Missouri, from her grandfather, William Brandon and his wife Catherine, with the provision that she take care of him and his wife the remainder of their lives. William died in 1886, leaving his estate to his wife and after her death or if she remarried, to his grandchildren.

"In 1894" according to Olivia's daughter, Elizabeth LaCount Canada, of Shawnee, now deceased, "when brother Freddie was three years old our mother had T.B. or in those days it was called consumption of the lungs. The only help for it was a change of country, so the doctor said 'go west'. We lived in Missouri, so your grandmother, Julia, came to Noble, Oklahoma, with her mother and the rest stayed 10 days longer renting the home, selling stock, packing and chartering a railroad for three horses and furniture. We got there the 10th of March 1894. We moved mother from Uncle Fred La Count's to a house we had rented. It was the 15th of March, and mother was taken bad that night and the next morning at 8 o'clock she asked Father to raise her up in bed as she was choking and she wanted to see her family for the last time. He sat on the bed with her in his arms and she passed

away." Olivia is buried in the IOOF Cemetery at Noble.

Benjamin was left with five children. Alvia, Elizabeth, Julia, Willie and Freddie. In November of 1894 Alvia married Richard Baker and in December Elizabeth married Archie Canada, son of Marshall L. Canada and Sarah Standifer. Julia kept house for her father and took care of her two younger brothers. In 1896, one day before she was fourteen years old she married Archie Curtis Standifer.

Benjamin remarried around that same time. His second wife was Minnie Davis, daughter of Joshua and Laura Davis. Minnie was one-eighth Chickasaw Indian. Both she and Benjamin received land allotments in McClain County. Benjamin later went to Foraker, Oklahoma, in Osage County. He lived with his daughter Julia and her family until his death in 1919. He is buried in the Foraker Cemetery.