

N. E. WOLFARD - 1886

*Son - Robert Eugene Wolfard*

N. E. Wolfard arrived in Norman in the month of September 1918, as an instructor of the S. A. T. C. (Soldier's Training Corps). It was during the great flu epidemic and he had been stationed at Camp Humphreys in Virginia. The Armistice in November closed down the soldiers' camp and Mr. Wolfard accepted a position on the Civil Engineering faculty of the University of Oklahoma.

When Camp Polk, Louisiana, was planned at the beginning of World War II, he was called to lay out the camp. He joined the services, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, later as a Captain.

N. E. Wolfard was much concerned about the problems the South Canadian River created at flood times. For years the river had been gradually eroding the south bank, washing away fertile farm land. Mr. Wolfard convinced city and county officials that a diagonal boom in the river bed would turn the main stream back to the north channel, under the existing steel spans of the river bridge. Mr. Wolfard supervised the installation of a temporary boom which accomplished its designed purpose. In later years a permanent boom was built and still effectively controls the flow of water into the north channel.

Noah Ellsworth was born at Encampment, a cooper mining town in south central Wyoming, June 10, 1886, to William Henry and Mary Ann Himes Wolfard. Of pioneer stock, German, French and English, their forebearers were the Bowmans and the Wolfards from Pennsylvania, the Carrolls of Virginia, and the Williams and Hobsons who came from England before 1739. He was educated at Valparaiso University, Indiana, where he received a degree in Civil Engineering. He also studied irrigation in Wyoming University. In 1926 he took a sabbatical leave from the university and obtained his Masters degree from Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa.

Ethelyn Cochrane Wolfard, whose parents were George and Anne Stinson Cochrane, was born in Ontario, Canada, on April 4, 1886. Of Scotch-Irish descent, George Cochrane's parents were Robert Cochrane, born in Scotland, and Sara Long Cochrane, born in Ireland. One of Anne's forebears was George Smith, a missionary who was educated at Dublin University and came to Canada.

Mrs. Wolfard was reared in North Dakota and graduated from the School of Drama, Valparaiso University, Indiana. In later years she studied at the University of California at Los Angeles. She taught many years as a teacher of speech, having a studio in her home.

Four sons were born to the Wolfards: Donald Cochrane, Kansas City, 1918; Neal Ellsworth, Norman, 1919; Robert E., Norman, 1922; and William Ray, Norman, 1925. There are fourteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren: Donald Cochrane, Jr., Gea Elizabeth Wolfard Downing, Cynthia, Russell, Krystal, Neal Ellsworth, Jr., Arleen Elizabeth Wolfard Woods, David Drayton, Robert Eugene, Jr., Wyn Dee Ann, Adrienne Eloise, Julie

Gay, Steven and Kenneth Ray. The two great-grandchildren are Michael Christopher Woods and Anne Elizabeth Woods.

## TRAVEL ON NORMAN STREETS IS LIKE A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

*by Josie V. Henkel Hoskinson*

The German philosopher Nietzsche wrote:

"At every step, one has to wrestle with truth -- the service of truth is the hardest service."

That statement applies to this research project . . . That of finding the truth in the origin of names of Norman streets. It has been a tedious effort, but done with excitement and pleasure. Any errors are regretted, and such repetitions as occur are for the sake of clarity.

Finding the truth entailed many telephone calls, some as late as this morning, several letters, and visits. It entailed reading of historical books on Oklahoma to find new information and to substantiate records found if possible.

These books include GENEALOGY AND BIOGRAPHY, printed in 1921; A HISTORY OF OKLAHOMA, (Second Edition) 1913, by Thoburn and Holcomb; THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA, A History of the First Fifty Years, 1892-1942, by Dr. Roy Gittinger; and OKLAHOMA, A History of Five Centuries, (1965), by Dr. Arrell M. Gibson.

Information also was gained from the Golden Anniversary Edition of Oklahoma Almanac, published under direction of H. L. Fitzpatrick, published 1957-1959; Pioneers of Cleveland County, 1889-1907, (Cleveland County Historical Society), 1971, and old editions of The Norman Transcript.

Inspiration for this project came with the sudden thought: Where did Alameda Street get its name? For now the short street that began at the railroad tracks and once stopped at Ponca Avenue where Highway Number 9 took over the 14 miles to Lake Thunderbird and across toward Little Axe, has become Alameda Street. Since a new superstructure State Highway Number 9 has been built south of Norman the old highway title is often called "Old No. 9", as well as its official name of Alameda.

And then I wondered where other Norman streets got their names.

We all recall our history that on that April 22nd, 1889, home-seekers streamed into the area by train, by wagon, in buggies, on horse-back or afoot. They came seeking free lands and to found a new town along