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LEWIS SPENCER SALTER

By Son-in-law, Monroe Lee Billington ³⁶

Lewis Spencer Salter was born in Argonia, Kansas, on March 23, 1891, the son of Lewis Allison and Susanna Madora (Kinsey) Salter. Lewis A. Salter was the son of Melville J. Salter, an early lieutenant governor of Kansas. "Dora" Kinsey was born near Lamira in Belmont ^{County,} Ohio, on March 2, 1860. Her parents were Oliver Kinsey and Terissa Ann White, who moved from Ohio to Kansas in 1872. Lewis A. Salter and "Dora" Kinsey were married in 1880 at Silver Lake, Kansas. The Salters moved to Argonia in 1882, where six of their nine children were born. In order of their births, the Salter children were: Clarence, Francis, Winfred, Melva, Edward, Bertha, Lewis, Leslie, and William. While living in Argonia, "Dora" Salter was elected to serve a one-year term as mayor of the town in 1887. She was the first woman mayor in the United States--and perhaps in the world--to serve as mayor of a town or city. When the Cherokee Strip in Oklahoma Territory was opened for settlement in 1893, Lewis A. Salter filed on a claim near Alva, moving his wife and family to Oklahoma shortly thereafter. After her husband's death in 1916, "Dora" Salter moved her family to Norman, so that her two younger children could attend the University of Oklahoma. She died in 1961, at the age of 101.

The seventh child of Lewis A. and "Dora" Salter, Lewis S. Salter, was graduated from the Preparatory School operated by the University of Oklahoma. He then attended Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, returning to OU in 1907. He received the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Arts degrees from OU in 1912 and 1917, and Columbia University awarded him a Master of Arts degree in 1922. He married Annie Reaves Alford on June 19, 1924. Annie

Reaves Alford was the daughter of Sarah (Sallie) Reaves and Leroy Alford. The Alford's had seven children in this order: Elizabeth Jane, Annie Reaves, Mary Dick, David Bright, Margaret, George Robert, and Leonard Bertram. Annie Reaves was born on May 6, 1899, in Barnesville, North Carolina, although she spent most of her childhood with her family in South Carolina. In 1905 her uncle, Samuel Watson Reaves, joined the University of Oklahoma Mathematics Department. In 1916 Annie Reaves Alford moved to Norman to live with Samuel Reaves and his wife in order to attend the University of Oklahoma. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from OU in 1920, she returned to South Carolina for two years during which time she taught at Coker College in Hartsville. She then returned to live with the Reaves in Norman and to work on a master's degree in mathematics, which she completed in 1923. Two children were born to Lewis S. and Annie Reaves Salter: Lewis Spencer, Jr., born February 4, 1926, and Mary Elizabeth, born July 17, 1928. Lewis, Jr. graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1949, after which he was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University from 1949 to 1952. He received the Bachelor of Arts from Oxford in 1951 and the D. Phil. from Oxford in 1954. In 1972 he was Academic Vice President and Professor of Physics at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. Lewis, Jr., married Mary Ann Morse of Tulsa (B.A., OU, 1950), on June 19, 1950. They have four sons: David Reaves, Samuel Allen, John Michael, and Andrew Lewis. Mary Elizabeth graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1950. She married Monroe Billington of Duncan (M.A., OU, 1951), on June 2, 1951. In 1972 Monroe was Chairman of the Department and Professor of History at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces. The Billingtons have three children: Marion Lewis, Martha Reaves, and Melinda Lee.

Lewis S. Salter was an assistant teacher in piano at the University of Oklahoma in 1911, while still taking undergraduate courses. Upon graduation in 1912 he was immediately named instructor in piano and harmony. He advanced to assistant professor of piano and theory of music in 1915 and associate professor in 1917. In 1926 he was appointed professor of music and music education. He was Director of the OU School of Music from 1936 to 1946 and he was Dean of the OU College of Fine Arts from 1936 to 1947. After being appointed Dean Emeritus in 1948, he served as Professor of Music from that time until he retired in 1961. During the last nine years of his career he also served as music librarian. At the time of his retirement Lewis Salter had served on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma for fifty years, longer than any faculty member before or since has served. He died on July 23, 1965.

Besides his musical training and experience at OU, Salter studied piano at Bush Temple Conservatory in Chicago, organ with David McKay Williams in New York, and piano with Dr. Hans Weisse in Vienna, Austria. He became president of the Association of Music Executives in State Universities in 1939, chairman of the music examining committee, Oklahoma State Board of Education in 1944, and a member of the college music curriculum committee, Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education in 1945. He was a member of the National Education Association, the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association, the Music Educators National Association, the Music Teachers National Association, the Association of Schools of Music, and the American Association of University Professors. During World War I he served with the 136th Infantry and with the 151st field army band, United States Army, spending six months overseas. Finally, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Mu Alpha, the Masons (33° Shriner), Lions International, the American Legion, and Norman's First Baptist Church.