

THE ELIJAH ROBERT FORD (E.R. or BOB FORD) FAMILY

By Hyla Hester Ford

Elijah Robert Ford (E. R. or Bob Ford) came to Cleveland County, Oklahoma, in December, 1892. He was born in Eastern Tennessee February 6, 1855, and when 18 years of age went to Fannin County, Texas, where he

farmed for 19 years. It was there he met Mattie Melinda Rhodes, who became his wife in 1887. She was the daughter of Isam and Cynthia E. (Palmer) Rhodes. She was born January 20, 1869, in Arkansas, but moved to Fannin County, Texas, when a small child.

The first two children were born in Fannin County, Texas: Roy Isam Ford on December 23, 1888, and Berta May Ford on October 8, 1890. The parents came by covered wagon to Cleveland County, Oklahoma, in 1892. They rented for the first year about five miles Southeast of Norman, where their third child, Hyla Hester Ford, was born on April 23, 1893, the date of the two very destructive tornadoes which hit this county, one to the East and the other Northwest of Norman.

The following year, the father purchased a farm about ten miles North-east of Lexington, Oklahoma, and it was here their fourth child, Robert Page Ford was born on May 13, 1895.

In 1898, the father purchased and moved his family to a farm in what is known as the Ten-Mile-Flat, a prosperous farming community, the South-west Quarter of Section 28, Township 9 North, Range 3 West. It was here he resided until his death on October 22, 1899, at the age of 44 years. He was a Mason belonging to the Blue Lodge.

The widow, Mattie M. Ford, resided on the farm for one year after her husband's death, then purchased lots, built a home, and moved her family into Norman, where her four children attended Washington grade school and Norman High School.

Berta May Ford died May 18, 1917. Both she and her sister, Hyla, were graduated from Hill's Business College of Oklahoma City in 1915.

Roy Isam Ford served four years in the U. S. Navy, later was married and lived on a ranch in Coal County. He died February 1, 1921. He had two sons and one daughter. One son, Roy P. Ford, lives at Wagoner, Oklahoma, is married and has three daughters. His other son and daughter are married and live on the West Coast.

Mattie M. Ford, the mother, died on September 21, 1938. Hyla Ford still maintains her home at 511 W. Eufaula Street in Norman. Both Hyla and her mother were members of the Norman Chapter of Eastern Star (OES No. 41). Hyla received her Fifty-Year Membership Pin on May 20, 1970. Hyla is also a charter member of the Business & Professional Women's Club of Norman, a member of Farm Bureau, the New Hope Extension Homemakers Club, the First Baptist Church of Norman, served two terms on the board of the Local Red Cross chapter, and worked as a staff aid for several years.

Robert Page Ford lives at Crescent, Logan County, Oklahoma, where he was engaged in the mercantile business, but is now retired. He is married, has one son, William Jack Ford, who received his Masters degree in Geology from the University of Oklahoma, and is employed in Denver, Colorado. He is married and has three sons. Robert Page Ford has received his Fifty-year Membership Pins from both the Masonic Lodge and the Shriners.

Robert Page Ford and his sister, Hyla Ford, still retain ownership of

the Quarter Section of land in the Ten-Mile-Flat which their father purchased in 1898 from Jesse C. Wails.

Elijah Robert Ford, his wife, Mattie M. Ford, their daughter, Bertha, and son, Roy, are buried in the Warren Cemetery in the Northwest part of Norman.