

THE FRED E. TARMAN FAMILY

By Fred E. Tarman

Genealogy studied by Fred E. Tarman, Jo Hoskinson and other relatives interested in tracing ancestors reveal that Tarman's ancestors came to the United States from England and Scotland.

Tarman's father, William B. Tarman, was a descendant of William A. Tarman, Sr., on his father's side who came from England to Newport News, Virginia, before the Revolutionary War. He married a Spanish woman at St. Augustine, Florida, while traveling around.

Their son, William A. Tarman, Jr., married a daughter of a Lord Fraser. Lord Fraser was a member of the Scottish Parliament at the time Henry VIII broke with the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church and established the Church of England, and about the same time King James V also established the Anglican Church in Scotland.

After the death of James V the heir to the Scottish throne was Mary, Queen of Scots, who had been educated in France and was a staunch Roman Catholic. Mary demanded that all prominent Scots rejoin the Catholic Church, and she had many of these who refused beheaded.

Lord Fraser was among those who refused to become a Catholic, and learning that he was marked for execution, he abandoned his estate in Scotland, made his way with his family to Ireland and there sailed on a ship to the United States, landing at Fortress Monroe, which was not far from Newport News.

William A. Tarman, Jr., married a daughter of the former Lord Fraser (first name not included in family genealogy). They moved to Ohio about 1830 and it was there that William B. Tarman, father of Fred E. Tarman, and his 13 brothers and sisters, was born in 1842. After living in Ohio for a few years Mr. and Mrs. William A. Tarman, Jr., moved to a country church area near Bloomington, Illinois. William A. Tarman and wife and numerous other relatives are buried there.

Tarman's mother, Ella F. Bedell Tarman, was a member of a Quaker family. Her great, great, great grandparents were Jeremiah and Mary Bedell who had come to the United States shortly after the Revolutionary War seeking religious freedom and settled at Hempstead, Long Island.

The line of descent included Adam Bedell and Sylvester Bedell, and her father, Richard W. Bedell, who married Elizabeth Dickinson.

The Adam Bedells had moved from Long Island to a small town

near Syracuse, New York, where Mrs. Ella Bedell Tarman was born July 4, 1852.

When Ella Bedell was about 10 years old the family migrated from New York to the country church area known as Oldtown near Bloomington, Illinois, where Fred Tarman's father's parents had moved a few years previously.

When the Civil War started William B. Tarman enlisted in the Third Illinois Cavalry, and was sent to the western Kentucky lines where they faced the Confederate forces from Tennessee. While sleeping on the cold ground in the winter of 1862, Cavalryman Tarman became ill with both measles and rheumatism. He was sent to a Union Army hospital in St. Louis where the measles developed into bronchial pneumonia. After he recovered he was discharged and returned to his home near the Oldtown church.

W. B. Tarman and Ella F. Bedell met at a country dance in the Oldtown community and were married November 4, 1869. They immediately left in a spring wagon for a small town named Clearfield in southern Iowa where they homesteaded a farm.

Eleven of their 14 sons and daughters were born on the farm. Fred E. Tarman was born on the farm January 26, 1889, but his father's rheumatism and bronchitis had grown worse so he sold the farm and moved into Clearfield where he engaged in the real estate and insurance business.

As long as Fred Tarman can remember his father used a crutch and cane because of his rheumatism. But the cold winters in Iowa caused his rheumatism to increase, and his bronchitis developed into attacks of pneumonia in 1902, 1903 and 1904. In the late fall of 1905 he went to Kerrville, Texas, known then as a health resort, to spend the winter.

On his way home to Clearfield in the spring of 1905 he stopped in Norman to visit a family named Bridgwater who some years previously had moved to Norman from Clearfield. They convinced him a milder climate might be helpful to him, so when he returned to Iowa he sold his business and the family moved to Norman in August.

All of the older brothers and sisters, except Ray, had left home and were either teaching school or working at other jobs by the time the family moved. One brother and a brother-in-law enlisted in the Spanish-American War in 1898 and served in the Phillipine Islands. Later another older brother served in the United States Army in the Chinese Boxer Rebellion in 1902.

Those who came to Norman with the parents were Ray, Fred, a sister who is now Mrs. Mildred Catter of Wichita Falls, Texas, William Dee and the youngest child, Enola Irene, who first married Calvin Garner and later Earl Jackson. The Garner's had a son, Frank. He and his wife, Gwen, live on Route 2 in Moore, Oklahoma. They have two daughters, Jane and Jill. Later two older sisters, Claris and Gracis, came to Oklahoma.

Fred was a junior in Clearfield High School when the family left there and was a senior in Norman High School in 1905-06, but late in the

fall of 1905 his father became ill again with severe bronchitis and he died of bronchial pneumonia in February, 1906.

Fred entered the University of Oklahoma and was graduated in 1910 with a degree in economics, political science and journalism.

His sister, Gracia, was working at that time as a secretary for the Oklahoma Farm Mortgage Company. During the summer Fred had the opportunity to become a reporter for The Daily Oklahoman, and the Farm Mortgage Company decided about the same time to move to Oklahoma City, so Mrs. Tarman sold her home and the family moved to that city.

A sister, Claris, married Frances Wallace and they lived for several years at Geary, Oklahoma, and later in Oklahoma City. Their children included a son, Verle, now living in Amarillo, Texas, and a daughter, Mildred, who married Roy Fisher, an automobile dealer in Oklahoma City, and a son, Duane, who lives in Houston, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fisher had three children - a son, Leroy who lives on a ranch near Eufaula, purchased by Roy Fisher before his death; Marilyn, who married David Wantland, now residents of Norman, and Jean, who married David Chandler and they live at Los Altos Hills, suburb of San Francisco, California. David Wantland is a vice president and trust officer of the American Exchange Bank of Norman.

After Roy Fisher's death his widow, Mildred, married Jack Hall, a rancher and they live at Edmond, Oklahoma.

It is noteworthy that David Wantland's father, the late Charles Wantland, was a classmate of Fred Tarman at the University of Oklahoma. He was a football and basketball player and a track man at O. U. He married Agnes Lindsay who was in Norman High School the year Fred attended it and sat directly in front of him in his classes. After many years as football coach at Central State College in Edmond, Charles Wantland retired and established the Wantland Oil Company, which was a successful business at the time of his death. Mrs. Agnes Wantland passed away September 24, 1974.

The David Wantlands have three children, Robin a student at Oklahoma State University; Karen, who graduated from Norman High School in May, 1974, and will attend Oklahoma State University, and Megan, a student at Norman High.

Leroy and Elizabeth Fisher have four boys and a daughter. Of the sons Chris, in 1974, was a student at Rice University, Houston, Texas; David was a student at Oklahoma State University; Gary was at Kansas State University, and Richard was in high school. A daughter, Anne, was also in high school.

Following his graduation from Oklahoma University, Fred Tarman spent seven years as a reporter, sports editor, state news editor, city editor and night news editor of The Daily Oklahoman and news editor of the Oklahoma City Times. In the fall of 1917 he resigned his position there to become assistant professor of journalism at the University of Oklahoma.

On January 1, 1918, Billie Henkel and Fred were married at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oklahoma City and later on June 1st he obtained a leave of absence to serve in World War I in the Army Intelligence Corps at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. In 1922 he became editor of The Norman Transcript, of which R. H. Parham was the Publisher. In 1929 Mr. Parham was killed in an automobile accident and Fred E. Tarman became both Editor and Publisher, with Harold Belknap, who had started as a carrier boy, and worked successively as a printer's devil while in school, then Manager of the commercial printing department and advertising manager, as Business Manager.

They set out to make The Transcript the best newspaper in the non-metropolitan field in Oklahoma, and after the Oklahoma Press Association established the newspaper contests about 1934, that hope was realized. Starting in 1936, The Transcript won the sweepstake awards in the large daily division of the newspaper contests 22 times before Fred Tarman retired at the end of the year, 1969.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarman have two children, Roger and Harriet, twins. Roger is director of the music and art libraries at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Roger, as of 1974, has three children, Alissa, 12; Ariana, 11 and Kerry 7. Roger holds Masters Degrees in both musicology and library science.

Harriet left Oklahoma University as a junior student in 1948 to marry Richard Remmers, who has a degree from Oklahoma University in both chemical engineering and law. They live in far northwest Oklahoma City. They have three children, Marily, Elaine and Neal. After the children were in high school Harriet decided she should complete her education, and as she had become interested in helping slow-learning children, she enrolled at Central State University, Edmond, and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Special Education. After teaching for several years and attending summer terms at Central State, she received a Master's Degree in July, 1974, in Special Education with the honor "Summa Cum Laude". Richard Remmers is Manager of the southwest division of Sohio Oil Company.

Marily, the oldest Remmers daughter, also left Oklahoma University after her junior year in 1973 to marry Gordon Leaman, an Oklahoma University graduate in chemical engineering. They live at Ponca City, and Marilyn, in order to finish her education, commuted to Oklahoma State University in 1973-74, Stillwater, and received the degree of B. S. in Business Administration.

As of 1974, Elaine, the second Remmers daughter, is a junior pre-medical student at Oklahoma University and plans to become an M. D. Their third child, Neal, is a senior student at Heritage Hall, a private Episcopal High School in Oklahoma City.

When Phi Beta Kappa issued a charter to O. U. in 1920, Fred Tarman was one of 10 alumni who were elected to membership. He also is a member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism society, and Phi Gamma Delta, a social fraternity.

While he was Editor of The Transcript, Fred Tarman was elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, was awarded a Distinguished Service Citation by the University of Oklahoma, was elected a Fellow of the Oklahoma University Academy of Fellows, and was elected to the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, sponsored by the journalism department of Central State University. He also received several citations for service to the Oklahoma University School of Journalism. He and Mrs. Tarman are members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Norman.

Mrs. Tarman was the daughter of George and Julia Henkel who lived at Flatonia, Texas. Mrs. Tarman's grandfather, George August Edward Henkel, migrated to Texas from Germany in 1846 and established the town of Round Top, Texas. He had the first store there and was the first Justice of the Peace. In 1971 the Texas Historical and Restoration Society selected Round Top as the first early-day Texas settlement to be restored to its original appearance, and after all the buildings were restored a celebration was held in September, 1971, attended by more than 700 persons. Mrs. Jo Hoskinson of Norman, and her brother, Edward Henkel, of Austin, Texas, were asked to cut the ribbon as the celebration started.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarman observed their 56th wedding anniversary on January 1, 1974. Mrs. Tarman is a member of PEO, the Thursday Sewing Club, and both are charter members of the Cleveland County Historical Society.

Mrs. Ella F. Tarman died in 1949 when she was 97 years old, and all of the 14 sons and daughters, except Fred and Mildred Catter, are also deceased.