

THE MULDROWS

By Fisher Muldrow (Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Muldrow)

A party of young surveyors, members of a crew of the U. S. Geological Survey, was camped across Pennington Creek near Tishomingo, the Capital City of the Chickasaw Indian Nation. Among these young Americans, was 23 year old Henry Lowndes Muldrow, called Hal, a Mississippian who had recently graduated from George Washington University in Washington City. He had a law degree, but because of the lack of personal finances had taken a job with the USGS and had joined the survey party in the Indian Territory. The year was 1896.

Across Pennington Creek in her father's bank and general store, was Miss Daisy Fisher, home on vacation from St. Xaverias Convent of Denison, Texas. Daisy Fisher was the oldest of the three daughters of a prominent and successful Choctaw-Chickasaw citizen, David Osborn Fisher, owner and operator of a large farm and ranch interests in the Chickasaw Nation and an officer and director of a bank in Denison, Texas.

It was inevitable that the red haired Mississippi youth would arrange to be formally introduced to the dark haired quarter blood Indian maiden. In a few weeks Daisy Fisher returned to the Texas Convent and Hal Muldrow joined a party of the USGS and proceeded to Alaska with the survey crew which measured and located Mount McKinley and named the great iceberg, located on the northwest side of Mt. McKinley, the Muldrow Glacier. This is the largest iceberg in North America today.

In 1898, after Daisy had graduated from St. Xaveria, Hal returned from Alaska and they continued their courtship which culminated in their marriage in April of 1899 at the Fisher Ranch near Tishomingo.

From this union, covering 52 happy and useful years, was born Osborn Fisher Muldrow, Mattie Ann Reistle, nee Muldrow, Hal L. Muldrow, Alvan Montgomery Muldrow and Lewis Lownsberry Muldrow. Fisher and Hal reside in Norman; Mattie lives in Houston; Alvan in Brownfield, Texas, and Lewis died in 1918 during the flu and pneumonia epidemic. He is buried at the IOOF Cemetery in Norman on the Muldrow lot. All of the family except Alvan and Lewis, who were born after the Dawes Commission Rolls were closed, are listed under the Enrollment Act, as members of the Choctaw Tribe of Indians.

The young Hal Muldrows established their new home on Fisher Avenue in Tishomingo where Hal entered the insurance business and carried on an extensive farming and building supply in the production of commercial sand and gravel. In 1910 he was appointed the first president of Murray State School of Agriculture in which capacity he served for three years.

In 1905 Muldrow became interested in the philosophy and character of the institution of Free Masonry and advanced in influence and leadership to become the last Grand Master of Indian Territory and the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma. He attained the 33rd and highest degree of the Scottish Rite, all of the degrees of the York Rite, the Mystic

Shrine and the Red Cross of Constantine.

The Muldrow family moved to Norman in 1914 where Hal Muldrow established a state agency for the Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company and became a Director of the Security National Bank of Norman. Suffice to simply list his many honors as follows: President of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma; President and Co-founder with E. B. Johnson of the Dad's Association; Chairman of the Masonic Dormitory; First President of the Norman Chamber of Commerce; President of the Norman Board of Education; Charter member and President of the Norman Rotary Club; Director of the Oklahoma Historical Association; Chairman of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board; Trustee of the First Presbyterian Church of Norman and Sons of the American Revolution. He was elected to the Oklahoma Historical Hall of Fame in 1963.

Daisy Fisher Muldrow was a charter member of the Daughters of Tishomingo, one of the early charter ladies clubs of Oklahoma. In Norman she was a member of PEO, The Old Regime; OU Mothers; and the Presbyterian Woman's Club. She was a charter member of the American Legion Auxiliary. More especially, however, she was a devoted wife and mother and an inspiration to all who knew and loved her.

Hal Muldrow was born in 1872, the youngest son of Robert Muldrow and Annie Muldrow, nee Oliver. She was the daughter of an early Governor of Mississippi. Robert Muldrow graduated from Old Miss, the University of Mississippi in 1845. He was a Captain in the Confederate Army. Hal Muldrow died in 1953 in Norman.

Daisy Fisher Muldrow was born on the Fisher Ranch, near Tishomingo in 1876. Her father was David Osborn Fisher, a half blood Chickasaw-Choctaw Indian. Mr. Fisher was born near Pearl River in Mississippi in 1825 and made the trip down "The Trail of Tears" to Indian Territory in 1832. Her mother was Matilda Fisher, nee McSwiney of Fort Smith, Arkansas. Osborn Fisher served as Court Interpreter for the Federal Courts as well as the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indian Courts. He was National Treasurer of the Choctaws. He was a Major in Stand Watie's Indian Confederate Brigade. Daisy Muldrow died at Norman in 1957.

In the interest of brevity the children and grand children of the Hal Muldrows are as follows:

Fisher Muldrow--Charter member and first President of the Cleveland County Historical Society and Vice President of the Oklahoma Historical Society; Member of the Five Tribes Society and the Choctaw, Chickasaw and the Cherokee Historical Societies. He is past President of the University of Oklahoma Alumni and OU Dads' Association; a 33rd degree Mason of The Scottish Rite; the American Legion and Veterans of World War I; President of the Chamber of Commerce of Seminole and President of Rotary at Seminole and Norman. He is a former national officer of Beta Theta Pi. He is a Ruling Elder of the Presbyterian Church. He was born in Tishomingo in 1900.

Fisher Muldrow was married to Margaret Dannenberg in Muskogee, Oklahoma, on November 1, 1930. Margaret received an A. B. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1929 where she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta.

She has been selected as Mrs. Theta for her alumni work in the chapter. She is past president of the OU Mothers' Association, a PEO and Member of Old Regime. Margaret is the youngest of the John C. Dannenberg family, a well-known pioneer Cherokee clan.

Fisher and Margaret are the parents of Ann Muldrow Niemeyer of Norman and Mary Muldrow Boyle of Great Bend, Kansas. They have four grandchildren James Fisher (Jeff) Niemeyer, Mary Margaret (Meg) Niemeyer and Margaret Elizabeth (Beth) Boyle and William Jeff (Billy) Boyle. Both daughters are members of Kappa Alpha Theta, PEO and hold degrees from Oklahoma University. The grandchildren range in age from 16 years to 2 1/2 years of age.

Mattie Ann Muldrow Reistle is married to Carl E. Reistle, Jr., the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Reistle of Houston, Texas. They were married in 1922 and recently celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Mattie attended Oklahoma University and is a member of Pi Beta Phi and PEO. The family are Episcopalians. Carl Reistle is the retired Board Chairman of the Humble Oil Company and is the Director of several corporations. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Chemical Engineering School and has been honored by the University with selection as an Honor Graduate. He holds more than 100 patents in the petroleum industry and is active and prominent in National, Texas and Houston professional financial, social and civic interests. He was honored by being selected to dedicate the new engineering building on the Oklahoma University campus. Mattie and Carl Reistle are the parents of Betty Reistle Pierce of Houston; Mattie Ann Reistle Clark of Los Angeles, Nancy Reistle Holiday of Muskogee, and Carl E. Reistle, III, who is District Chief Engineer for Humble Oil Company at Midland, Texas. There are three Pierce grandchildren and two great grandchildren; one Clark granddaughter; two Holiday grandsons and three Reistle grandchildren. The two Holiday boys are University of Oklahoma students.

Hal L. Muldrow has made many contributions to Norman, to Oklahoma and to our Nation. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1928, and was married to Clara Mae Bell of Purcell soon after receiving his B.S. degree in Business. Clara Mae is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bell, a prominent Chickasaw family of Purcell. She is a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. While in the University, Hal was awarded the Leitsizer Medal for general excellence, won three varsity letters in football, was president of Beta Theta Pi and Cadet Colonel of the ROTC. He coached Norman High School athletics for four years and left an enviable record as a coach and teacher. He entered the Oklahoma National Guard as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1929 and served in every grade from the lowest commission of Second Lieutenant to Major General, Commanding, on his retirement from the 45th Division. He commanded the 189th artillery at the amphibious landing in Sicily where he was awarded a Silver Star for bravery. Hal served with the Thunderbirds in Italy, and in Europe, through France, Belgium and Germany, covering 511 days of combat duty before the surrender by Germany. At the end of World War II the 45th was reorganized and Hal was promoted to Brigadier General commanding the Entire Divisional Artillery. When the Korean War was declared, the 45th was again called to active duty by the Federal government and Hal again dropped his personal business interests and his family to go to the Pacific battlefields. Here he commanded the entire Brigade Artillery and served another 200 days under shell fire, before winning a cluster

for his Silver Star, a Bronze Star and a Congressional Citation. On their return to America, the 45th was deactivated and discharged. Governor Roy Turner requested General Muldrow to reorganize the Oklahoma National Guard as the 45th Division, which task Hal performed, and entered the third phase under Major General Hal L. Muldrow. He commanded the Thunderbirds until 1962 when he voluntarily retired from the military service.

In addition to his military activity, Hal has served as President of the Norman Chamber of Commerce and as President of Rotary. He was elected as State Senator from Cleveland and McClain Counties, carrying all but one precincts in his home county. He was chairman of the Oklahoma Senate Committee of Higher Education and of Military Affairs. He has been selected to receive the 33rd and highest degree of Scottish Rite Masonry. He is the youngest alumnus to be selected as Honor Graduate of the University of Oklahoma. He is past president of the Oklahoma University Alumni Association and a Trustee of the Presbyterian Church. He has been prominently mentioned and urged to become a candidate for Governor of Oklahoma. He was born in Tishomingo in 1905.

Alvan Montgomery Muldrow was born in Tishomingo in 1909, the fourth child and third son of the H. L. Muldrow family. He is married to Miss Vera Kennedy, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Kennedy of Pauls Valley. Vera is a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority at Oklahoma University. She is an active leader in Texas Church and social efforts.

While a student at the University, Alvan was awarded a large Loving Cup by the OU Dads' Association as the "Outstanding Boy in OU". He was a regular guard on the Varsity football team, President of Beta Theta Pi and earned an LLB degree from the Oklahoma University Law School.

Alvan joined the R. C. Kennedy's interests in West Texas and established a home at Brownfield, the County Seat of Terry County, Texas. At the outbreak of World War II, Alvan, who had followed his older brother Hal as ROTC Cadet Colonel at Oklahoma University, was called to active duty with the 2nd Division at Fort Sam Houston. He served with distinction in the Regular Army Division in the European Theater and made the landing across the English Channel on "D" Day. He was awarded the Bronze Star with Palms and the Soldiers Medal and was discharged at the end of the war. Alvan and Vera had two young sons, two and three years of age when their father was called to military duty, so with Hal Kennedy Muldrow and Alvan Montgomery Muldrow, Junior the family reestablished their home in Brownfield, Texas.

Alvan carries on extensive farming and cattle operations, including mill and cattle feed lots. He owns and operates citrus fruit orchards at Mission, Texas. He is a director of the Brownfield State Bank and Trust Company and of the Brownfield Federal Savings and Loan Company. He is a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church, past president of Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Education. During the administration of Governor Allan Shivers and at the urging of the Governor, Alvan accepted his appointment as Secretary of State of Texas. He served for several months and resigned to return to his considerable business interests in Brownfield. On the creation of a Board of Regents for Higher Education in Texas and to supervise all state owned Texas universities and colleges

Governor Shivers again called Alvan to head this important board. Alvan became the first OU alumnus to help govern the Texas Higher Education institutions. Alvan has recently been selected as the Master of the Lubbock Scottish Rite Bodies. He has the degree of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor. It will be the Master's responsibility to finance and organize a new multi-million dollar temple in the empire of the South Plains of Texas. The Alvan Muldrow family, all residents of Brownfield, consists of Ken, the President of the Goodpasture Grain Company and his wife Rita Goodpasture and their young son and daughter. Mont, operator of the Muldrow farms and his wife, Lee, together with their two young sons.

As noted earlier, the fifth child of Hal and Daisy Muldrow, Lewis Lownsberry, died in 1918.

And so it goes. A young Mississippian, fording Pennington Creek to call on a young Choctaw student at Tishomingo, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, and in a little more than half century their blood, English, Irish, Scotch, French, German, has joined the blood of the Chickasaws, Choctaws and Cherokees to create a family which extends from Houston and Brownfield, Texas, to Norman, Oklahoma, via Tishomingo, Indian Territory.

Little did they know that their heirs would sit in positions of honor and influence in many places of Oklahoma, Texas and the Nation. This is the reason that the Board of Regents announced the Muldrow Tower on the Oklahoma University campus was in honor of Hal and Daisy and their children, their in-laws, their grand children, their great grandchildren and their great-great grandchildren.

Hal told his children "you can't be a little bit ethical" and Daisy told them to "Love your God and your Country and Protect the Brotherhood of Man." So their children try to do.

NOTE: The article entitled "THE MULDROWS" was written by a member of the family. It was narrated from memory and reflects no research. If too many errors occur or if there is any partiality evidenced none is intended. This is a simple story as it has been observed and lived by THE MULDROWS.