

THE REVEREND H. WARNER NEWBY FAMILY

By Fred E. Tarman

Because of the varied activities of the Newby family, and the information about them coming from several different sources Fred. E. Tarman was asked to co-ordinate the material and write the article about the family for publication in the new edition of the "Pioneers of Cleveland County, 1889-1925."

H. Warner Newby was born in Missouri in 1861. He moved to Larned, Kansas, while a young man; and there he married Ceora Allie Bowers, a native of Indiana. They started their married life on a farm in Sedgwick County, Kansas, where their first child, Merle Edelweiss, was born. Five more children were born to Mr. and Mrs. H. Warren Newby, the six are listed in the order of their births.

After the birth of daughter Merle, the Newby family moved to a farm in Chase County, Kansas. Here Errett Rains was born, also Jessie Dimple and Jerry Bowers. John Alexander was born in Garden City, Kansas, and Warner Wilson was born in Denver, Colorado, in 1898.

Soon after the birth of Jerry Bowers, H. Warner Newby felt the call to be a minister like his father, Reverend Alexander Newby, who had migrated to the United States from Scotland. The Reverend Alexander Newby was a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Like his father, H. Warner Newby was ordained as a minister in the Christian Church. Soon after this the father and son ministers held successful evangelistic meetings at Ulysses, Kansas, where 115 members of the total population of 280 in the county were converted to the church.

One of the men baptized by Reverend H. Warner Newby, Dr. A. L. Shelton, became a minister in the Christian Church and in later life again came into the lives of the Newby family.

After leaving Ulysses, Kansas, the Rev. Mr. H. Warner Newby held a pastorate at Garden City, Kansas, where the fifth child, John Alexander, was born. Reverend Newby was called to Rocky Ford, Colorado, to be pastor of the Christian Church and soon after this he became the pastor in Denver, Colorado, here the sixth and last child, Warner Wilson, was born in 1898.

While living in Denver, the Rev. H. Warner Newby was appointed State Evangelist of the Christian Churches of Colorado. The Newby family decided to establish a permanent home in Denver so that the children could get a good education.

As the State Evangelist, the Rev. Mr. Newby held meetings in Denver, Golden and in Aspen. At that time, Aspen was the largest silver mining town in the world. The town was controlled by the liquor and prostitution elements in the town; therefore the evangelist was unpopular with these elements. He

always carried with him his own tent for the meetings and lumber for the seats. After he had been in Aspen a few days he noticed the town marshal would come to the tent about closing time and walk with him to the place where the family stayed. One night he said to Mr. Newby, "I think your life is not safe here. I urge you to close your meetings."

Mr. Newby replied, "No, there are too many souls here that need to be saved."

The marshal then handed him a revolver and told him to carry it with him whenever he was away from home. After that when Mr. Newby went to his meetings he shoved the revolver inside of his belt and as he got up to speak he took the gun from his belt, laid it on the pulpit, and was never bothered by the rough element of the town.

The Rev. Newby soon returned to Kansas as the State Evangelist, holding meetings in various places and was credited with bringing more than 11,000 converts into the Christian Church.

After holding an evangelistic meeting in Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory, he was invited to become the pastor of the Christian Church there, he accepted the call and moved his family to Guthrie, O. T., in 1899, ten years after the opening of Oklahoma Territory to settlement. At that time Guthrie was the capital of Oklahoma Territory and the largest city in the Territory.

Dr. A. L. Shelton, who had been baptized by Rev. Mr. H. Warner Newby, had become a medical missionary and was serving in a mission in Tibet in Central Asia near the border of southwestern China. After several years working in this mission Dr. Shelton was getting ready for a leave to return to the United States, when he was invited by the Lama, a Buddhist monk, to visit him at Lhasa, where no white man had ever been. Meanwhile Reverend Newby had received word that Dr. Shelton would be home soon and was looking forward to seeing his old friend when word reached him that Dr. Shelton had been murdered by Tibetan bandits while on his return trip from Lhasa to his own mission.

The H. Warner Newby family moved from Guthrie to Norman, Cleveland County, in 1907. Most of the six children had attended grade and high school in Guthrie, O. T., and then attended the University of Oklahoma where the combined group earned eight degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

The adult lives of the six children of Mr. and Mrs. Newby are as active and worthwhile as were those of the Rev. H. Warner Newby and his wife, Ceora.

The Merle Newby Buttram Family

Merle Newby, the oldest child of Rev. and Mrs. Newby, a student of violin since her early days in Denver, Colorado, enrolled in the University of Oklahoma in 1904 as an advanced student in the College of Fine Arts. She continued her studies at the same time she taught younger violin students in Norman and in the nearby towns of Lexington and Purcell on weekends. She

drove a horse and buggy to get to Lexington and Purcell for her classes on the weekends. Often the bridge over the Canadian River was washed out from floods so Merle was forced to ford the river. At times she had to stand on the seat of the buggy to avoid getting her feet wet when the river was running half full of water. During her first years in Norman she earned her meals by waiting tables at the first sorority house in Norman, the Kappa Alpha Theta. Later she was invited to join that sorority which she did. She received a Bachelor of Music degree in 1906 and a Master's degree in 1912.

While a graduate student she became concert master of the University orchestra and was a soloist in its concerts. Later she was named a professor of violin. Her earnings enabled her to study for two years in Milan, Italy, and in Paris, France, under outstanding artists. In 1914 Merle married Frank Buttram, a graduate in geology from the University of Oklahoma, where he had also done some graduate work. Frank had joined Dr. D. W. Ohern, a former professor of geology at the University of Oklahoma, and who was the director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey in studying underground formations and opening oil fields. Both men became wealthy in the oil business.

The Buttrams moved to Oklahoma City and built a beautiful home on a large estate in the Nichols Hills area.

Frank and Merle Newby Buttram had five children: twins, Myron F. and Merle, born November 13, 1914. Dorsey R., born August 15, 1916. Donald A., born September, 1922. The fifth and last child was Harold E., born November 25, 1925.

After the Buttram children were near grown the family spent 15 months in Europe so the children could attend French schools while Merle and Frank collected many art pieces; antiques, paintings, ivory carvings, cut crystal, tapestries and furniture which they placed in their home and in the spacious gardens which surrounded the house, thus making it one of the most beautiful estates in Oklahoma City.

Merle Newby Buttram started a movement which led to the organization of the Oklahoma City Symphony Orchestra and later persuaded the Oklahoma City schools to establish student orchestras.

With all of Frank Buttram's business success he was an unsuccessful candidate for governor of the State of Oklahoma in 1932.

Mr. Buttram was elected to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame in 1940 and Mrs. Buttram was elected in 1974. Mr. Buttram died in 1960, and Mrs. Buttram died in 1971.

A short review of the Buttram children is needed to complete the story of Merle Newby and Frank Buttram.

The twin daughter, Merle Buttram, married Howard E. Melton, an executive of the Melton Co., Inc., a physicians' supply company and conglomerate of Oklahoma City. The Melton's oldest daughter, Marilyn (Mrs. Tony Sidewell) died several years ago leaving two sons.

Gene Melton has three sons, and Susanne Melton (Mrs. Tracy Silvester) has two boys and a daughter.

Myron Buttram (the twin son of the Buttrams), is in the investment business. He has three grown daughters by his former wife. He and his present wife, Bobby, live in Oklahoma City.

Dorsey Buttram and his wife, Phyllis, live in Oklahoma City. He is in the oil business and is the executor of the Frank Buttram estate. The Dorsey Buttrams have two sons and one granddaughter.

Donald Buttram is a commercial pilot. He and his wife, Jaqueline, have one son and two daughters. Donald and his family live in St. Louis, Missouri.

Harold Buttram is an M. D., and he and his wife, Virginia, live in Blooming Glen, Pennsylvania, where he practices medicine. They have no children.

The Errett Rains Newby Family

Errett, born in Chase County, Kansas, was in the eighth grade when the Newby family moved from Denver, Colorado, to Guthrie, O. T., in 1899. Errett completed the eighth grade and high school in Guthrie in 1904. He was a member of the Guthrie high school track team; was editor of the "Royal Blue", the high school paper, and was president of his senior class.

He delivered newspapers and clerked in a grocery store part time while he was in high school. In the summer of 1904, after he had graduated from high school, he went to Tyler, Texas, and took a course in shorthand and typing which helped him earn his expenses while a student in the University of Oklahoma.

Errett received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in piano in 1907, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and economics in 1908 from the University of Oklahoma. During his last semester as a student he was private secretary to Dr. David Ross Boyd, the first president of the University of Oklahoma. For this work Errett earned a salary of \$25.00 a month.

While a student at the University, Errett was president of the Y. M. C. A.; he won a letter in track and he was the organist from 1904 to 1919 of the First Christian Church of Norman. Later he was an alumni member of the O. U. Athletic Council and served as its president in 1914-15. For many years he was a deacon and an elder in the Christian Church in Norman and in the Crown Heights Christian Church in Oklahoma City.

During the administration of Dr. A. Grant Evans as president of the University of Oklahoma, 1908-1910, Errett Newby was appointed secretary of the University. Part of his work was to correspond with potential new students, this led to his meeting Lola North, of Blackwell, Oklahoma, whom he married in 1914.

During the administration of Dr. Stratton D. Brooks as president of the University of Oklahoma, Errett Newby was assigned the task of checking the credits of students who wanted to enrol in the University. This led to his appointment as chairman of a committee to accredit state high schools, about 160 schools had been accredited by the time the State Board of Education took over this job.

In 1911 Mr. Newby was named registrar of the University in addition to his duties as secretary to the University. He resigned in 1919 to become head of the land department and secretary of the Buttram Petroleum Corporation in Oklahoma City. After 23 years in this position he resigned to go into the oil investment business.

During World War II Errett Newby obtained a leave of absence to serve as field director of the War Department's committee on training technicians for the armed forces. Training centers were established at various colleges. Norman was the site of a Navy air training center and a Navy technical training center, one north of Norman and one operated near Lexington, Oklahoma, just south of Norman.

Errett Newby spent many hours and years engaged in activities for the betterment of the University, his home town and the state. He was a leader and a doer in civic projects for which he received no pay but was rewarded with many honors.

He was a member of the board of directors of the Oklahoma City Symphony Society and was its president in 1952-53. He served for many years on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Memorial Union which raised funds to build the Union building and the first unit of Owen Field and the stadium for the University of Oklahoma. When Wiley Post and Will Rogers were killed in an airplane accident in 1935, funds were collected in theaters throughout the state to be used as a memorial to Will Rogers. Of the funds raised \$150,000 was given to the Regents of the University of Oklahoma who appointed a committee of which Errett Newby was chairman for 15 years to invest funds and make grants and loans to physically handicapped students at the University of Oklahoma.

Later these funds were given to the University of Oklahoma Foundation of which Newby was a trustee for many years.

He also served on a committee which prepared a list of former University students who served in the military forces in World War I. Their names were inscribed on a large plaque which hangs on a ramp in the Union Building.

The honors given to Errett Newby include membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Mu Alpha, the music honorary society, Sigma Delta Psi, athletic society, Kappa Delta, religious society, a member of the first chapter of the O'Club, and in 1961 he received a Distinguished Service Citation from the University of Oklahoma.

He was a charter member of the Sigma Nu, social fraternity, he was also the first member initiated by the chapter. He served the fraternity

many years as division inspector for Oklahoma and Kansas, and was special inspector for Arkansas and Texas and later was a member of the Fraternity's High Council for four years and then was elected national president serving during 1937-39. He was a director of the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation which makes loans to students. He served the fraternity in many other ways and was named to the Hall of Honor, the sixteenth man so recognized out of a membership of 80,000 in 1960.

He served four years as a member of the Oklahoma City Council from Ward 2.

The Errett Newby family owns a summer home at Grand Lake, Colorado, where they have spent many happy summers.

Today Errett Newby is confined to his home, due to ill health. His wife, Lola North Newby, died in 1969.

Mr. and Mrs. Errett Newby had four children: Dorothy Ruth, Elaine, David and Rosemary.

Dorothy Ruth was born in Norman, Oklahoma, in 1915. The other children were born in Oklahoma City, after Errett Newby moved the family there in 1919.

Dorothy Ruth Newby married Cadwallader Jones VIII. They live in Oklahoma City where Mr. Jones is president and treasurer of the Jones-Newby Supply Company and Wholesale Concern in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, handling wholesale air-conditioning, heating and refrigeration equipment.

One of the Cadwallader Jones' two children died in infancy. The other child, Judith Elaine, married Dan Abbott. They live in Dallas, Texas, where he is in the loan and finance business.

The Newby's second daughter, Elaine, married James W. Shepherd II, an attorney. They live at Aluma Chulo, a lake resort on N. E. 63rd Street in Oklahoma City. They have two children, Susan Elaine, who lives at home with her parents, and James W. Shepherd III. James and his wife have two children: James W. Shepherd IV, and Jeffry Girard. James W. Shepherd III and his wife live in Oklahoma City where he is a computer engineer.

The third child of the Errett Newbys, David North Newby, born in 1922, is married to Ruth Ann Hummer, from Bartlesville. He was in the oil business for several years in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. Now he is the operator of the Robo chain of automatic car wash stations in Texas. He and his wife live in Post, Texas.

The David Newbys have four children: Melinda Ann, Meredith, Steven and Marcia.

Melinda Ann married Joe Blackman. They live in Denver, Colorado, where they operate a popular restaurant, Fagins.

Meredith married James Carson who is a licensed electrician. He

operates his own business in Denver. Meredith is a loan processor for the Capital Federal Savings and Loan Association in Denver.

Marcia married Robert Brandon, a silver smith. They live in a large log cabin on a 40 acre farm which they own near Norwood and Telluride, Colorado.

Steven married Pamela Petty. Steven was graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1974, with a degree in architectural engineering and design. He is associated with an architectural engineering in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Pamela is a senior (1974) at Texas Technological Institute.

Rosemary, the fourth child of Errett and Lola Newby, is married to Sutton Mullen, Jr. They live in Richmond, Virginia, where he is State Fire Marshal in charge of arson cases. The Mullens have four children: John, a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute; Frances Elizabeth, a recent graduate of Brown University; David is a student at Virginia Tech., studying forestry, and William Errett is a grade school student in Richmond.

Jessie Dimple Newby, the third member of the Rev. H. Warner Newby family was born in Chase County, Kansas. She moved to Guthrie, O. T., with the family in 1899. Jessie Dimple graduated from the Guthrie High School and entered the University of Oklahoma in 1906. She graduated from the University in 1910 with an A. B. degree with a major in Latin.

Jessie taught for several years in the high schools in Amarillo, Texas, and in Oklahoma City before returning to the University of Oklahoma to complete work for a masters degree. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa in 1920. She was a member of the faculty of the University of Oklahoma for several years before she resigned to enter Iowa State University where she received a Ph.D. degree. Jessie then became a professor of Latin and Greek at Central State College in Edmond, Oklahoma. While teaching at Central State, Jessie married Dr. Louis Ray, who was on the faculty of Central State College.

In her vacation travels she collected an outstanding collection of ancient Roman coins which she gave to Central State College, which is now named Central State University.

Along with others, Jessie sponsored the building of a Y. W. C. A. chapel at Central State College and helped raise funds for its construction. She even helped design the building. Jessie Newby Ray died in 1968.

Jerry Bowers Newby, the fourth child of the H. Warner Newbys, was born in Chase County, Kansas, in 1890. He was a student in Guthrie High School and attended the University of Oklahoma where he graduated with a degree in geology in 1912.

He began his geology career in the summer of 1910 by serving as a cook for a U. S. geological survey party which mapped coal lands in eastern Montana. He also did field work with the survey party.

In 1913 Andrew Mellon employed Malcolm H. Munn of the U. S. Geological Survey to organize a geological department for the Gypsy Oil Company which later became the Gulf Oil Corporation. Mr. Munn was chief geologist.

Jerry Newby and Robert E. Garrett (also an O. U. student) were his assistants.

In 1917, Jerry B. Newby and R. E. Garrett resigned from the company to join A. Park Wright and Russell J. Crabtree (another O. U. graduate) in a firm of consulting geologists at Tulsa, Oklahoma, as a consultant for the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. Jerry was among the first to work out the geological structures which later were part of the huge Oklahoma City oil field. In 1918 all four members of the firm entered military service in World War I. Jerry was in the field artillery. After his discharge in 1919 he became associated with his brother-in-law, Frank Buttram. The geological formation of the Maramec oil field in Pawnee County was worked out by Jerry Newby.

While a student at O. U. Jerry lettered in basketball, was elected to Pe-et, men's honorary society, was a charter member of Sigma Chi fraternity, and a member of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, honorary geological society. Later while doing graduate work at the University of Chicago he was elected to Gamma Alpha, an honorary society for graduate students in science.

Jerry Newby is listed in Who's Who in the South and Southwest. He was one of the founders, a past president and life member of the Oklahoma City Geological Society, a founder of the American Institute of Professional Geologists and was fifth member to be honored with their Ben Parker Award for service to the profession. He has done geological work in seventeen states and is registered as a professional engineer as well as a geologist. His most notable publication was as co-author of The Bradford Oil Field which describes the structure of a typical oil field covering 85,000 acres in Pennsylvania and New York.

He has been active in Crown Heights and First Christian Churches in Oklahoma City and has been a deacon and elder and taught a Sunday School class. For three years he was president of the Friends of Public Libraries in Oklahoma City.

He was married in 1922 to Edna Cash, an O. U. graduate and niece of Roy E. Stafford, editor and publisher of the Daily Oklahoman from 1893 to 1918. They had one daughter, Mary Margaret, who was graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1946 with a degree in education and music. She is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta and Sigma Alpha Iota (honorary society) and did post graduate work in music and management of pre-school age children. After teaching in the Pryor Public Schools she became a demonstration teacher for pre-school children at O. S. U. In 1951 she married Robert Lee Pierce, now a sanitation engineer for the Kansas Public Health Department. They have two sons, David Michael and Stephen Kelly.

Mary Margaret's family now lives on land near Coldwater, Kansas, on which her mother, Edna Cash Newby's father and his brother filed as a Kansas homestead. David is in the Army helicopter unit at Fort Lewis in Washington, and Stephen was a senior in high school in 1974.

John A. Newby Family

The fifth member of the H. Warner Newby family, John Alexander, was born at Garden City, Kansas, January 8, 1894. He attended the engineering department at O. U. from 1912-1915. He operated the first garage in Norman. He had a talent for constructing things and one of his early projects was to build an automobile from miscellaneous parts and take his bride on a honeymoon trip in it. He married Maude L. Proffitt, June 14, 1916. The wedding was at her parents' home at 501 E. Main, Norman, Oklahoma. The ceremony was performed jointly by the groom's father, the Rev. H. Warner Newby, and the pastor of the First Christian Church of Norman, the Rev. David Wickizer. Maude was a graduate of Norman High School, class of 1915, and had attended O. U. for one year. They moved to Oklahoma City in 1917. From 1918 to 1940 John was with the Magnolia Oil Company, rising from mechanic to superintendent of construction and operations for the Oklahoma District. During 1940-1941 he was an engineer in the Canton Flood Control project on the North Canadian River, northwest of Oklahoma City.

From 1941 until his retirement in 1959 he was an engineer for the E. L. Dupont de Nemours Company, serving as an engineer on the construction of the Oklahoma Ordnance Works at Pryor, Oklahoma, and after that was completed, he was transferred to the design division of the engineering department in Wilmington, Delaware. His assignment there included participation in the design of the atomic bomb for the Atomic Energy Commission. Later he participated in forty major projects in seventeen states and two foreign countries developing electro-chemicals, explosives, pigments, heavy chemicals and insecticides for the company. He worked out methods by which the hazards of dynamite manufacturing were greatly reduced.

In Wilmington, John was active in Masonic work. He was a member of the White Shrine - N. U. R. He was a life-long member of the Christian Church with membership in Crown Heights in Oklahoma City at the time of his death.

His widow lives in Oklahoma City and also their son, J. A. Newby, Jr., who is with the Standard Asbestos and Insulation Company. He spent twenty-three years in the field in many states. The last three years he has been estimator on prospective contracts. During World War II he served for two years as a mechanic in the U. S. Airforce in the Panama Canal Zone.

In 1941 he married Lucille Howard. They have three daughters, all living in Oklahoma City. Ann Lucine (Mrs. Robert Yoder), Mary Sue (Mrs. Jerry Kimball), who has a young daughter, and Patti Jon, who has just graduated from high school and is still at home.

John and Maude also reared a foster son, Harry C. Proffitt, born in 1926. He served four years in the Navy during World War II. Beginning in 1946 he was employed by Western Electric. He became an instructor and supervisor of installations, including more than a year on the defense Deadline equipment and operations. At present he is with Wholesale Electronics Company of Tulsa.

In 1949 he married Orris Green of Ardmore. They have three

children -- Patricia (Mrs. Howard Hunt) of Bartlesville, Harry C. III of Oklahoma City, who is also with Western Electric, and John Floyd, a senior at O. S. U.

Warner Wilson Newby Family

Warner Wilson Newby, the sixth and youngest of the Newby family, was born in Denver, Colorado, in 1898. He enrolled in the University of Oklahoma in 1916. During World War I he served in the Marine Corps. After the war, he returned to O. U. and graduated in 1921 with a degree in geology. During his career as a geologist he worked for the Shell Oil Company and the Comar Oil Company. He worked out the structures for two small oil fields near Braman in Kay County and one in Sumnar County, Kansas. While he was in Oklahoma University he became a student volunteer for religious work in the Christian Church.

He married Elsie Fay Dougherty, an O. U. student, in 1922. He was killed in an automobile accident in 1926, leaving two small children. Elsie Fay (named for her mother), and Ben Warner. His widow later married Norman Welch who died a few years ago. She has made her home in Chickasha. The daughter graduated from O. U. and is married to Wilfred Weiss of Middletown, N. Y. They have two sons. Ben Warner graduated from O. U. and is a photographer with the Tulsa Tribune. He and his wife have two daughters.

After the children of Rev. and Mrs. H. Warner Newby were well on the way to graduating from the University of Oklahoma, settled in a career and married, Rev. and Mrs. H. Warner Newby moved from Norman to Oklahoma City to enjoy their retirement years. H. Warner Newby died in 1932 and his wife, Clara Newby, passed away in 1934. They are buried in Rose Hill Park, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Errett and Jerry are the only living members of the Newby family who came to Oklahoma in 1899, and all of whom spent much of their time in Norman from 1904 to 1921, and all of whom have contributed much to O. U. and to the state.