

In 1886 he moved to Henrietta, Texas, and four years later he moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where he opened his office for the practice of law. In 1896 Judge Williams moved to Norman where he practiced law until his death. In each of the various localities where he had settled he enjoyed a large civil practice as a lawyer and at one time was the Judge of Wichita Falls and Henrietta, Texas. He was a Democrat, a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and active in the Methodist Episcopal Church where he found many opportunities for service and held every office in the Church.

Ben F. Williams, Jr., was born at Grandbury, Hood County, Texas, on March 21, 1877, and died in Norman, Oklahoma, in 1946. He was educated in the public schools in Texas and graduated from high school at Henrietta, and thereafter was a student for three years in the Polytechnic College at Fort Worth, Texas. He moved to Norman with his parents in 1897 where he studied law in his father's office until his admission to the Bar of Oklahoma in 1899. His offices were in the Hullum Building on East Main Street in Norman until he moved to the City National Bank Building in 1925 where he maintained his offices until his death.

For over 46 years he was busy with a large civil and criminal practice.

His practice as a Criminal lawyer took him to all parts of the State, and he participated as counsel for the defense in most of the important murder cases in the State of Oklahoma tried during the years of his practice.

Ben F. Williams was a member of the Democratic Party and active in the County and State Bar Associations. He was a member of I.O.O.F., Woodmen of the World, Ancient Order of United Workmen of Norman and the Purcell Lodge of Benevolent Order of the Elks. He was a Stockholder and member of the Board of Directors of Norman State Bank which was succeeded by City National Bank of Norman, of which he was a long-time member of the Board of Directors.

He married Ninnis O. Hullum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hullum in 1900. The Hullums had moved to Norman from Breckenridge, Texas, in 1892, where he purchased and occupied a farm Northeast of Norman, on which is now located the Primrose Funeral Home, which was first occupied as the Hullum residence. John Hullum was active in Masonic work and established a hardware store on East Main Street in Norman in 1893, which was later known

as Hullum, Taylor & Minter Hardware Store. It was a landmark in Norman until the building was demolished for the construction of Security National Bank Building at the Corner of Main Street and Peters Avenue.

Ninnis O. Williams was born in Breckenridge, Texas, on December 23, 1880, and departed this life in Norman in May, 1952. She was a member of The First Baptist Church, Eastern Star, White Shrine, Past Matrons and several social and civic clubs which were interested in the development and improvement of Norman. She and Ben F. Williams were the parents of two daughters, Mrs. J. L. (Mildred Lee) Corbett and Mrs. T. R. (Margaret Lucille) Benedum.

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BEN F. WILLIAMS, JR.

Mrs. J. (Mildred Lee Williams) Coobett
Mrs. T. R. (Lucille Williams) Benedum
Among the present generation of Oklahoma lawyers, Ben F.

Williams, Jr., of Norman, Oklahoma, had a record that placed him among the leading attorneys of the State. He served as attorney for the defense in most of the noted criminal trials held since the admission of Oklahoma to Statehood in the Union. It was on the extent of his well-known qualifications as a lawyer that he was appointed by the Supreme Court as a member of the Bar Commission of Oklahoma which examines all applicants for admission to the Bar.

Ben F. Williams, Jr., was the son of Judge B. F. Williams who was also a prominent lawyer and well known in Texas and Oklahoma. His ancestors were of Welsh stock and were Colonial Pioneers in South Carolina. Judge Williams was born in Giles County, Tennessee, in 1826 and died in March, 1912. Reared in Tennessee, he went to Mississippi where he married Miss H. E. Rucker, and soon thereafter the family moved to Falls County, Texas, and from there to Hood County, Texas.

In 1878 Judge Williams and family located in Young County, Texas, which was then the Northwestern Frontier of the State.