

WILLIAM ELMER (BILLY) WILLIAMSON AND FAMILY

Eula Williamson Kelly

William Elmer Williamson, who was known by all as Billy Williamson, was born, December 12, 1864, in Madison County, Ohio. His Mother, Lide Gill, died when he was three years old. Later Joseph Williamson, his father, moved to Nebraska with Billy and his brother, Theodore Edward. There he attended school and grew to young manhood. The family then moved to Maryville, Missouri and was living there and working on the David Rankin Ranch when they learned the unassigned lands were to be opened to homesteaders. Billy, his father and brother made the run into the territory April 22, 1889. They crossed the South Canadian River near Purcell. He settled on a quarter section of land--NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 15--10N--4W--which is now S. W. 119th and South Meridian in Oklahoma City. Billy's brother's claim was just east of his and his father settled just north of the brother's place.

As soon as Billy was sure no one else was on his claim, he plowed a furrow around the claim. Early the next morning Billy discovered that another man was on his claim. Sometimes such a situation caused bloodshed, but since both men were of a friendly nature the dispute was settled amicably as the other man moved his claim south which no one else claimed.

Billy's possessions at that time consisted of a team of horses, a wagon, a plow, a gun, some hand tools, a few cooking utensils and a trunk with his clothing, bedding and personal belongings.

His first task was to dig a well. This was done by hand-exchanging work with his relatives and neighbors. Although Billy's cash was limited he was a good hunter. The area had a great quantity of wild game--quail, prairie

chicken, rabbit, as well as deer. He would kill prairie chickens, quail and rabbits, take them to Purcell and exchange them for lumber and other supplies. With these supplies he built a dugout for shelter. He did this by digging an eight by ten foot hole about three feet deep and lining it with 1 x 12 boards extending the boards about three feet above ground. The roof was made of boards and covered with soil which had been removed from the dugout. Soil was also filled in around the outside. A door and steps were placed at one end. Later he built a two-room house and until a real cellar was built, the dugout was used to store supplies that might freeze. His first crop was corn. Though Billy had been able to plow and plant but a few acres, he raised a bumper crop. As fuel was scarce and corn cheap, part of the corn was used as fuel.

Billy married Mary Elizabeth Hill (known by her family as Lizzie) February 10, 1892. She was born in Fayette, (Howard County) Missouri, November 17, 1867. Her father was Gilbert Hill and her mother was Mary Fannie Street. Lizzie's mother and father were divorced when she was about twelve years old. She had two younger brothers, William Hill and Ernest Hill. Her mother married Augustus St. Clair Garland and they moved to Cleveland County, Oklahoma, in 1890, buying a farm one mile north of the Williamson farm. She had three half brothers, Oswald, Fred Lee, and Oklay. Oklay was born in Oklahoma and was named after the Territory where he was born.

Lizzie and Billy first met at her home when her brother, Willie, brought Billy and some other young men there for water and to wash up when some of them had been thrown from some young horses they were breaking to ride. She had her own horse and side saddle and loved to ride. She played the organ and the guitar. Billy played the "fiddle" and often played for dances which were held in different peoples homes and at housewarmings. They became well acquainted

and soon a wedding was planned.

Later they often told their children of their wedding. They were married in the parlor of her home, February 10, 1892. As the organ began playing, the bride and groom and the couple who was to "stand up" with them left by the back door so they could enter the parlor by the front door where the minister and guests were waiting. As they hurried around the house, Lizzie stumbled and one hand and forearm went into a rain barrel full of water. The barrel had originally been a vinegar barrel, she quickly blotted up the water with the men's handkerchiefs and proceeded to the ceremony with a slight smell of vinegar about her.

The early years of marriage were busy ones for them. Lizzie always had a large garden. They also had a small orchard. Chickens, ducks and geese were also raised for food, for sale and for feathers to make feather beds and pillows. When the fruit ripened a stove was set up in the yard to cook apple butter which was always canned in half gallon jars. There was usually a well stocked cellar of canned fruits and vegetables and the "smoke house" was kept stocked with home cured pork. Billy raised registered Shorthorn cattle which he showed at fairs and stock shows where he won many ribbons. He had the first registered Shorthorn cattle in Cleveland County. He also raised Percheron horses and had a fine Percheron stallion. The main crop was usually corn but wheat, oats and alfalfa were grown. As the boys grew up each was given a saddle horse.

As various farmers decided to leave the area, Billy was able to buy more farm land until at his death in 1925 he owned 720 acres of farm land.

He served on the school board of Fairview School and was interested in all community affairs. He helped build the Antioch Christian Church in 1902.

Billy died May 22, 1925, and was buried at Pleasant Valley Cemetery at Wheatland, Oklahoma. Lizzie died September 12, 1954, and was buried beside him.

They had six children all born on the homestead. They are: Etta Dare, Walter Ivan, Everett Ross, Leonard Street (Dink), Eula Dean, and Mary Edna. Following is a discussion of the descendants of Billy (W.E.) and Lizzie Williamson through these six children.

I. Etta Dare Williamson (Shroyer) was born January 31, 1893, on the family homestead. She attended Fairview Elementary School and graduated from Washington Elementary School in Oklahoma City; she also attended Oklahoma City High School located at 4th and Walnut. She married Eugene Earl (Gene) Shroyer April 17, 1912. He was the son of Charles and Rebecca Alice Shroyer and was born May 23, 1891, on a farm that is now part of the Will Rogers World Airport.

They started farming immediately after marriage and farmed in the Antioch Community in Cleveland County all of their married lives. They had a Grade A Dairy and raised Holstein cattle on their farm located at what is now 104th and South Meridian. Gene owned a threshing machine in partnership with Wimer F. Siler and they traveled around with their threshing machine, which included a cook shack (a traveling kitchen and eating area, which served the men working in the harvest fields for them) and threshed for neighbors.

Gene and Etta were long time members of Antioch Christian Church which they both served faithfully. Etta taught a Sunday School class and Gene was a deacon, an elder and also served as Sunday School superintendent. Gene was active in community affairs. He was clerk on the Fairview School Board and served as a precinct official for the election board. He was president of the First National Bank of Wheatland. When the bank moved to Bethany and the name

was changed to the First National Bank of Bethany, Gene continued as president. He was Past Master of the Wheatland Uriah Masonic Lodge. He died May 7, 1942, and was buried in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Wheatland, Oklahoma.

Following Gene's death, Etta was elected Vice-President of the First National Bank of Bethany, Oklahoma. She continued to reside on their farm until her death January 7, 1950.

Four children were born to Gene and Etta.

A. Dorothy Irene Shroyer was born September 9, 1914. She lived on eighteen months and died March 4, 1916.

B. Esther Eugenia Shroyer was born February 24, 1916. She attended school at Fairview Elementary school. She lived with her mother on the home farm and after her mother's death she resided with her brother and sister. She was a member of the Antioch Christian Church and Antioch Social Club. She died April 7, 1970.

C. Charles Kenneth Shroyer was born January 7, 1920. He attended Fairview Elementary School, graduated from Moore High School and received his B. S. degree from the University of Oklahoma. Upon graduation he was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Army Reserve. He married Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Dake December 24, 1941. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Ivan Dake of St. Louis, Missouri, where she was born March 10, 1919. She attended Grand Valley school in Cleveland County, Newcastle High School and graduated from Capitol Hill High School, Oklahoma City. During World War II, Kenneth served at the Port of Embarkation, Charleston, South Carolina. Upon discharge from the Service with the rank of Captain, he began a career in the building trades and organized a wholesale distribution company covering Oklahoma and Western Arkansas. He later purchased the company and became its president.

Kenneth and Betty were both active in the Antioch Christian Church serving as teachers, youth sponsors and workers. He also served as Deacon, Elder and Sunday School superintendent. Kenneth joined the Free Masons at Uriah Lodge in Wheatland serving the various line offices stations, later on to become a 32^o Scottish Rite and a Shriner. He and Betty then became active in Eastern Star at Moore, Oklahoma, serving as Mother Advisor and Rainbow Dad of the Moore Rainbow Assembly. They helped organize an Eastern Star Chapter at Wheatland, served as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron and were honored by serving in the Grand Chapter of Oklahoma. Betty served as District Deputy, Grand Representative and Grand Ruth while Kenneth was appointed as Grand Sentinel, elected to Associate Grand Patron and in 1972 served as Worthy Grand Patron for the State of Oklahoma.

Kenneth is very active in civic work, serving as president of Stock Yards Lions Club, District Governor of Lions International, Chamber of Commerce, O.U. Touchdown Club, O.U. Tip In Club, All-Sports and Director of Stock Yards Bank.

Kenneth and Betty have two children.

1. Charles Eugene Shroyer was born October 3, 1943, in Summerville, South Carolina, while his family was in service there. Charles graduated from Moore High School and attended the University of Oklahoma and Central State College. Charles married Barbara Sue Thornhill of Moore, Oklahoma. He served two years in military service, later entering the wholesale material distribution field and serving as Assistant Branch Manager of Laminates Unlimited, Inc., in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Charles and Barbara have a son, Charles Kenneth Shroyer, II, born September 12, 1970. Barbara works for the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Charles is active in the Auto Sports Club and the Lions Club.

2. Shirley Annette Shroyer was born November 1946. Shirley graduated

from Moore High School and attended Oklahoma School of Banking in Oklahoma City. Shirley married H. Jay McCawley, Oklahoma City. Shirley and Jay have both been active at Antioch Christian Church as teachers and Youth Sponsors with Jay serving as Deacon on the Board, and leading a singing group for the young people. Shirley works at Kerr-McGee Oil Company as a secretary and Jay is employed as Assistant Branch Manager of Laminates Unlimited at Oklahoma City. Shirley and Jay have one son, Troy Dean McCawley, born January 19, 1970.

D. Jeanetta June Shroyer (Morrow) was born June 19, 1930. She attended Fairview Elementary School, graduated from Moore High School and attended Hills Business College. She was employed at the Stock Yards Bank, Oklahoma City, when she met and married Howard Glenn Morrow, son of Louis Doss Morrow, Carlstad, New Mexico, and Helen Myers, Oklahoma City, August 7, 1950. Howard was born on August 7, 1927. Howard and Jeanetta are active members in the Antioch Christian Church. Jeanetta serves as church clerk and secretary and Howard is an elder and the chairman of the church board. Howard was on active duty in the Navy during World War II as a fire controlman and was recalled to active duty to serve the same position during the Korean War. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a EDD and is now an elementary school principal in the Oklahoma City Public School System. They have two children.

1. Stephanie Jean Morrow was born December 8, 1952. She graduated from Moore High School and is a student at Midwest Christian College, Oklahoma City.

2. Kenneth Glenn Morrow was born April 23, 1962. He is a student at the Fairview Elementary School, which carried on the name of the original Fairview Elementary School in the Antioch Community where many of his ancestors attended.

II. Walter Ivan Williamson was born February 2, 1894, at the family homestead. He attended Fairview Elementary School and when the family moved to Oklahoma

City he graduated from Washington Elementary School. He attended Oklahoma A. & M. College at Stillwater, Oklahoma studying agriculture.

On April 21, 1915, he married Mary Lee White of Moore, Oklahoma. She was born April 19, 1896, at Bristol, Tennessee, the daughter of John Goforth and Alice Ramsey White.

Walter was in construction work in Oklahoma City. He also owned a delivery company in the city. Walter returned to the farm in Cleveland County and helped organize the R. E. A. in 1936 and wired many homes in the area. Walter assisted in drawing up the plans and building the present Cleveland County Fair Building. He was Soil Conservation supervisor in 1948 and served on the soil conservation committee for years and has received a thirty year pin for his services. Walter was elected president of the Cleveland County Hereford Breeders Association in 1948 when it was organized. He and Mary were active members in the Antioch Christian Church. He served as a deacon many years and served on the building committee to rebuild the original building which burned. Mary died December 8, 1965. Walter still has a herd of Registered Polled Hereford cattle and is now married to Violet Owens.

Walter and Mary had two children.

A. Daisy Lee Williamson (Vaughan) born February 21, 1916. She attended Fairview Elementary School, Harding Junior High and Central High School in Oklahoma City. During World War II she was employed at Douglas Air Craft and at the Naval Supply Depot, San Pedro, California. She married James A. Vaughan, Jr., June 22, 1946. He was in the U. S. Navy where he served ten years. They returned to Oklahoma City after traveling around the United States while in the service. Daisy has served as President of Capitol Hill Republican Club, and is active in Woodson Park Homemaker's Group. They have two daughters.

1. Teresa Gaye Vaughan born November 18, 1955.

2. Cheryl Kaye Vaughan born January 16, 1957. Both girls attended Garfield Elementary, Roosevelt Junior High, Oklahoma City, and now are attending Moore Senior High School.

B. William Ivan Williamson was born January 14, 1921. He attended Emerson, Horace Mann and Putnam Heights Elementary School, Oklahoma City, and Fairview Elementary School. He graduated from Moore High School. He attended Hill's Business College, then enlisted in U.S. Air Corps. Bill was a pilot in World War II and served $6\frac{1}{2}$ years in Africa and Italy. He was employed at the Hughes Aircraft Company, Los Angeles, California, after the war, where he engaged in missile research. He married Glennavera Matinsen of Oak Park, Minnesota.

They now live in Cleveland County on S.W. 119th Street where he farms and raises Registered Polled Hereford cattle. He has received Grand Champion and other ribbons on his cattle in various stock shows. They have two children.

1. Walter David Williamson born October 26, 1958, a student at Moore Junior High School.

2. Stephen-Erick Williamson born November 11, 1961, a student at Moore Elementary School.

III. Everett Ross Williamson was born September 23, 1895, at the family homestead. He completed elementary School at Fairview and attended Hill's Business College. Everett married Snowdie Bascom Adams February 21, 1917. She was the daughter of Bascom and Lillie Adams of Winchester, Kentucky, where she was born February 16, 1900.

When they were married they moved to a farm SW $\frac{1}{2}$ of 11-10-4 (S.W. 119th and S. Meridian) where they began farming. They still live at the same farm. Everett raised wheat, oats and alfalfa. Snowdie always had a garden, in fact still does, and her hobbies have been fine needlework in which she is very

proficient. They raised chickens and sold the eggs to a hatchery. They have always had good cattle and for the last several years have had a good herd of Registered Polled Herefords. They have two children.

A. Margaret Louise Williamson (Burkett) born October 27, 1922. She went to Fairview School through the elementary grades and then went to Moore High School. She married Gordon Willis Burkett May 7, 1941. He was born December 26, 1919, at Newcastle, Oklahoma, son of Ed and Auda Burkett. Gordon was in the Air Force when they were married and served for twenty years. He is now retired from the Air Force and they live in Oklahoma City. They have two daughters.

1. LuAnn Burkett (Baker) was born November 25, 1953. She graduated from Grant High School, Oklahoma City. She married William Richard Baker, August 6, 1972. He was born August 13, 1951, the son of Howard and Horntense Baker.

2. Deborah Lee Burkett was born June 22, 1957, on Guam, while her parents were there with the Air Force. She attends Grant High School in Oklahoma City.

B. Billy Bascom Williamson born January 2, 1926. He graduated from Moore High School and entered the Air Force. He served in Europe during World War II. He married Geraldine Lee Harry November 17, 1951. She was born February 21, 1929, at Ralston, Oklahoma, the daughter of Ora Guy and Geraldine Mildred Harry. Billy owns the Oklahoma City Landscape Nursery which he started as soon as he was discharged from the service and lives at 119th and S. Meridian in Cleveland County. Bill and Jerry have three children,

1. Guy Bascom Williamson was born November 5, 1952. He graduated from Moore High School and is a student at Central State University, Edmond, Oklahoma.

2. Candace Louise Williamson was born April 10, 1954. She graduated from Moore High School and is a student at Central State University, Edmond, Oklahoma.

3. Bob Darrough Williamson was born December 3, 1956. He is a student

at Moore High School.

IV. Leonard Street "Dink" Williamson was born February 4, 1900,⁴ at the original homestead. He attended Hill's Business College and was in the restaruant business, and later he owned and operated a delivery business in Oklahoma City. He became interested in Registered Herefords and raised them for a number of years on his farm in Cleveland County.

He moved to California in 1958 and managed the American Hotel, Crockett, California, until 1969 when he returned to Oklahoma to retire.

Dink now resides on his farm at 12701 South Meridian, Oklahoma City. He is a 32 degree Mason and a Shriner.

V. Eula Dean Williamson (Kelly) was born June 2, 1907. She attended Fairview Elementary School, Central High School, Oklahoma City, and Central State College, Edmond, Oklahoma. She taught school at Fairview School for four years and married Delmar Leeroy Kelly, son of John Dudley and Edna Maud Kelly, December 24, 1926. He was born March 1, 1906, at Winfield, Missouri. They farm and raise Polled Hereford cattle on their farm north of the Williamson homestead in Cleveland County. Both have been active in all the community affairs through the years. They are active members of Antioch Christian Church. It is located one mile east of the Williamson homestead and was founded in 1902. They have served as Christian Endeavor sponsors. Eula has taught Sunday School and Delmar served as a deacon, treasurer, an elder, and chairman of the board of the Antioch Christian Church. In 1971 he was voted elder emeritus by the congregation. They have two children who grew up in and lead active church lives.

A. Virginia Lee Kelly (Shroyer) was born April 20, 1931. She attended Fairview School and was graduated from Moore High School. She married John Charles (J.C.) Shroyer, the son of Eddy J. and Pearl Shroyer, on November 4,

1949. He was born September 24, 1925. They live in Cleveland County on the farm his Grandfather, John D. Shroyer, homesteaded in 1889. Virginia and J.C. are active members of Antioch Christian Church. Virginia is in charge of the nursery department and J. C. is an elder. He also teaches a Sunday School class and works with the music department in the church. They have two children.

1. Mary Margaret Shroyer (Harding) was born February 17, 1951. She attended and was graduated from Moore High School. She married Dennis Wayne Harding, son of Lawrence and Christine Harding, June 12, 1970. They are now living in Missouri where Dennis is stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood.

2. John Charles Shroyer, Jr., was born June 23, 1952. He attended and was graduated from Moore High School. He is now employed at Wilson's Certified Foods, Oklahoma City.

B. John Wayne Kelly was born July 30, 1934. He attended Fairview School and Moore Elementary School, graduated from Moore High School. He graduated from Hill's Business University. After working as an accountant for two years he entered the University of Oklahoma where he graduated with a B. B. A. degree. He is now a contract negotiator at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City. He married Sharon Kaye Drews, daughter of Ralph E. and Clara Drews, February 24, 1967. She was born December 9, 1947. John and Sharon are active at Antioch Christian Church, where John is an elder, church treasurer and choir director. Sharon teaches Sunday School and sings in the church choir. They have one son, Darren Lee Kelly, who was born August 19, 1970. They reside in Oklahoma City.

VI. Mary Edna Williamson (Love) was born at the original homestead January 29, 1912. On May 20, 1939, she married Jack Albert Love who was born in Lawton, Oklahoma, December 7, 1910, the son of John A. and Maggie Love. Mary Edna attended Capitol Hill High School and graduated from Hill's Business College.

Edna worked as a secretary at U. S. Supply Company, in advertising at Armour and Company and during World War II was in charge of Gasoline Rationing Department at Douglas Aircraft. She studied tax accounting and after the war was with Van-Grise Oil Company as a tax accountant for fifteen years. She is a member of the 89'er Organization, Oklahoma City. Her husband, Jack, graduated from Lawton High School, attended Oklahoma State University and has been Chief Construction Engineer for Hudgins-Thompson-Ball and Associates, Oklahoma City for twenty years. He is a 32nd degree Mason, and a member of Professional Construction Engineers. They have two children.

A. Jack Winston Love was born October 12, 1940. He graduated from Classen High School and the University of Oklahoma with a B.A. and the University of Oklahoma Law School, J.D., and is now an attorney with offices located in the Hightower Building, Oklahoma City. He is a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, a Shriner, a Lt. in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Judge Advocate Group and was the Oklahoma County Chairman for the Re-Election of President Nixon, 1972. He is married to Gay Ellen Elder, daughter of Don J. and Libby Elder. They were married December 27, 1962. Gay was born June 4, 1942. They have one child, Laura Elizabeth Love, who was born December 20, 1970.

B. Vicki Jean Love was born September 6, 1945. She was graduated from Classen High School. She received her B.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma. After graduation she taught English at Midwest City Senior High School. Vicki moved to Washington, D. C. in 1969 and joined the staff of U. S. Senator Henry Bellmon until 1970 when she moved back to Oklahoma City and became a member of Senator Bellmon's staff at his offices there. She is a member of Junior Hospitality, Phi Beta Phi Sorority and the Lyric Theater.