

NECROLOGY

JOSEPH HUCKINS, Jr.
1870-1933

Joseph Huckins, Jr., born May 14, 1870 at St. Louis, Missouri, 12th & Olive Streets, and died August 24, 1933 at the original Huckins Homestead at Effingham Falls, New Hampshire, (interment at Oklahoma City), was the son of Joseph Huckins, Sr. and his wife, Augusta (Stock) Huckins.

His grandfather and grandmother were Nicholas E. and Nancy Shute Huckins of Effingham Falls, New Hampshire, and his father was a hotel man and for a time connected with the Parker House in Boston, Massachusetts and later in the hotel business at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D. C. and then with the Planters Hotel in St. Louis and the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois.

Joseph Huckins III, son of Joseph Huckins, Jr. and his wife, Olive Mills Huckins, who died October 26, 1934, and was interred at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, comprise ten generations from 1620. A Huckins ancestor to whom trace is made back to 1620 through Robert Huckins is Charles E. Huckins of the Revolutionary War for whom a monument was erected in Woburn, Massachusetts.

The said Joseph Huckins, Jr. and his wife, Olive Mills Huckins, had two children, a son, Joseph Huckins III, who is an officer in the Military Service of his country in World War 2, and a daughter, Mrs. Glory Huckins Morris of Houston, Texas, active in U. S. O. Joseph Huckins III has a 17 year old daughter, Patricia.

Joseph Huckins, Jr. was chairman of the Citizens Advisory Capitol Committee, created by the Oklahoma State Capitol Commission to advise with said Commission in the construction of said Capitol building and he and the other members thereof rendered valuable service in said respect.¹

At the time of his death he was president of the Huckins Hotel Company which at that time operated the Huckins Hotel at Oklahoma City and six other hotels. Starting in the hotel business at the age of 17 years, he saw the family's hotel enterprise expand from a 60-room hostelry at Texarkana, Arkansas to the Huckins Hotel, Oklahoma City, the Vendome Hotel at Knoxville, Tennessee, Huckins Hotel, Sedalia, Missouri, Caddo Hotel, Shreveport, Louisiana, Westbrook Hotel at Fort Worth, Texas, and the Kemp Hotel at Wichita Falls, Texas, the Oxford Hotel at Enid, Oklahoma, the Marion Hotel at Little Rock, Arkansas, the Majestic at Hot Springs, Arkansas, the Paxton at Omaha, Nebraska, the William Len, Memphis, Tennessee and the Sir Francis Drake in San Francisco, California.

As his health began to fail and for that reason partially retiring from business activity, his brother, Marquand Huckins, Secretary of the Company, succeeded to the management of the Hotel at Oklahoma City and a brother, Paul G. Huckins, Vice President and Treasurer, succeeded to the management of the remaining hotels, except the Sir Francis Drake Hotel which was managed by his brother, Leon Huckins. A sister, Mrs. Horace Carpenter of Shreveport, Louisiana, also survives.

When the Oklahoma State Historical Building at Oklahoma City was constructed in 1929 he was a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee and gave advice and counsel in its successful construction.

During World War I he was a member of the Oklahoma County Council of Defense and participated in other Domestic Defense War Activities.

As a fine citizen, husband, father and brother he will be remembered.
Durant, Oklahoma

—R. L. WILLIAMS.

¹ Volume 5, *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, p. 100-101; *Session Laws of Oklahoma* March 24, 1916-August 28, 1933, and page 34 ante.

JOHN HILL HARPER
1857-1942

John Hill Harper was born at Americus, Georgia, September 6, 1857. He departed this life on July 21, 1942.

Shortly after his birth his parents moved to southern Alabama, where they lived on a farm near Evergreen, Conecuh County, until after the close of the Civil War. They then moved to Titus County, Texas, where their son, John, received all of his schooling, which would probably correspond to a high school education. Not having the opportunity of a college education, he studied law in the office of Judge Wm. P. McLean¹ 1836; moved with his mother to Marshall, Texas, in 1839; attended private schools until seventeen years of age, and graduated from the law department of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1857; admitted to the bar in 1857 and commenced the practice of law at Jefferson, Marion County, Texas; member of the State house of representatives in 1861; resigned to enter the Confederate Army as a private; promoted to Captain and then Major, and served throughout the Civil War; again a member of the State house of representatives in 1869; was elected as a Democrat to the 43rd Congress (March 4, 1873—March 3, 1875) and was not a candidate for renomination in 1874; resumed the practice of law in Mount Pleasant, Titus County, Texas; member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1875; elected Judge of the Fifth Judicial District in 1884 and was not a candidate for re-election; a member of the first State Railroad Commission in 1891; resigned and moved to Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, in 1893; resumed the practice of law; died in Fort Worth on March 13, 1924; interment in Mount Olivet Cemetery, at Mt. Pleasant, Texas. After some time spent in the study of the law in the offices of Judge McLean, he was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Texas on October 25, 1887. Shortly thereafter he removed to Bowie, Texas, where he opened a law office. He became attorney for the Fort Worth & Denver Railway Company, which company he represented for several years.

While residing at Bowie, Texas, he married Miss Mattie Lee Gwaltney, to which union three children were born, Earl and Irvin, his sons, and Frieda, his daughter.

In 1892 he removed to Belcherville, Texas, and was there engaged in the practice of law until 1894.

In those days the Indian Territory just across the Red River from Belcherville was growing and developing. Ryan, Oklahoma, was a Federal court town and in 1894 Harper went to Ryan, Oklahoma; was admitted to practice in the courts of the territory and there opened a law office² and was there engaged in the practice of law until 1912. After bitter county seat fights, the county seat of Jefferson County was moved to Waurika, Oklahoma, and in 1912 Judge Harper, as he was now being

¹ *William Pinkney McLean* was born in Copiah County, Mississippi, August 9,

² J. H. Harper (as he was carried on the rolls of the Indian Territory Bar association) attended a convention of the people of the Indian Territory, held at McAlester on February 22nd and 23rd, 1900; on the evening of the 22nd, which was Washington's birthday, 1900, the Indian Territory Bar Association was organized and he became an original member of the Indian Territory Bar Association and the records show that he remained a member until it was merged in the Oklahoma Bar Association at Shawnee in December, 1904.

At the convention of the people of Indian Territory so held on February 22nd, adjourned over to February 23rd, 1900, a movement was set on foot to bring about statehood. The call for the convention having been issued on February 3, 1900, it met at 10:30 A. M. at McAlester on February 22, 1900. J. H. Harper was one of the two members from Ryan that attended the convention. The other member was L. T. Russell, who later removed to California. L. T. Russell, also attended the organization of the Indian Territory Bar Association.

called, moved with his family to the new county seat, where he lived until his death. At Waurika, Judge Harper practiced law continuously, with the exception of a period of four years during which he served as County Judge of Jefferson County, being elected to that office in 1928, and serving in that capacity for two terms.

As a practicing attorney he was especially proficient in pleading and practice. He was noted for his ability to preserve a record in the trial of cases for purposes of appeal. He was above the average in height, with a powerful physique, which, together with his stentorian voice, made him an impressive figure in the early day courts of southern Oklahoma.

John Harper was a man of strong convictions, outspoken in his views and fearless in support of them. As a public official he was capable, courageous and conscientious. Perhaps his salient characteristic, however, was his unquestioned integrity.

In addition to being admitted to practice in Texas and Oklahoma and in Federal district courts, he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States.

He is survived by his two sons, Earl Harper, manager of Hale-Halsell Co., McAlester, Oklahoma; Ivin Harper, engaged in the insurance business Waurika, Oklahoma, and his daughter, Frieda Harper, a bookkeeper in the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., his wife having preceded him in death.

A worthy citizen has passed away.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

—EARL PRUET.

WILLIAM TECUMSEH SHERMAN HUNT

1868-1942

William Tecumseh Sherman Hunt, son of Captain Oliver Perry Hunt and his wife, Eliza J. (McDowell) Hunt, born near Tuscola, in Douglas County, Illinois, March 1, 1868 and died in Los Angeles, California on November 12, 1942, where interment took place.¹

His ancestors on both the paternal and maternal sides fought on the side of the Colonies in the Revolutionary War, and said Oliver Perry Hunt was Captain of Company K, 125 Illinois Regiment on the side of the Union in the Civil War and was with General Sherman in his march to the sea.

He was: (1) a member of the Methodist Church, (2) a life member of Siloam Masonic Lodge, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, (3) a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, (4) of the Red Men, and (5) of the Knights of Pythias.

He was educated in the Public Schools of Tuscola and Lee's Academy, Arcola, Illinois.

He came to Oklahoma County in 1892 and located on a farm west of Britton and for nearly a quarter of a century was active in the affairs of Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. He was a delegate from District 29, comprising a part of Oklahoma City and said county, to the Convention to frame a Constitution for the State of Oklahoma, being elected as a Democrat, and in said Convention took an active part in creating the Senatorial District comprised of Oklahoma and Canadian Counties and in forming the same territory into a judicial district, and served on the following committees: (1) Municipal Corporations; (2) Privileges and Elections, (3) Impeachment and Removal from Office; and (4) Public Debt and Public Works.

During the sessions of the Convention, on December 24, 1906, he and Miss Mamie Virginia Shelton, a native of Alabama, were married and she and two sons survive him. To this union came two sons: William Shelton, born September 18, 1908 and Hal Hudson, born November 3, 1909,

¹ *Oklahoma City Times*, November 14, 1942.

and reside at the following places, respectively: 1309 Garden Street, Glendale, California, and 1215 Sanborn Avenue, Los Angeles, California, to which city their father and mother had removed from Oklahoma, their interest in public affairs in Oklahoma not abating.

A fine citizen, a devoted and faithful husband and father has passed to the other shore.

R. L. WILLIAMS.

DAVIS HILL
1863-1942

Davis Hill died May 24, 1942 at the age of 78 years, 8 months and 3 days, interment at Vinita, at which place he had lived since 1884. In said year he entered the Mercantile Business with his Uncle, William E. Little, and in 1887, having acquired his interest entered into a partnership with his father, George W. Hill and his brother, Robert L. Hill, under the firm name of Davis Hill and Company, which continued for more than fifty years, carrying on most of the time a retail business in hardware and clothing at Vinita and in hardware and drugs at Claremore.

On the organization of the Vinita National Bank in 1897, Davis Hill was elected cashier, and served in such capacity from 1897 to 1903, when he became manager of the Ratcliff-Sanders Wholesale Grocery Company. From 1905 to 1916 he was President of the Vinita National Bank.

He assisted in the organization of the Indian Territory Telephone Company in 1899, and was its Treasurer until its lines were taken over by the Pioneer Telephone Company in 1904, when he became a director of the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph Company and so continued until same was absorbed by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

In the early development of the shallow oil fields of the Eastern part of the State he participated in the organization and operation of several companies—among which were the Mustang Oil and Gas Company, the Rose Oil and Gas Company, and the Shamrock Oil and Gas Company.

In 1895 he established the Vinita Leader as a Democratic Newspaper in which he had an interest until 1903. In 1896 he was a member of the Democratic Executive Committee of the Indian Territory, and in that year as an alternate delegate attended the National Democratic Convention in Chicago. In 1900 he attended the National Democratic Convention at Kansas City as a delegate from the Cherokee Nation of Indian Territory.

He served several terms as a member of the city council of Vinita, and, in 1904, was chairman of the committee responsible for the building of its first waterworks and sewer system.

He also served several terms as a member of the Vinita School Board, and was chairman of the committee which arranged for the purchase of the buildings and grounds of the Worcester Academy in 1902, for the use of the city public schools.

He was a member of the State Board of Education, 1915-1918, inclusive, and retired therefrom in January, 1919. During this period said board was ex-officio a board of Regents for the Oklahoma State University at Norman, Womens College at Chickasha, Normal Schools at Edmond, Alva, Weatherford, Ada, Durant, and Tahlequah, and had supervision of the Orphanages at Pryor and Helena, the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Sulphur and school for the Blind at Muskogee, and also ex-officio constituted a Text Book Commission, among all of which duties his acts were characterized with diligence, fidelity, honesty and wisdom.

Davis Hill was of English, Scotch-Irish, and Cherokee Indian ancestry, born September 21, 1863, at Lafayette, Georgia, the son of George W. and Rachel (Davis) Hill. His paternal grandfather, Adam Hill, emi-

grated from Northern Ireland to the United States soon after the close of the American Revolution and before 1790 and settled in Abbeville District, South Carolina. His paternal grandmother, Nancy (Tourtellot) Hill, a daughter of Asa and Avis (Hines) Tourtellot of Pendleton District, South Carolina, traced her ancestry back to Roger Williams.

His maternal grandfather, Martin Davis, a son of Daniel and Rachel (Martin) Davis, was a grandson of Brigadier General Joseph Martin of Virginia, and Susannah (Emory) Martin, of Cherokee Indian descent, a daughter of William Emory, and a granddaughter of Ludovic Grant, both early traders among the Cherokees. His maternal grandmother, Julia Ann (Tate) Davis, a daughter of Samuel and Mary (Griffith) Tate, was a granddaughter of John Tate, who emigrated from Londonderry, Ireland, to North Carolina in 1763.

On November 28, 1888, Davis Hill married Frances Elizabeth Parks, a daughter of Thomas Jefferson and Maria Ann (Thompson) Parks, of Beattie's Prairie, Cherokee Nation. Mrs. Hill, ten children, and eleven grandchildren survive. The children are: Rachel Hill, Vinita; Maria Ann (Mrs. Walter Parker), Santa Ana, California; Frances Elizabeth (Mrs. Frank Austin), Glendale, California; Mary Davis (Mrs. Russell Mayberry), Vinita; Josephine A. (Mrs. John Oliver), Knoxville, Tennessee; G. Robert Hill, Vinita; James J. Hill, Norman; Col. W. P. T. Hill, U. S. Marine Corps, New River, N. C.; John R. Hill, Vacaville, California; and 1st Lieut. Orval H. Hill, U. S. Army Air Force, Tulsa.

The grandchildren are: John Davis Hill, George M. Hill, Mary Louise Hill, and Charles Edward Hill, Norman; W. P. T. Hill, Jr., New River, N. C.; Dorothy Ann Parker, Santa Ana, California; Davis C. Mayberry, and Wahlelle Mayberry, Vinita; Frank Davis Hill, Tulsa; John Hill Oliver, and Francis Elizabeth Oliver, Knoxville, Tennessee.

A fine citizen—he lived a long and exemplary life, devoted to his family, home and observing every reasonable requirement as to his duty to the public and his pioneer associates.

R. L. WILLIAMS.

LUKE ROBERTS

1868-1942

Luke Roberts, born September 5, 1868, at Gainesville, Texas, son of Nathan J. Roberts and his wife, Mary (Huett) Roberts, died on October 5, 1942, interment at Arlington, Texas on October 6, 1942.

His paternal grandfather was Stephen Roberts of Ashville, North Carolina, maternal grandfather, Roland Hewitt of Illinois; and maternal grandmother, Mary Irvin of Arkansas.

He was educated in the local schools at Grand Prairie, and the high school at Arlington, Texas and the Granbury College at Granbury, Texas. His vocation was that of a school teacher. He was principal of grade school, Goodlett, Texas 1891-1895; Superintendent school at Quanah and Chillicothe, Texas; Principal of Seventh Ward, Fort Worth, Texas 1897-1899; Superintendent of school at Altus, Oklahoma, 1899-1901; engaged in the Mercantile Business at Olustee, Oklahoma, 1901-1906.

He was a delegate to the Convention to frame a constitution for the State of Oklahoma from District 49 and served on the following committees:

1. Designate and fix salaries of employees.
2. Mines and mining, oil and gas.
3. Impeachment and removal from office.
4. Insurance.
5. Public health and sanitation.
6. Public Printing.
7. Counties and County Boundaries.
8. Liquor traffic (chairman).

He was Postmaster at Hollis, Oklahoma, and Editor and Publisher of the Hollis Post Herald; and Mayor of Lovington, New Mexico; President of Lovington School Board; Chairman Lovington Welfare Committee, and OWA Administrator for Lea County, New Mexico, and Editor and Publisher of the Lovington Leader.

He married Clara Myrth Creighton. He leaves surviving a daughter, Mrs. Gus C. Anders, 4316 Kenwood Court, Fort Worth, Texas.

In 1936 he was Secretary of the Lovington Chamber of Commerce, continuing to 1941, and after 1936 operated a ranch near Lovington.

He was active in the Rotary Club and Methodist Church and affiliated with the Democratic Party.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, October 6, 1942 at Fort Worth; interment in the Arlington Cemetery; survived by his widow, Mrs. Clara Myrth (Creighton) Roberts and three daughters, Mrs. M. H. Woolridge, Altus, Oklahoma, Mrs. E. D. Vaden, Dallas, Texas and Mrs. Gus Anders, Fort Worth, Texas and a son, Paul Roberts, San Antonio, Texas and five grandchildren.

R. L. WILLIAMS.