

NECROLOGIES

THOMAS MAYBERRY RANDOLPH
1873-1943

Thomas Mayberry Randolph, son of Holland Coffey Randolph and Marie Lanham Randolph, was born in Grayson County, Texas, April 18, 1873, and died at Marietta, Oklahoma, September 9, 1943. He moved with his parents to the Chickasaw Nation February 2, 1874, and remained a continuous resident of the Indian Territory and later the State of Oklahoma until the day of his death.

His marriage to Mrs. Nellie Love Hill, daughter of Judge Overton (Sobe) Love of the Chickasaw Nation, in 1899, united two of the oldest families in Indian Territory and North Texas. Mr. Randolph is survived by his wife, five children, and fourteen grandchildren. His children are Mrs. William Lucas, Gainesville, Texas; Mrs. Jack Wilson, Marietta, Oklahoma; Mrs. John Anderson, McAlester, Oklahoma; and two sons, Sobe Love Randolph, of Marietta, and Thomas Mayberry Randolph who is now serving in the armed forces in Italy.

James Mayberry Randolph, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in 1802, the son of Isham Randolph of Roanoke, Virginia, who moved with his wife and children to McMinnville, Tennessee, early in the 19th century and there reared his family. In 1835, three young friends and adventurers, Holland Coffey, Silas Colville and James Mayberry Randolph, came west to Van Buren, Arkansas. The latter married Tabitha Shelton and continued his residence in Van Buren while Holland Coffey and Silas Colville moved to North Texas. Having been persuaded to move west by Holland Coffey, after the death of Silas Colville, James M. Randolph settled with his family in Grayson County, in 1844, while Texas was still a Republic. When his third son was born in 1845, he named him "Holland Coffey" after his old friend. James M. Randolph was elected the first sheriff of Grayson County, Texas, in 1846. His commission signed by the first Governor of Texas and attested by the Secretary of State will be presented to Grayson County at an early date by his descendants. He died in 1847, leaving a wife and five children, —Catherine, Elizabeth, William Colville, George Wirt, and Holland Coffey Randolph.

Judge Overton Love, the father of Mrs. Thomas Mayberry Randolph (nee Nellie Love), was the son of Henry Love whose father, Thomas Love, was an Irish Tory refugee who came to the Chickasaw Nation in Northern Mississippi soon after the American Revolution. He married a Chickasaw Indian and their three sons, Henry, Ben, and Isaac, were prominent in Chickasaw national affairs. They served as delegates to Washington and elsewhere while negotiations were in progress for the sale of Chickasaw lands in Mississippi. The names of all three were among the signers of the Treaty of Pontotoc in 1832, conferring the sale. Judge Overton Love, the son of Henry Love, and a member of the Chickasaw Nation moved with his family to the Indian Territory in 1844. Some years later before the Civil War, he settled in what is known as Love's Valley, now in Love County, Oklahoma. Judge Love served as a member of the Supreme Court of the Chickasaw Nation and always took an active interest in Chickasaw affairs. As the years passed, he became a man of wealth and influence in the Indian Territory, Love County being named for him in appreciation, by the delegate from his district in the Constitutional Convention for the future State of Oklahoma.

The family records of the Randolphs and the Loves are a part of Oklahoma's history. It was the character of pioneer men and women, both among the Indians and the white settlers that enabled them to brave life on the frontier and to establish schools, churches, towns, and farms in the wilderness of the Indian Territory and North Texas one hundred years ago, and has enabled their descendants and others who came later to create so quickly the progressive States of Oklahoma and Texas.

Thomas Mayberry Randolph, the subject of this sketch, was a man of high honor and integrity. He lived his life of three score years and ten true to the traditions of his ancestors. A prosperous rancher during most of his life, he also had other interests in oil and in land in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. He was prominent in public affairs in southern Oklahoma in early days. Believing in good government and in the selection of the right men to govern, he always took an active interest in local and State politics. He was a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a Knight of Pythias, and a member of the Methodist Church.

Mayberry Randolph, the name by which he was best known among his friends, was Christ's definition of a Christian, for throughout his life, he gave of his substance to those in need who passed his way. Many persons owed him money and some never paid but his innate nobility prevented his ever reminding them of their obligations. Mayberry Randolph was too generous for his own financial gain, but who can measure his spiritual reward?

So has passed a true son of the old frontier, a descendant of a proud colonial family who settled in Virginia three hundred years ago, a man whose epitaph should read "One of God's noblemen."

By Jessie R. Moore

Oklahoma City

JOSEPH PATRICK O'BRIEN 1887-1943

Joe O'Brien (christened Edward Joseph—Confirmation name Patrick) was youngest of four children, born to Patrick and Brigid Higgins O'Brien, on August 13, 1887, in Clark County, near Winchester, Kentucky, and died on October 5, 1943 at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; interment in Rose Hill Cemetery. Other children of that union were James who died in infancy, Margaret O'Brien Stewart, Lexington, Kentucky, and Thomas B. O'Brien, Amarillo, Texas.

Patrick O'Brien, father of Joe O'Brien, was born in Limerick, Ireland, on August 15, 1828, and died in Winchester, Kentucky, on June 11, 1894. Parents of the said Patrick O'Brien, born in Limerick, Ireland, were Thomas and Mary O'Brien, who was of same family name but no relationship to her said husband. This marriage united two of the oldest families in Ireland, known for their patriotism and loyalty and ready response to call of duty.

Thomas O'Brien, the grandfather, and whose wife was the said Mary O'Brien, died in Limerick in 1836 or 1837, where he was buried. Their daughter, Margaret, who died in childhood, is also buried in Limerick. Other children of the union of the said grandparents were Thomas, James, Katherine and Johanna.

In the decade immediately preceding the War Between the States, the said Mary O'Brien and her five children came to the United States, locating in Clark County, Kentucky, and lived to the age of 96 and is buried in Calvary Cemetery, Lexington, Kentucky.

The said Brigid Higgins O'Brien, the youngest of six children, was born November 11, 1855 to Michael O'Brien and his wife, Brigid Higgins, nee Moran, at Boyle, County Roscommon, Ireland, and died December 13, 1920 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Other children of this union of Michael O'Brien and his wife, Brigid Higgins O'Brien, nee Moran, were Michael, Thomas, Patrick, Anne, and Margaret who died in childhood. The said Brigid Higgins O'Brien and her daughter, Brigid, came to America in 1879 following the death of her husband, Michael, who is buried in the family burying ground at Killaright, three or four miles from the town of Boyle, Roscommon County, Ireland. She died a few years after coming to America, at the home of her daughter, Anne Burke, and is buried in Paris, Kentucky.

Joseph Patrick O'Brien received his primary education in the public schools at Winchester and for one year attended Kentucky Wesleyan College. His family in 1906 moved to Lexington. His first employment there was with the Traffic Department of the East Tennessee Telephone Company. His newspaper career began in Winchester in 1908 where he was correspondent for the Lexington Herald. His later assignment covered the activities of the Burley Tobacco Raisers Association, which organization had recently come into existence. It was through this work that he received such recognition as a newspaper man as to be called to Lexington to do reportorial work for the *Herald* in that city. After covering many important assignments he left Kentucky in January, 1910 to become associated with his brother-in-law who had recently bought the *Enid Morning News*, Enid, Oklahoma. His work was afterwards recognized by *The Daily Oklahoman* and he became a member of its staff in 1912 and in turn covered the City Hall and other assignments and then became Reporter at the State Capitol. He covered all Sessions of the Legislature as well as all State Departments. In 1917 he resigned his position with *The Oklahoman* and became private secretary to the Governor, and served in that capacity until March 31, 1917 when he became the Washington Correspondent for *The Oklahoman* and opened up the Washington Bureau during World War I, an important post as it had to do with all war news. He covered both the United States House and Senate as well as the War Department and all other agencies of interest to Oklahoma, and advised all Oklahoma families direct of war casualties, etc.

After the close of World War I he returned to Oklahoma and was with *The Oklahoman* until December 23, 1919 when he again became private Secretary in the Governor's Office for four years.

In January, 1923 he became a Member of the 9th Legislature from the 5th District of Oklahoma County. After the adjournment of the Legislature he again became a reporter for *The Oklahoman*.

In 1926 as a State Representative he was with the Barber Asphalt Company. In 1928 he was secretary-manager to the Oklahoma Motor and Truck Operators Association, in which capacity he served until he resigned to become manager for the Yellow Transit Freight Lines in Oklahoma City.

In 1931 he was publicity director and statistician for the State Highway Department serving until December 31, 1934. In January, 1935 he became secretary to the State Corporation Commission and served in that capacity four years, later being appointed Oil & Gas Inspector of Oklahoma County for the same department.

When the United States Employment Service (now the War Man Power Commission) was established he became Informational Director, which position he held until his death.

In the latter part of 1930 and through 1931 when the late Judge Samuel W. Hayes was Chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee he was publicity director of the State Democratic Headquarters and filled the same position while R. M. McCool was State Chairman.

He was Publicity Director for the campaign committee that managed the campaign for Tom Anglin in his candidacy for Governor.

On September 1, 1926 Joe O'Brien and Mary Gorman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thomas Gorman, of Oklahoma City, were united in marriage, and she survives him.

The first term of his position as private secretary to Governor of the State did not last long on account of the World War I being on and his services being needed by *The Oklahoman* as a reporter from the Washington Office, but as private secretary his association with the writer created a lasting friendship and now having crossed the Great Divide, it is my pleasure to aid in recording his efficient and brilliant services and attest to his sterling character.

By Robert L. Williams

Durant, Oklahoma

JAMES J. SAVAGE

1871-1943

James J. Savage, the oldest son of a large family, was born in Grayson County, Texas, on September 16, 1871, and died at Hollis, Oklahoma, on October 4, 1943. His parents, the Reverend H. T. Savage, a Baptist preacher, and his wife (nee Laura Harmon), having moved from Missouri to Grayson County, removed to Brown County, Texas, while their son, James, was a child. He was reared and educated in Brown County. Industrious and energetic, he did not hesitate to take hold of any labor that was honorable. At the age of twenty-one years, he graduated from the Business Department of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, Texas, in which institution he was also a student in the Department of Education. He taught school for eight years in Texas.

In 1898, he located in what was then Greer County and filed on land at McKnight, later moving north of the Salt Fork where he and his family afterward maintained their home. He was a member of the Baptist Church, a Mason and an Odd Fellow. He taught school and was cashier of a bank, taking part in every progressive and worthwhile enterprise and holding many important places of trust throughout his life.

He was elected as a delegate to represent District 48 in the Convention to prepare a constitution for the State of Oklahoma, having been nominated as a Democrat on September 28, 1906, receiving in the primary 608 votes to 227 on the part of his opponent. He served in the Convention on the following committees: (1) Education, (2) Immigration (Chairman), (3) Homestead and Exemptions, (4) Legislative Apportionment, (5) Public Health and Sanitation.

He was a member of the Second State Legislature, from Greer County, postoffice McKnight. He served on the State Board of Agriculture for eight years, as follows: Appointed by Governor Robert L. Williams May 19, 1915; reappointed by Governor J. B. A. Robertson January 18, 1919, and served until May 1, 1923. He served as warden of the Granite Reformatory from February 18, 1926, to January 18, 1928. He served as president of the Altus Production and Credit Association from its organization until January, 1943, when he retired on account of his health.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, Mrs. Harry Ratliff of Mountain Park and Edna Savage of Fort Supply; six brothers, W. T. Savage, Dallas, Texas; George B. Savage, Brownwood, Texas; J. B. Savage, Roswell, New Mexico; Edgar Savage, Los Angeles, California; Carroll Savage, Abilene, Texas; and two sisters, Mrs. Edna Savage Saunders, Brownwood, Texas, and Mrs. May Savage Douglas, San Antonio, Texas; two grandchildren, Harry O. Ratliff, Jr., Mountain Park, Oklahoma, and Dorothy June Duvall, Dodson, Texas; and one great-grandchild, Melvin Goldwyn Duvall, Dodson, Texas. His grandson, Lt. James J. Ratliff, U. S. army air corps, died in action December 28, 1943, in England.

As a fine and exemplary citizen, husband and father and public servant, the Honorable James J. Savage will be remembered in Oklahoma. Members of the Masonic and Odd Fellows' lodges, in regalia, had charge of the final rites at the cemetery, where he was laid to rest as one of Harmon County's most outstanding citizens.¹

By Robert L. Williams

Durant, Oklahoma

¹*Harmon County Leader*, October 7, 1943; *Daily Oklahoman*, October 5, 1943.

ALBERT LYMAN WELSH

1859-1934

Albert Lyman Welsh, son of John and Jerusha Welsh, was born December 8, 1859, in Geauga County, Ohio, and died November 9, 1934, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The father was a farmer, both he and his wife being of sturdy pioneer stock and members of the Baptist Church in Ohio. The son, best known to his friends as "Al" Welsh, was educated in the public schools of his native state. He moved west as a young man and served four years as assistant postmaster at Newton, Kansas.

On May 1, 1889, ten days after the "Run," Al Welsh came to Oklahoma City where he was appointed and served three years as assistant cashier of the Citizens' Bank. He was married on July 15, 1890, in Oklahoma City, to Annie Laurie Robertson, a daughter of Robert Hamilton and Martha Robertson, of Madisonville, Kentucky.

In December, 1892, Mr. Welsh entered into partnership with J. M. Owen, in the abstract and real estate business, a partnership that continued for forty-one years. For eleven years, Mr. Welsh was secretary of the Oklahoma City Building & Loan Association until elected its Vice-President and Director, serving in these offices for many years.

He was actively engaged in all forward looking, civic matters, serving two years on the the City Council and four years on the School Board. He always maintained active membership in the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and the First Baptist Church. In politics, he was a Republican. He directed the Community Fund's activities for a year, as President of the Fund. He served the '89ers Association for a term and was included in the Association's roll of Charter Members. He was a 32nd Degree Mason, member of Oklahoma City Lodge No. 36, Free and Accepted Masons, and of Oklahoma Consistory, No. 1, Guthrie. He was a member of India Temple, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine; and of the Oklahoma Golf and Country Club, and the Oklahoma Club, Oklahoma City.

He is survived by his wife, and son, Francis; daughter-in-law, Lena, and grandson, Albert Lyman Welsh, II.¹

¹Data supplied by the family and by reference to Joseph B. Thoburn and Muriel H. Wright, *Oklahoma: A History of the State and Its People* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1929), Vol. III, p. 88.