

SAMUEL LONG MORLEY 1872-1944

By Robert L. Williams

During his life time, few men in Oklahoma were honored in more ways or more often than Samuel Long Morley, his positions of responsibility and trust testifying to his broad vision and whole hearted support of all that looked toward the development and advancement of the new State.

Samuel Long Morley, son of George and Lydia Butler James Morley, was born at Honey Grove, Texas, on September 14, 1872, and died on February 14, 1944, interment in Rose Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City. His father, George Morley, was a native of Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England, and had two brothers: John Morley, an officer in the British navy, and William Morley, an officer in the British army who died in Australia; and three sisters, Mary, Ruth, and Isabelle. George Morley came to America at the age of twenty years, and enlisted and served in the United States Army during the Mexican War. After the close of the War, he married Lucinda Gray in Sebastian County, Arkansas. To this union were born four children, namely three sons, Henry, James, and Thomas; and one daughter, Dora, who died at the age of five years.

The three sons, Henry, James, and Thomas grew to manhood, James dying young and unmarried. Henry Morley and his wife, Roxanna Campbell born and reared near Washburn, Arkansas, were the parents of Albert, George, Mattie, Samuel Earl, Babb, and Mary. Thomas Morley married near Spring Hill (or Barling), Arkansas, Manervi Ross who was born in Tennessee. They were the parents of Ella, Fred and Eddie (twins), Jim, Will, and Artelee Morley. Thomas Morley and his second wife were the parents of Ted and Ruth Morley.

After the death of his first wife, George Morley married his second wife, Lydia Butler James, at Fort Smith, Arkansas, in about 1860. She was born near Jacksonville, Tennessee, the daughter of John and Sabrina Hays James. The latter had two brothers: Sam Hays who owned a large plantation on the Arkansas River, near Van Buren, Arkansas, before the War between the States; and Jackson Hays, also a landowner, who lived near Hamburg, Ashley County, Arkansas. The children of John and Sabrina Hays James, in addition to their daughter, Lydia, were: Gabriel James, who served two terms as representative in the State Legislature from Scott County, Arkansas; Andrew James, a well known physician of Scott County, Arkansas; Samuel James, a farmer and one time mayor of Spiro, Oklahoma; Daniel James and Thomas James¹ who were killed or

died during the War between the States; and Susan James Rogers, Mary James Minnier, and Narsisus James, all three sisters being members of the Methodist Church and of the Eastern Star, and all are deceased. All the brothers are deceased and all were Confederate soldiers and members of the Methodist Church, Gabriel and Samuel also being members of the Masonic Lodge.

George Morley died in 1880, at Washburn, Arkansas, and is buried there. His wife, Lydia Butler James Morley, died and was buried in 1899, at Greenwood, Arkansas. On account of disorganized conditions in Western Arkansas during the War between the States, they had moved to Honey Grove, Texas. To them were born eight children, only four of whom lived to be grown: Mary, Ruth, Samuel (the subject of this article), and Kathryn (Kate).

Miss Mary Morley, his oldest sister, served with distinction as a teacher and supervisor in Indian schools for over thirty-six years, and now resides at Eufaula, Oklahoma. Mrs. Ruth Morley Hays, who resides at Eufaula, and her deceased husband, Frank Hays, were parents of two children: Mrs. Lela Graham, McAlester, Oklahoma; and Ralph Hays, Richmond, California. The youngest sister, Kathryn (Kate) Morley, married Mack Parker (now deceased) and they were the parents of one daughter, Kathryn, who is a teacher in the High School at Knoxville, Tennessee.

Samuel Long Morley married Jennie Clark at Winona, Minnesota, on November 12, 1902, the daughter of George W. and Jennie A. Lockwood Clark, both of Winona. Mr. and Mrs. Morley were the parents of four daughters: Naomi Jennie, born December 15, 1903, and India Genevieve, born January 25, 1905, both died in infancy; the third daughter, Margaret Morley, is the wife of I. M. Parrott (residents of Tipton, Oklahoma), and they are the parents of two daughters, Sarah Jane, born May 1, 1940, and Mary Nell, born April 4, 1944; and the fourth daughter, Elizabeth Morley, is the wife of Robert G. Shaw (2307 Guilford Lane, Oklahoma City), and they are the parents of one son, James Morley Shaw, born August 28, 1942.

¹ The following notes from the records of the Confederate States Army in the State of Arkansas were received from the War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Robert M. Dunlop, Brigadier General, Acting The Adjutant General, in a letter dated from Washington, D. C., August 26, 1944, addressed to Judge Robert L. Williams, President, Oklahoma Historical Society: "The records show that one T. P. James, also found T. B. James, but not as Thomas James, a private and sergeant of Company B, 15th (Johnson's) Regiment Arkansas Infantry, Confederate States Army, enlisted 17 October 1861, at Camden, Arkansas. The Union Prisoner of War records show that he was captured 16 February 1862, at Fort Donelson; was imprisoned at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, and died 10 March 1862. The name of his widow was recorded at Mary J. James."

After entering the University of Arkansas in March, 1889, Sam Morley, as he was known to his friends, taught at intervals in the district schools at Central and at Pleasant Grove, in Sebastian County, Arkansas. A sturdy son, he helped his mother in carrying on the work on the family farm of eighty acres in Sebastian County and, also, helped his three sisters, all of whom received good educational advantages. Leaving the University in January, 1895, Mr. Morley assumed the duties the next month as principal teacher of Armstrong Academy, Choctaw Nation, serving in this position until appointed Superintendent of the Academy in August, 1900. On September 1, 1903, he was transferred to Jones Academy, as Superintendent, near Hartshorne, Choctaw Nation. In July, 1910, the United States Government took over the Indian schools but he remained in the service until September, 1912, when he became President of the First National Bank of Hartshorne.

On January 11, 1915, by appointment of the Governor and confirmation of the State Senate, Mr. Morley became a member and the Secretary of the State Board of Affairs, serving until July 1, 1916, when the State Board of Affairs appointed him Warden of the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester. He resigned this position on July 1, 1919, to take up the duties as President of the American National Bank of McAlester.

During World War I, he was Colonel of the Second Regiment of the Oklahoma National Guard which was organized but did not go into active service on account of the Armistice. While he had been a student of the University of Arkansas, he had taken an active participation in military training which later qualified him as an officer in the National Guard.

He was a member of the Masonic Blue Lodge at Hartshorne and of the Consistory of McAlester, Oklahoma (32nd degree Mason). He was also a member of the Kappa Sigma college fraternity. While President of the American National Bank of McAlester, he served as officer in various civic organizations at different times. He served as President of the Oklahoma State Bankers Association, and as President of the State Game and Fish Commission and, also, as President of the Isaac Walton League in 1925. He had hunted small game when a youth in Arkansas, and after coming to the Indian Territory, he and some of his friends acquired a lodge in a canyon of the Gila River in New Mexico where he hunted every season for ten years. After retiring as Warden of the penitentiary, he once stated that he did not believe any real sportsman would willingly commit a felony.

An outstanding, vital contribution to the development of the State was his untiring effort to better living conditions for the farmer, especially the cotton farmer, through selling of farm pro-

ducts through collective marketing organizations. On May 29, 1925, he was elected to membership on the directorate of the Oklahoma Cotton Growers Association, a co-operative organization for the sale of cotton by the farmer directly to the spinner, thus securing to the farmer himself all the profits from his product. A year later (August 1, 1926), upon request of the Board of Directors, Mr. Morley accepted and became the General Manager of the organization, bringing to it his wide experience in the business world. As a result of the efforts of this association and similar associations throughout the South, the collective marketing of cotton by the farmer himself became a factor in the cotton business of the world. As General Manager of the Oklahoma Cotton Growers Association, Mr. Morley became a member of the directorate of the American Cotton Growers Exchange, the over-all sales agency for the cotton co-operatives of the nation with connections all over the world.

Alert to every factor that might inure to the benefit of the farmers, Mr. Morley joined with other leaders of agriculture throughout the nation in calling the attention of the national government to the plight of the farmer group and in seeking assistance for it in the same way that industry had been assisted by the national government. With the creation of the Federal Farm Board by the national government, he urged officials of farm co-operatives throughout the nation to join him in urging the Federal Board the necessity for a federal agency for the governing of all cotton co-operative associations. Meeting with signal success in his efforts, he assisted in the preparation of the by-laws and constitution in organizing the American Cotton Co-Operative Association, with headquarters at New Orleans, Louisiana. It was while he was at New Orleans, Louisiana, at a meeting of the Association on August 13, 1930, that he had a paralytic stroke which continued and disabled him from active service the rest of his life.

As a fine citizen, a devoted and faithful husband and father, son and brother, and as a loyal friend and public servant, Honorable Samuel Long Morley, will be remembered in Oklahoma.