

## WILLIAM BROWN MORRISON

1877-1944

*By Robert L. Williams*

William Brown Morrison, son of James Davidson Morrison and his wife, Laura Chapin Morrison, was born June 12, 1877 in the Monmouth Church Community near Lexington, in Rockbridge County, Virginia. To this marriage union came four children:— Charles, who died at the age of seven years, William Brown, Kenneth Lamar and Mary Irene (Mrs. R. T. Phelps), now deceased.

John MacCorkle, brother of Alexander MacCorkle, serving on the side of the Colonies, was killed at the Battle of Cowpens. Margaret, the niece of said Alexander MacCorkle, and the daughter of his brother, William MacCorkle, married William H. Morrison, the grandfather of William Brown Morrison. William Alexander MacCorkle's mother (Governor of West Virginia (1893-1897), born Lexington, Virginia, May 7, 1857, died Sept. 24, 1930) was Mary Morrison, of the same Morrison line.<sup>1</sup>

James Davidson Morrison, Captain of his Company (Kerr's Creek Confederates) Virginia Volunteers, which subsequently became Company H and Company G, 58th Regiment Virginia Infantry, Confederate States Army, entered the service August 1, 1861 at Staunton, Virginia at the age of 30 years.<sup>2</sup>

His maternal grandfather, Charles Chapin, for many years was County Clerk of Rockbridge County, Virginia, and his father, James Davidson Morrison, was a Member from Rockbridge County of the Virginia House of Delegates, 1874-1875.

William Brown Morrison was married on Christmas day 1902 to Christine Dorman Barton and to this marriage union came the following children, who survive him:—

Lt. William B. Morrison, U. S. Navy;

Lt. Ross W. Morrison, U. S. Navy;

James Davidson Morrison, Assistant Manager of Ground School at Rankin Aeronautical School, Rankin, California;

Mrs. Natalie Virginia Denison, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma;

Mrs. Elizabeth Chapin Stephany, Dayton, Ohio; and

<sup>1</sup> *Who Was Who in America 1897-1944* (Chicago, 1942), p. 760, also *Recollection of Fifty Years of West Virginia*.

<sup>2</sup> Information from Brigadier General Robert H. Dunlop, Acting The Adjutant General, letter of July 24, 1944.

Three grandchildren:— Gertrude Ann Morrison, William Barton Morrison, Jr., and James Harris Denison, Jr., survive,

and all of whom attended the funeral at the First Presbyterian Church (U.S.), in Durant, Oklahoma, on March 22, 1944. Interment was in Highland Cemetery, Durant, Oklahoma.<sup>3</sup>

Having received his primary education in the schools of Rockbridge County, Virginia, he was a regularly matriculated student in Washington and Lee University from September 9, 1892 to June 16, 1897, on which date he graduated therefrom with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

In June 1894 he was awarded the Latin Scholarship, and in June 1895 the Franklin Society Scholarship, and in June 1896 the James J. White Scholarship. The Franklin Society Scholarship was conferred on a student living in Rockbridge County, Virginia, and in competition for this scholarship the student's record during the previous two years is taken into account, first year students not being eligible. The James J. White Scholarship was supported by a memorial fund of \$1500.00 contributed by the alumni and friends of the University, being conferred for high attainments in the advanced courses in Greek.

He was a teacher of Latin, Rockville (Md.) Academy, 1897-1900; principal High School, Beaumont, Texas, 1900-1902; Vice-President and a teacher of Latin in the Durant Presbyterian College (U.S.), Durant, Ind. Ter., 1902-1904; Williamson, W. Va. Presbyterial Academy (U.S.) 1904-1907; whilst there he owned and operated a newspaper, *The Williamson Enterprise*; President Oklahoma Presbyterian College (U.S.) for Girls, Durant, Oklahoma, 1910-1920; from 1920 to 1922 engaged in bookstore business in Durant; 1922 until date of death, Professor of History in the Southeastern State College at Durant. While Professor of History at Durant State College during a vacancy in the Presidency, he acted ad interim as President and during that interval successfully and satisfactorily administered the affairs of the college; Member of the Oklahoma Advisory Commission of Education, Presbyterian Church in U. S.; Member Classical Association, Middle West and South; D. Litt., Austin College, Sherman, Texas, 1917; Trustee Austin College; Trustee Oklahoma Presbyterian College; President of Robert L. Williams Municipal Library Board of Durant, Oklahoma; Master of Arts Degree from University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, 1925.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 45, Durant, Oklahoma, Knight Templar, Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of the World, Red Red Rose, Teachers' Organization, and a Democrat.

<sup>3</sup> *Christian Observer*, July 4, 1944, Louisville, Ky.

He occupied a prominent place in the Southwest as an author and writer, and a poet, many of his poems being published in the *Anthology of Poetry by Oklahoma writers*. Among the books of which he is author are: *Red Man's Trail*, *An Oklahoman Abroad*, *Out in Oklahoma*, and *Military Camps and Forts*.<sup>4</sup>

A fine and public spirited citizen, an admirable Christian gentleman and liberal churchman, and faithful husband and father, his memory remains as an inspiration.

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- <sup>4</sup> (a) *Diary of Rev. Cyrus Kingsbury*, 3 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 2 (June 1925), p. 150-157;  
 (b) *Fort McCulloch*, 4 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 3 (Sept. 1926), p. 216-222; 222;  
 (c) *Fort Washita*, 5 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 2 (June 1927), p. 251-258;  
 (d) *Fort Arbuckle*, 6 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 1 (Mar. 1928), p. 26-34;  
 (e) *A Visit to Old Fort Washita*, 7 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 2, (June 1929), p. 175-179;  
 (f) *Fort Towson*, 8 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 2 (June 1930), 226-232, 255-256;  
 (g) *Cornstalk The Shawnee*, 9 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 1, (Mar. 1931, p. 13-16;  
 (h) *Old Philadelphia Baptist Church*, 13 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, (Sept. 1935), p. 266-272;  
 (i) *The Sage of Skullyville*, 16 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 2 (June 1938), p. 234-240;  
 (j) *Colbert Ferry on Red River, Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory*, 16 *Oklahoma Chronicles*, No. 2 (June 1938), p. 302-314.