

NECROLOGIES

HENRY CARLYLE POTTERF

1859-1944

Henry Carlyle Potterf was born at Eaton, Ohio, on June 1, 1859, his parents being William H. Potterf and Susanna (Shidler) Potterf. His parents moved from Ohio to Johnson County, Missouri, when he was but an infant, and his father served for some years as a soldier with the Confederacy. His early education was obtained in the schools of Missouri, and he attended the State Normal School at Warrensburg, Missouri. After spending some years as a teacher he attended the Law Department of Washington University at St. Louis and was graduated in Law from that school in 1888. He was admitted to the Bar at St. Louis in 1888 and practiced his profession at Harrisonville, Missouri, for two years.

On July 28, 1890, (Ardmore's birthday) he arrived in Ardmore and established his office for the practice of law. He continued in the practice at Ardmore from that time until advanced age and the ravages of arthritis caused him to retire. He retired in 1942 after continuously practicing in Ardmore for fifty-two years. He died at his home on July 4, 1944, at the age of eighty-five years.

Under the administration of Governor Lee Cruce he was a member of the Text Book Commission. This was one Text Book Commission about which there was no scandal. He was then a member of the State Board of Education when it had jurisdiction of all of the state schools including the University. He was later and for many years a member of the State Bar Commission, having jurisdiction over the admission of applicants to the Bar. Upon the reorganization of the Bar under the statute of 1929 he became a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar, serving for three years in that capacity. He was a Grand Chancellor of the Knights of Pythias for the State of Oklahoma.

He was united in marriage with Miss Elise Garard Wagonlaender, on December 26, 1893, at Sedalia, Missouri, and the gracious and talented Mrs. Potterf promptly became and for many years, until her untimely death, remained one of the most respected and admired ladies of the City of Ardmore. Though he survived her by twenty-five years, he never remarried. Of the union there were born three children. The first died in early infancy. The other two surviving him are Mrs. Elise Potterf Chapman, wife of a leading business man and a State Senator, and William Henry Potterf, a successful oil operator. Also surviving are two grandsons of school age, Fred A. Chapman, Jr., and William Carlyle Chapman.

He was not by nature strong physically but by his customary careful attention to all problems, built up his health, and aided by an even temper and unexcitable disposition, conserved his strength and outlived his own estimate of his expectancy by many years, and when the end came was the last of his generation of his family, and very close to the last of those who with him in their prime built the City of Ardmore. His bright and analytical mind was almost the last function to fail him. He was entertaining and pleasing in his conversation until almost the last.

During the fifty-two years of his life as a practicing lawyer in Ardmore Judge Potterf, as he was usually called, was a recognized leader of the Oklahoma Bar. He preferred the quiet of his office to the turmoil and contest of the court room but was capable in court when the occasion

required him to appear. He was painstaking and exact in his work, and his advice to friends and clients was thoroughly sound. His advice was widely sought not only on matters of law but also in business transactions and in other fields. His many friends and clients profited much from their talks with him. More often than otherwise he did not expect or require payment for the time thus consumed and, although his advice was greatly appreciated and highly regarded, his friends and others undoubtedly imposed on his good nature and consumed much of his time in the office without compensating him in a material way. He had the highest respect of all persons, both lawyers and laymen.

He was widely known over the state and always known for his absolute integrity. His name was a symbol for integrity and so regarded not only by other members of the bar but by persons of all professions and classes. He was a leader not only in the law but also in business. For more than thirty years he was an inactive officer and a director of and attorney for one of the leading banks of Ardmore. He was a director and an officer of a wholesale grocery house. He organized the original telephone company serving Ardmore. And he was a leader in his church, the First Presbyterian Church of Ardmore.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bar Association of Carter County, Oklahoma, that in the death of Henry Carlyle Potterf the Carter County Bar Association and the Bar of Oklahoma have lost one of their most estimable members; that the City of Ardmore, the County of Carter, and the State of Oklahoma have lost an outstanding and leading citizen, a staunch supporter of all that is correct and right; and that his family have lost a loving father whose life has been for them a shining example. It is our firm belief that the State of Oklahoma is greatly better by reason of Henry Carlyle Potterf having lived for more than fifty-four years within its confines.

BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the District Court of Carter County; that copies thereof be furnished to the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, the State Historical Society, the Daily Ardmoreite, and to the members of his family.

Earl Q. Gray
John M. Poindexter
H. A. Ledbetter
J. B. Moore

W. W. Potter
Committee of the Carter
County Bar Association.

Ardmore, Oklahoma.

CHARLES CALVIN FISHER
1867-1944

Charles Calvin Fisher, son of Sanford H. Fisher and his wife, Mary J. (Dixon) Fisher, was born near Lenox, Adams County, Iowa, on December 16, 1867, and died at Hinton, Caddo County, Oklahoma, on June 15, 1944.

He was educated in the schools of Iowa and followed the vocation of a farmer. He was married to Carrie B. Uglow on September 3, 1890 near Clearfield, Iowa.

With his family he moved to Oklahoma Territory in 1892 and secured a homestead claim in Blaine County, where he was elected and served as County Commissioner. In 1902 he removed from Blaine County to Caddo

County and later settled on a farm a few miles east of Hinton, in said County, and in 1918, with his family, moved to the town of Hinton where he and his wife maintained their residence until his death.

In 1906 he was elected as a Democrat from District No. 39 to the Constitutional Convention. In the Convention he served on the following Committees:—

Private Corporations
Mines and Mining, Oil and Gas
Impeachment and Removal from Office
State and School Lands
Public Printing.

In 1907 he was elected as a Member of the First Legislature of the State of Oklahoma from Caddo County. After the close of his term in the legislature he was appointed as School Land Inspector and Appraiser by the Commissioners of the Land Office and served in that capacity as needed until 1924 when he was appointed an Inspector for the Federal Land Bank and continued in that capacity as his services were needed until 1934.

In 1919 he became a member of the Methodist Church at Hinton under the pastorate of Rev. C. V. Beall. Eight children were born to him and his wife, two sons: Teddy and Arthur, who died several years ago, and four other sons: Major Tom Fisher, with the United States Army, now stationed in Italy, Lee Fisher of Geary, Oklahoma, Bud Fisher of Cherokee, Oklahoma, and Paul Fisher of Portland, Oregon, and two daughters: Mrs. Bill Parsons of Oklahoma City, and Mrs. Bernard Gerdes of Wellston, Oklahoma. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Bennie and Bobbie Gerdes of Wellston, Wanda Lee Parsons of Oklahoma City, Paula Jane and Charles Fisher of Portland, Oregon, and two brothers: Bill Fisher and Roy Fisher and three sisters: Mrs. Yaron, Mrs. Jarvis and Mrs. Johnson, all of the said brothers and sisters now residing in Iowa.

He was a devoted and loving husband and father and fine citizen and faithful friend.

R. L. Williams.

Durant, Oklahoma.

GEORGE McFARLIN TUCKER

1855-1936

George McFarlin Tucker, son of William Harvey Tucker and his wife, Mary Strickland Tucker, who came from Davidson County, Tennessee and settled in Marshall County, Mississippi, was born at Holly Springs in Marshall County on October 19, 1855, and died at Duncan, in Stephens County, Oklahoma, on September 1, 1936. Interment was in Odd Fellows Cemetery at Walters, Oklahoma.

In 1875 the family moved from Marshall County, Mississippi to Arkansas and in 1880 he went to Erath County, Texas, and taught school in Erath and Comanche Counties, Texas, for the next seventeen years.

In 1885 he was married to Miss Mary Sudie McCleskey of Stephenville, Texas, who died July 12, 1927 at the family home in Walters, Oklahoma, with interment in the Odd Fellows Cemetery. To this union came the following children, all of whom were living at the time of his death, to-wit:—

Alton, who died Dec. 15, 1942, interment at Duncan, Oklahoma;
Carroll, now a resident of Duncan, Oklahoma;
Hugh H., now a resident of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma;
Corum B., now a resident of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma;

Gaylon, who died Mar. 30, 1943, Los Angeles, California, interment Roosevelt Memorial Park;

Arthur, now a resident of Tuttle, Oklahoma;

Rev. Fred Tucker, Pastor Purcell Methodist Church, Purcell, Oklahoma.

On December 1, 1901, he removed from Texas to the Territory of Oklahoma and settled eight miles west of the town of Comanche, then located in Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, the place of his residence being in Comanche County, Oklahoma Territory, where he farmed and raised livestock and assisted in the building of the town of Corum and developing the community. An ordained minister of the Methodist Church, though not engaged as an itinerant ministry, he took the lead in organizing the Corum Methodist Church.

He believed in and supported the traditions of the democratic party. Beginning with 1902 he was for twelve years Justice of the Peace of the township in which Corum was located, to-wit:—McPherson Township.

After the death of his wife he moved to Duncan, making his home with his sons, Alton and Carroll.

At the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention to frame a Constitution for the proposed State of Oklahoma to embrace Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory he was elected as a delegate from District Fifty-five and served on the following committees:—

1. Geological Survey
2. Banks and Banking, Loan, Trust & Guaranty Company
3. County and Township Organization
4. Judiciary and Judicial Department
5. Suffrage
6. Contests.

On February 13, 1907 he served as Chairman when the Convention was as in Committee of the Whole,¹ and on March 4, 1907 the invocation at the morning session was delivered by delegate G. M. Tucker.² He was practically always present at the deliberations of that body and faithful and diligent in the discharge of his duties.

He was a good, faithful and worthy citizen, and husband and father, and as such his memory is preserved.

R. L. Williams.

Durant, Oklahoma.

JAMES RILEY COPELAND

1860-1942

James Riley Copeland, son of Alexander Copeland and his wife, Catherine Copeland, was born in Cherokee Nation, in what is now Delaware County, near Maysville, on December 10, 1860 and died June 2, 1942, at his home near Grove, Oklahoma, and was interred at Hickory Grove Cemetery near Grove, in Delaware County.³ He was born in what is now Delaware County in the Cherokee Nation and lived in it all of his life.

¹ Journal of the Constitutional Convention of Oklahoma, pp. 223-224.

² Journal of the Constitutional Convention of Oklahoma, p. 255.

³ *The Grove Sun*, Thursday, June 4, 1942.

His father, born at Tahlequah, was the son of Austin Copeland who was born in the Cherokee Country in Alabama and came West in 1835. His grandfather was a white man and his wife, Betty Wilson, a one-half Cherokee Indian.

He was educated in the common schools of Cherokee Nation and Male Seminary of the Cherokee Nation 1878-1879. His vocation was that of a farmer.

Under the Cherokee Government, having been in 1892 elected to the Cherokee Council, he was on the Committee that treated with the Commission that negotiated the agreement as to the sale of the Cherokee Outlet. As a Member of the Oklahoma Constitutional Convention, elected as a Democrat from the Sixty-Second District he served on the following committees:—

Immigration
Public Roads and Highways
Impeachment and Removal from Office
Convention Accounts and Expenses
Public Debt and Public Works
Coal, Oil and Gas.

His father was a Confederate soldier, under General Stand Waite, and was mustered out of service at Fayette, Arkansas in 1865.

He was married in 1882 to Cordila Harlanhad who died, with no children born to this union. In 1910, after her death, he married Belle V. Worthington by whom he had five children, four daughters, to-wit:—

1. Mrs. Irma Graves, 5414 NW 6th St., Miami 38, Florida,
2. Mrs. Quatsie Brim, 312 North Ora St., Pryor, Oklahoma,
3. Mrs. Rillene Richards, 312 North St., Pryor, Oklahoma,
4. Edna Mae Copeland, 1210 South Cheyenne, Apt. 310, Tulsa, Oklahoma,

and one son, to-wit:—

5. Riley Preston Copeland, 312 North Ora St., Pryor, Oklahoma.

In the early part of 1886 he was a member of the Indian Police under the Interior Department and in 1892 was elected to the Cherokee Council. Under the Administration of Chief Buffington he was a Revenue Collector.

During the administration of Governor Wm. H. Murray he was connected with the Highway Department as Maintenance Superintendent in several counties in Northeastern Oklahoma and from 1915 to 1919 was connected with the Game Department.

He is survived by his widow who lives with Mrs. Quatsie Brim, 312 North Ora Street, Pryor, Oklahoma, and his five children above named, five grandchildren, and two brothers, R. B. Copeland, Muskogee, Oklahoma and George Copeland, 410 Washington Street, Sand Springs, Oklahoma.

He was a loyal member of the Cherokee Tribe and a fine citizen of the State of Oklahoma and had seen public service not only under the Cherokee Nation but also under the State.

R. L. Williams.

Durant, Oklahoma.