

NECROLOGIES

THOMAS PITCHLYNN HOWELL
1849-1943

Thomas Pitchlynn Howell was born at Eagletown in the Choctaw Nation on August 23, 1849. His father, Calvin H. Howell, a native of Mississippi, died in the Choctaw Nation in 1868. His mother, Rhoda Pitchlynn Howell, lived to the ripe old age of nearly ninety years. She was of Choctaw descent and the sister of Peter P. Pitchlynn, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation from 1864 to 1866, who as a young man had taken an active part in the affairs of the Choctaws during their removal from their old homelands in Mississippi to the Indian Territory in the early 1830's.

Following his attendance at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, Thomas Pitchlynn Howell matriculated in the medical department of the University of Maryland at Baltimore and graduated from this School of Medicine in 1872, afterward serving as an intern in the University Hospital in Baltimore. He returned to the Indian Territory and began the practice of medicine at Atoka, Choctaw Nation, moving thence to Pauls Valley where he practiced two years. In 1875, he moved west in the Chickasaw Nation, locating five miles west of the present City of Davis, which was still his home at the time of his death in 1943. He became the owner of valuable lands and other interests, carrying on stock-raising and general farming on a large scale for many years.

Doctor Howell participated in the organization of the First National Bank of Wynnewood, serving as President until he sold his interests in the institution. He was one of the organizers of the First National Bank in Davis and was its President at the time of his death. He was interested in the development of the City of Davis, his residence erected in 1899 being one of the finest in that locality. He was also interested in the Wynnewood Cotton Oil Manufacturing Company.

In 1875, he married Miss Lizzie Grant, daughter of Tom Grant of Fort Arbuckle. She was born on September 14, 1855, and died on October 16, 1886. To this first union came three children: A daughter, Della, was born on August 11, 1876, and married the late Doctor Thomas Walker. She has one son, Thomas Howell Walker, and lives at Davis, Oklahoma.

A second daughter, Daisy, was born on June 28, 1881, and married Jess Shannon, both deceased.

A son, Calvin Hickman Howell, now deceased, was born on August 22, 1884, and married Miss Madaline Chambless.

In October 1887, Doctor Howell married Miss Henrietta Wright of Paris, Texas. She was born on July 23, 1860, and died on April 4, 1912. To this second union came four children: The eldest, a son, Thomas Pitchlynn Howell, Jr., was born on August 24, 1888, and married Miss Clay Draughon. They are the parents of a son, Thomas P. Howell, III, Lieutenant in World War II, who was taken German War prisoner; a daughter, Ella Reed Howell, who married Lt. Max Rogers of Blackwell, Oklahoma; a second son, Henry Howell, Seaman, Second Class, U. S. Navy; and a third son, Bob G. Howell, Sergeant, U. S. Army.

The second child of Doctor and Mrs. Howell, a daughter, Laura, born March 24, 1891, married Tom Youngblood of Davis. Their one son, Lt. Tom Howell Youngblood, has served in France during World War II. He and

his wife, the former Al Vera Jennings, of Wynnewood, are the parents of one son, Tom Howell Youngblood, Jr., who was Doctor Howell's only great-grandchild at the time of his death.

The third child, a daughter named Vivian Howell was born on July 24, 1893, and married J. P. Baldwin of San Francisco, California.

The fourth child, a daughter named Gladys Howell was born on June 22, 1895, and married Sam P. Hale of Ardmore, Oklahoma. They are the parents of a son, Captain Sam P. Hale, Jr., of Camp Hood, El Paso, Texas; and of a daughter, Mary Love Hale, who married W. H. Strongberg of Ardmore, now serving in the U. S. Navy.

Thomas Pitchlynn Howell, the subject of this sketch, died at Pauls Valley Hospital on Friday, July 16, 1943, at the age of 93 years, 10 months and 18 days. Funeral services were held at the Methodist Church in Davis on the Sunday following, conducted by the Reverend Robert J. Smith, Pastor of the First Methodist Church of Ardmore, assisted by the Reverend H. D. Raglan, Pastor of the Methodist Church of Davis. The remains were laid to rest in the family burial grounds two and a half miles west of Davis. Pall bearers were C. W. Grant, T. S. Grant, Ross Smith, John Butterly, T. S. Jamison, Fred Butler, Frank Stedman and Brad Moore.

Doctor Howell was a member of the Masonic Fraternity of Tyre Lodge No. 42, F. & A. M. He was a Royal Arch Masonic Member in the Ardmore Lodge and attained the Knights Templar degree in the Commandery at Purcell, Indian Territory. He belonged to the Mystic Shrine, was identified with the Nobles of India Temple, Oklahoma City, and was a member of the Ivanhoe Lodge No. 16, Knights of Pythias.

He was held in high regard in the councils of the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations and upon several occasions served as special delegate representing the nations before the Indian Department at Washington, D. C. He was a member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, and, also, a member and honorary President of the Garvin County Old Settlers Association. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Church of Davis, serving as a steward for many years. In 1896, he was a delegate to the Methodist General Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, and was delegate to subsequent general conferences. As long as his health would permit, no man was more active or more faithful to support the activities of the Methodist Church than Doctor Howell.

By Robert L. Williams

Durant, Oklahoma

JESSE KING HILL 1864-1945

Jesse King Hill, son of James Madison Hill and his wife, Mary Elizabeth (King) Hill, was born on May 22, 1864 in Calhoun County, Alabama, and died at Bartlesville, Oklahoma on February 25, 1945. Interment was at Owasso, Oklahoma.

When a child he was taken with his father's family to Texas and they remained in Vanzant County for a short while and he went to school there and thence they moved on to Ellis County and settled near Waxahachie and there he married Martha C. Zundel at Italy, Texas on January 18, 1883 and from thence he came to the Indian Territory and settled near Wagoner in the Creek Nation where he engaged in the cattle business for a while and thence he removed to near Owasso in the Cherokee Nation where he again engaged in agriculture and in the cattle business. The following children came to this marriage:—

1. Henry C. Hill, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and to him and his wife, Malissa Hill, came the following children: Mrs. Jerry Willis, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Mrs. Ralph Vanwy, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Mrs. James Brown, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Miss Geraldine Hill and Miss Imogene Hill of Bartlesville, Oklahoma.
2. E. A. Hill, 405 Callahan Street, Muskogee, Oklahoma, and to him and his wife, Alice Hill, came the following children: E. A. Hill, Jr., Billings, Montana, Jesse K. Hill, Jr., Corporal in the U. S. Military Service of the country, William Hill, Sergeant in U. S. Military Service, Mrs. Dora Bridenthal whose husband, William, is in the Navy and Josephine Teaff whose husband, Dr. Joe A. Teaff is Lieutenant in the Navy, and Henry Hill, a student in the Arkansas University.
3. David F. Hill, a widower, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma and who had no children.
4. Lt. Col. J. Lewis Hill, 2537 Cummings Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who has just returned from thirty-three months service in the European War, to him and his wife Katherine, came one child, Jack Hill.
5. Mrs. Joe Elam, 127 North Quapaw, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and to her and husband, Joe Elam, came the following children: Mrs. A. M. Jones, Greggton, Texas, Mrs. Jack Thurman, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Martha Joan Elam, Robert Eugene Elam and Donald Aaron Elam, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

His wife, Martha C. Hill, died June 4, 1944 and is buried at Owasso. All of his brothers and sisters are dead except one sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Martin, 3502 Parnell Street, Dallas, Texas. All during his adult life except during the last few years when he had retired he was engaged principally in the cattle business.

He was elected as a Democrat from District 63 in the Cherokee Nation to the Convention to frame the Constitution for the State of Oklahoma and served on the following committees:

1. Executive Department
2. Privileges and Elections
3. Mines and Mining, Oil and Gas
4. Manufactures and Commerce
5. Public Health and Sanitation
6. To Raise Funds.

In that convention he rendered faithful and patriotic service. During his entire life he was a good and law-abiding citizen.

By Robert L. Williams.

Durant, Oklahoma

GEORGE NORTON BILBY

1868-1939

Doctor George Norton Bilby, son of William S. Bilby and his wife, was born on March 6, 1868 in Wapella County, Iowa. His mother died while he was an infant, and he had no recollection of her. He attended the common schools of his native county and completed the high school course at Des Moines, Iowa, and graduated from the school of medicine of Louisville (Kentucky) University in 1894 and came to Oklahoma and engaged in the practice of medicine at Cushing and Stroud and removed to Alva in 1899 where he continued in the practice of medicine except when at the seat of Government in public service.

He married Alberta M. Stockbarger on Dec. 21, 1898, the daughter of Mathias Stockbarger and his wife, Malissa Hall Stockbarger. His wife was born Dec. 21, 1872 in Kansas and died May 26, 1940 at Alva, Oklahoma; interment at Alva. To them came the following children:—

Miss Afton Bilby, Alva, Oklahoma, instructor Northwestern State College;

Paul M. Bilby, Independence, Missouri, instructor American Aeronautical Company, whose wife was Jean Meir;

Lee S. Bilby, Bellflower, California; and the following grandchildren:—

Betty Lee Bilby, born March 6, 1925;

Barbara Dee Bilby, born July 11, 1928;

George William Bilby, born February 11, 1935.

He was connected with the following organizations:— Member of American Medical Association; Oklahoma State Medical Society; Woods County Medical Society; American Railway Surgeons Association; American Legion; and Kiawanis Club, and the Methodist Episcopal Church at Alva, Oklahoma.

In addition to being a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1906 as a Democrat from District No. 6, he was State Commissioner of Health from Jan. 1931 to Jan. 1935. In World War I he was a Lieutenant Medical Transport Surgeon. As a member of the Constitutional Convention from District No. 6, he served on the following committees:—

- (1) Board of Health in Constitutional Convention,
- (2) Homesteads and Exemptions,
- (3) Labor and Arbitration,
- (4) Public Health and Sanitation,
- (5) Insurance,
- (6) State and School Lands.

He died at Hine's U. S. Veterans Hospital, Hines, Illinois, on November 26, 1939, and was interred at Alva, Oklahoma. A devoted husband and father, fine citizen, faithful public servant, and eminent physician has passed on.

By R. L. Williams.

Durant, Oklahoma

JOHN LOUIS MITCH**1850-1926**

John Louis Mitch, son of John Mitch and his wife Mary, was born on March 1, 1850, at Lexington, Kentucky. His mother died when he was four years old, and four years later, his father died; both parents were from Alsace Loraine.

At the age of twelve without the consent of his guardian, he joined the United States service in General Croxton's Army in some capacity, and on February 28, 1863, when he was only thirteen years old he enlisted as an orderly. While serving at the Battle of Chickamauga, he was wounded from which he recovered slowly. After the War, he secured a place in the Internal Revenue Service at Louisville, Kentucky, in which capacity he remained until about 1871 when he moved to Rocky Ford, Colorado, where he engaged in sheep and cattle raising.

He came to Oklahoma at the time of the "Run" in 1889 and settled at Edmond where he did much for local improvements and was later elected mayor. He was cashier of the "Peoples Bank," the first bank organized in the town. He aided in securing the establishment of the Normal School at Edmond (now Central State College) and was one of the first members of the Board of Regents for the institution in territorial days.

For five years prior to the erection of the State, Mr. Mitch was Register of Deeds in Oklahoma County and, during the latter part of that period, was a member of the Constitutional Convention, elected on the Democratic ticket from District 29. As a member of the Convention that framed the Constitution for the State of Oklahoma, he served on the following committees: (1) Education, (2) Revenue and Taxation, (3) Insurance, (4) Revision, Compilation, Style and Arrangement, (5) Schedule.

He died on February 10, 1926, interment in Oklahoma City. At the time of his death, he was in the employ of the School Land Department, State Capitol.

On January 29, 1899, he was married to Lora Daisy Blizzard of Arcadia, Indiana, who was the daughter of John Wesley Blizzard and his wife, Margaret Elizabeth Blizzard. Mr. and Mrs. Mitch were the parents of John Louis Mitch, now of Terre Haute, Indiana; and of Mary Margaret Mitch, a nurse in Illinois State University Hospital, Chicago, Illinois.

John Louis Mitch, the subject of this sketch, was a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Democratic Party, and the Christian Church; and was a private in Company K, Fourth Regiment, Kentucky Mounted Infantry, U. S. Army, during the Civil War. Under appointment of Governor Renfrow, he served as World's Fair Commissioner from Oklahoma Territory in 1893, at Chicago. As a fine citizen and a faithful public servant, he will be remembered in the history of the Territory and the State.

By Robert L. Williams

Durant, Oklahoma