

LYMAN MOORE, SR., EDGAR ALLEN MOORE, LYMAN
MOORE, JR., HERBERT McCLAIN MOORE.

By Robert L. Williams

LYMAN MOORE, SR., was born in Sumpter County, in the western part of Alabama in 1837 and immigrated to the Indian Territory. He was of Creek Indian descent and received his education in Arkansas College at Fayetteville, Arkansas, attending here in about 1858. He married first Jenny Annesley, of Choctaw descent, a daughter of Gilbert Annesley, a white man, and his wife, Lettie, a Choctaw. Lyman Moore, Sr., and his first wife, Jenney Annesley Moore, had two children: a daughter, Ella Moore, who married a man by the name of James Barnett of Bokoshe who died at the age of seventy-five years; and a son, Frank Moore, who died near McAlester.

During the early 1860's Lyman Moore, Sr., traveled through the Indian country in the West trading with the Indians, buying furs and pelts. At that time his family operated a boarding house at Skullyville, at the Choctaw Agency. The boarding house was known as the Annesley Boarding House and Skullyville was then a flourishing place, taking its name from two Choctaw words "Iskvli Tamaha" meaning in English "Moneytown," the location where Choctaw tribal business was carried on and tribal annuities paid.

After the death of his first wife, Lyman Moore, Sr., lived in Van Buren, Arkansas, where the United States Court was then located. He acted as interpreter there from the close of the Civil War until the court was removed from Van Buren to Fort Smith, to which place he then removed. He spoke several different Indian languages.

On December 21, 1869, Lyman Moore, Sr., married as his second wife, Frances Eugenia McClain, at Skullyville, county seat of Skullyville County, where he owned a home and operated a general store and was County Clerk. Frances Eugenia McClain Moore, the second wife of Lyman Moore, Sr., was born on August 25, 1844, in Sumpter County, Alabama, the daughter of James and Susan McClain. James McClain was a Scot and Susan McClain before her marriage was Susan Moncrief and was of Choctaw and French descent.¹ James

¹ Mary Ann Moncrief was a sister of Susan Moncrief McClain and, therefore, was an aunt of Frances Eugenia McClain Moore. Mary Ann Moncrief married Robert McCarty who emigrated from Alabama and became a prominent citizen in Skullyville County, Choctaw Nation, West. Helen McCarty, daughter of Robert and Mary Ann (Moncrief) McCarty married Doctor Daniel Morris Hailey, a prominent

McClain brought his family to the Choctaw Nation and landed at the military post of Fort Coffee on the Arkansas River near Fort Smith and located on the Poteau River, eastern part of the Choctaw Nation, prior to 1848. On account of living conditions being so unsettled and disturbing they moved back to Alabama and later returned and built a home on the Poteau River. They owned Negro slaves, as did many Indian families of that day. When the McClains landed at Fort Coffee there was an epidemic of cholera and one sister and an infant died of that disease. Frances Eugenia McClain Moore received her education at the school for girls and boys at Cane Hill, Arkansas. Her husband, Lyman Moore, Sr., died on December 11, 1881, and she died on January 31, 1933. To this union were born the following children: Edgar Allen, Lyman (Jr.), Herbert McClain, Gertrude, Louis Oliver, Napoleon B., and Lena Belle.

EDGAR ALLEN MOORE, son of Lyman Moore, Sr., and his second wife was born at Skullyville on January 7, 1873, and received his education at Spencer Academy, Choctaw Nation; at Kemper Military Academy, Boonville, Missouri, and at Roanoke College, Salem, Virginia.² On January 7, 1897, he was married to Miss Jessie Ainsworth, daughter of Thomas D. Ainsworth (descended from the Bra-shears-Juzan family of Choctaw French descent) and his wife, Martha Ann Ainsworth.

Edgar Allen Moore was elected a member of the Choctaw Council in 1898 and again in 1900, serving until he was elected County Judge of Skullyville County in 1902. Two years later (1904) he was again elected member of the Choctaw Council and was serving in this position in 1906, at the close of the Choctaw government under an Act of Congress. Mr. Moore was a delegate to the Choctaw Convention at Goodland in 1934, at which time he was appointed a member of the Choctaw Advisory Council from Le Flore County with the approval of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and continued in such capacity throughout the remainder of his life. He was a member of the Oklahoma State Legislature from Le Flore County in 1907-08, was County Commissioner in said County in 1935 and served two years, and was Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee for six years. He was a Mason, Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shrine, and a member of the Episcopal Church. He was successful as a farmer and as a businessman generally. He died on January 7, 1945, and is survived by his wife and the following children: Pauline, Alvin, Southard, and Ainsworth.

citizen of McAlester, for whom Haileyville, Oklahoma, was named.—Robert L. Williams, "Dr. Daniel Morris Hailey, 1841-1919," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XVIII, No. 3 (September, 1940), p. 216; Muriel H. Wright, "Additional Notes on Perryville, Choctaw Nation," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. VIII, No. 2 (June, 1930), p. 148.

²D. C. Gideon, *History of Indian Territory* (New York and Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1901), biography "Hon. Edgar A. Moore," pp. 773-4.

LYMAN MOORE, JR., son of said Lyman Moore, Sr., and his said second wife, was born at Skullyville on October 23, 1874, and married Ida McCurtain in June, 1899, the daughter of the late Principal Chief Jack McCurtain and his wife, Jane Frances (Austin) McCurtain.³ Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Moore, Jr., were the parents of the following children: Ethan Allen Moore, Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Jessie Irene Moore who married Lloyd Barker, Oklahoma City; Frances Eugenia Moore, wife of Dr. C. W. Moore, Stillwater, Oklahoma, who have one child, George Clifford Moore.

Lyman Moore, Jr., was County Clerk and Treasurer of Skullyville County, Choctaw Nation, before Oklahoma became a State. He served as Vice-President of the First National Bank of Spiro and at the organization of The Farmers State Bank of Spiro in 1920, he became its President, said bank having absorbed the said First National Bank. He is a Mason, Blue Lodge and a Shriner. He was for many years an active businessman, banker and farmer living at Spiro, but is now retired from active work.

HERBERT McCLAIN MOORE, son of Lyman Moore, Sr., and Frances McClain Moore, was born at Skullyville, on July 2, 1878, and married Miss Lena McCurtain, a daughter of Principal Chief Green McCurtain⁴ and his wife, Katie (Springs) McCurtain, who was the daughter of John Springs and Sally (Anderson) Springs. Herbert McClain Moore and his wife, Lena McCurtain Springs, were the parents of the following children: Corinne who married O. T. Rabon, Pastor of the Baptist Church at Kinta, Oklahoma; Inez (Mrs. Von Deran) of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Betty (Mrs. John Ward) of Stigler, Oklahoma; and Herbert McClain Moore, Jr., who married Nine Buchanan, now a teacher in the Alice Robertson Junior High School at Muskogee.

Herbert McClain Moore served as County Clerk and Treasurer of San Bois County under the Choctaw government, and was Deputy

³ Coleman Enoch Nelson, born in Mississippi, came to the Choctaw Nation with the removal in the 1830's. Jack McCurtain, Edmund McCurtain, and Green McCurtain, all three of whom (each in turn) served as Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, were nephews of Coleman Nelson. He was Captain of Company G, 1st Regiment, Choctaw Mounted Rifles (Cavalry), Confederate States Army. His name appears on a petition dated Fort McCulloch, June 21, 1862, to the Secretary of War from the Officers of the Indian Regiment in the service of the Confederate States requesting the appointment of Colonel Sampson Folsom of the 1st Choctaw Regiment as Brigadier General in the Confederate States Army.

Coleman E. Nelson was a Methodist minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and served as supply in Kiamichi Charge of the Indian Mission Conference in 1873-4 and 1874-5, and again on the same Kiamichi Charge in 1886-7 in conjunction with G. Nelson. Nelson post office in the Choctaw Nation was named for this prominent Choctaw family.

For reference to Coleman Enoch Nelson, see H. F. O'Beirne, *Leaders and Leading Men of the Indian Territory* (Chicago: American Publishers' Association, 1891), pp. 169-70.

⁴ See footnote 3, *supra*.

United States Marshall at McCurtain, and Land Appraiser in the Indian service under Gabe Parker, Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, in 1917-18. Mr. Moore was a member of the Fourth State Legislature (1913) from Haskell County, and subsequently served as Bailiff of the United States District Court at Muskogee for our fifteen years. He was a Mason and a member of the Methodist Church. He died on December 3, 1943, and at his request was buried in the old Skullyville Cemetery near Spiro, Oklahoma.

Gertrude Moore Bowman, daughter of Lyman Moore, Sr., and his second wife, Frances McClain Moore, married Edward S. Bowman who died in 1906 at Oak Lodge (formerly Skullyville). Mrs. Bowman now resides at Spiro, Oklahoma. She and her husband were parents of the following children: Edwards S. Bowman, Dallas, Texas; Mrs. Lee Manke, Spiro; and Mrs. Dave Holoway, McAlester, Oklahoma.

Louis Oliver Moore, son of Lyman Moore, Sr., and his said second wife, died in 1903.

Napoleon B. Moore, son of Lyman Moore, Sr., and his second wife, born at Oak Lodge (formerly Skullyville) on March 11, 1880, was married to Mrs. Mary Lowthers, long ago separated. He now resides at Kansas City, Missouri.

Lena Belle Moore, daughter of Lyman Moore, Sr., and his second wife, Frances McClain Moore, married R. V. Smith of Spiro. Their son, Major Lewis V. Smith, has served with the American occupation forces in Austria, and their daughter, Mrs. James P. Crow, resides in Oklahoma City.