

NECROLOGIES

T. MYRON PYLE

1882-1947

In memory of T. Myron Pyle it is a melancholy pleasure to record these salient facts of the good life of a fine citizen. Strength, courage, and loyalty were so mixed in his character that he had great capacity for friendship. He was a noble gentleman.

Mr. Pyle was a Virginian to the manor born, and Bristol, Virginia, was his natal place. He was born June 25, 1882. There in that beautiful old Southern town which is half in Virginia and half in Tennessee, he was educated in the public schools and at King College which was to that section a cultural center. Thereafter in 1902 he attended Shenandoah Valley Academy, Virginia. He went to Colorado in 1905 and worked on a ranch until 1907, and became thoroughly imbued with the mystic charm of Western life. Still in early manhood, he returned to his native Virginia and entered the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, graduating in law in 1910. However, before his graduation he was admitted to the bar in Virginia in 1909. In the year of his graduation in law he married Miss Ruth Hidy of Charlottesville. Two sons were born to them, Myron, Jr., and John Randolph, the latter having died in infancy. Myron, Jr. is an attorney and at the present resides with his wife and young son in Jackson, Mississippi.

Having "punched" cattle on a Colorado ranch for some three years the love of the Western prairies was in the blood of T. Myron Pyle. He and a boyhood friend opened a law office in Oklahoma City in 1910. After some years in the private practice, he took a position in the tax department of the Internal Revenue Service; and for a time he was Assistant Attorney General of Oklahoma. Thereafter he became tax attorney for the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company, having a great many counties of Oklahoma under his charge with respect to assessments of his company's interests. As such he became an expert in certain lines of tax matters. He retired from active duty with his company last year because of ill health, after nearly 24 years of able and valued service.

A genial, gracious man, he was widely known in business and legal circles as "Jack" Pyle. All the courtliness, gentle dignity and cordiality of the Southern gentleman was his. His was not alone a fine courtesy, his uniformly kindly deeds were the constant fruitage of a Christian heart. Born of an old and fine Southern family, he reflected their high ideals, and lived the good neighbor to a shining circle of friends. He was active in the good works of his community and his church and state. He and his family were members of the First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City.

T. Myron Pyle was as open hearted and neighborly as he was courtly and gracious. More than most men he was mindful of the aged and infirm, and visited them. He was always present to help bury his neighbor's dead. Because of his warm and bouyant nature he loved life; he enjoyed its clean sports and pleasures to the full. He laughed merrily and with a heartiness that kindled sunshine. In the requirements and duties of life he responded with a warm zest. He wore the yoke of good citizenship with a true sense of duty. When on October 2, 1947 Jack Pyle departed

this life, he left to a fond wife and noble son, and to myriads of friends a lasting memory of one of God's good men.

—By Baxter Taylor.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

BENJAMINE FRANKLIN WILLIAMS, JR.,
1875-1946

Benjamin Franklin Williams, Jr., son of Benjamin Franklin Williams, Sr.¹ (born in Giles County, Tennessee on April 8, 1828 and died at Clinton, Oklahoma in March, 1912; son of Benjamin and Margaret Hall (Robson) Williams, Welsh and Colonial pioneers in South Carolina), was born in Texas on March 21, 1875 and died at Norman, Oklahoma, on September 24, 1946.²

His paternal ancestors (on the Williams side) were Welsh and his maternal grandfather was of Scotland. His people were slave-owners and prosperous.

Benjamin Franklin Williams, Sr., was educated at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and Center College, Danville, Kentucky. From Tennessee he migrated to Mississippi, where after the death of his first wife, he married Miss Etta H. Rucker and from there removed to Upshur County, Texas, where he practiced law and from there, just prior to the Civil War, he removed to Jefferson County, Arkansas, when he enlisted in the Confederate Army. At the close of the War Between the States, he located temporarily at San Antonio, Texas and then removed to Falls County, Texas. In 1881 he was appointed by Governor Roberts as District Judge of the District embracing Young County in the Northwest and was re-elected as District Judge and afterwards removed to Henrietta, Clay County, Texas and then at the opening of the Oklahoma Territory he came to Oklahoma City and was admitted to the Bar and then located in the practice of law at Norman and on a visit to a daughter at Clinton where he died. When located in East Texas he acted as District Attorney for a short time and was an early-day Cleveland County Judge in Oklahoma Territory. In the various localities in which he lived in Texas in that early day he enjoyed a large practice as a lawyer. He was a member of the Methodist Church and the only secret order to which he belonged was the Odd Fellows. By his first wife he had two children:—

1. Mrs. Mary Carnahan, wife of a retired farmer, Rogers, Arkansas;
2. Robert L. H., Attorney at Goldwaite, Texas (deceased).

By his second wife, Etta H. (Rucker) Williams, he had the following children:—

1. Annie, wife of W. I. Brannon, merchant, Clinton, Okla.;
2. Clara, wife of Rev. Evan Dhu Cameron;²
3. Mattie, wife of W. M. Newell, attorney, Norman, Okla.;
4. Jean, wife of W. E. Forgy, attorney, Archer City, Texas;
5. Benjamin Franklin, the subject of this article;
6. Etta, wife of W. R. Barksdale, merchant, Memphis, Tenn.;
7. Johnnie, wife of H. L. Quiet, banker of Clinton, Okla.;

¹Luther B. Hill, *A History of the State of Oklahoma* (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1900).

²R. L. Williams, "Rev. Evan Dhu Cameron (1862-63)," *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XI, No. 1 (March, 1933), p. 741.

8. Charlie, twin sister of Johnnie, wife of William Milterberger, Clinton, Okla.;
9. Lee, wife of Dr. Bangaus, Temple, Texas;
10. Kate, twin sister of Lee, teacher at Archer City, Texas.

In September, 1900 he was married to Miss Ninis O. Hullum, and to this union were born two daughters, Mildred Lee and Margaret Lucile.

Benjamin Franklin Williams, Jr.³ the subject of this article, was educated in the common schools of Texas and at Polytechnic College at Fort Worth, Texas and read law in his father's office. He was admitted to the Bar in Oklahoma City in 1899 and located at Norman. He was a foremost lawyer both in civil and criminal practice and probably one of the most distinguished criminal lawyers in the State. His office in the Hullum Building on Main Street in Norman, from which he gave his time to the practice until 1942 when, on account of disability due to illness, he retired from the practice of law.

He was a member of the Democratic Committee, a member of the State Bar Association, and fraternally affiliated with Norman Lodge No. 7, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; Norman Camp No. 154, Woodmen of the World; Ancient Order of United Workmen at Norman; and Purcell Lodge No. 1260, Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

At the organization of the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma in December, 1907, he was appointed as a member of the Bar Commission to supervise admission of members to the bar and was chairman for a number of years, and from 1907 until 1925 when the Board of Governors was created then he became a member of that board. He was President of the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1934. In his friendships he was loyalty personified, a good citizen, and a fine husband and father.

—By Robert L. Williams.

Durant, Oklahoma.

JAMES WATSON BOLEN

1871-1946

James Watson Bolen, son of William Bolen and his wife, Mary, was born on August 31, 1871 in Pontotoc County, Mississippi. He attended Toccopola Junior College at Toccopola, Mississippi, and registered at the University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi, on September 14, 1895, giving his post office as Randolph, Pontotoc County, and graduated from said law school in 1896.

Soon after his graduation he located at the town of Center in the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, at which, as well as Stonewall, a United States Commissioners Court was located and United States District Court was also held at Pauls Valley and Tishomingo, where he engaged in the practice of law until the United States District Court was located at Ada when he removed to Ada and continued the practice of law until he retired on account of his health. During that period he was engaged with John P. Crawford in the practice of law and for a part of that time C. C. Williams, now of Poteau, was a member of the firm.

³ Joseph B. Thoburn, *A Standard History of Oklahoma* (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1916), Vol. 5, pp. 1883-85; and *Journal of the Oklahoma Bar Association*, 1946, Vol. 17, pp. 1588-89.

In 1902 he was married to Emma Kathleen Sugg and to this marriage came two children, to-wit:—a daughter, Celma, who married Louis Escalda of Nogales, Arizona, where they reside; and another daughter, Ruth, who married Warren Kice of Ada, Oklahoma, where they reside. He is also survived by his wife and a sister, Miss Ida Bolen, both of Ada.

He died at Ada, Oklahoma, on Tuesday, December 24, 1946. Funeral services were held at Criswell's Chapel on December 26, 1946, with interment in Rosedale Cemetery. Active pallbearers were Mack Braly, Claude V. Thompson, Bill Crawford, Turner King, Virgil Stanfield and Hugh Mathis.

When Thomas D. McKeown was elected to Congress in 1916 he resigned the office of District Judge and James Watson Bolen was appointed by the Governor to fill said office and at the end of said term he was elected and re-elected until he retired on account of failing health. He was never a candidate for any other character of office but was active in the politics of the State and a loyal supporter of the Democratic Party, an effective orator whether in the court or on the hustings. Ada was in the territory embraced in what was Pontotoc, in the Chickasaw Nation.¹

¹ *Ada Evening News*, Dec. 26, 1946.

—By Robert L. Williams.

Durant, Oklahoma.