

## NECROLOGIES

CLARA ALICE WARD  
1859-1946

Clara Alice Ward, born at New Springplace, Cherokee Nation, on September 14, 1859, was the daughter of the Reverend James (Jr.) and Esther (Hoyt) Ward. Their children in the order of birth were Darius E. Ward, married first, Sarah Ritter, and second, Mary (Hester) Murphy; Lydia Anna Ward, married William C. Chamberlain; Clara Alice Ward; William W. Ward, married Roxana Sterner, and his twin, Henry J. Ward, married Emma Luckenbach.

Esther Hoyt Ward was born at Willstown, Alabama, on March 18, 1826, the daughter of Milo and Lydia (Lowry) Hoyt. Doctor Milo Hoyt, a son of the missionaries, the Reverend Ard Hoyt and his wife, served as a physician in the Union Brigade, under the command of Colonel William R. Phillips, in the War between the States. Lydia Lowry Hoyt was the "pious and intelligent daughter" of Chief George Lowry and his wife, Lucy Bengé Lowry. At the age of sixteen, Lydia joined the Presbyterian Church when she was baptized at Brainerd Mission, Tennessee, January 31, 1819. Shortly afterward, she was the author of a hymn, the first written by a Cherokee. Her daughter, Esther, was educated in the mission schools and, as a young woman, taught in the Park Hill Mission near Tahlequah. Her grandfather, Chief George Lowry, died at the age of eighty-two (October 20, 1852) and was buried in the cemetery at Tahlequah where the monument erected to his memory by order of the Cherokee National Council stands inscribed with a history of his life. At her own request, Miss Clara Alice Ward was buried by the side of Chief Lowry's grave at Tahlequah after her death on January 14, 1946.

The Reverend James Ward, Jr., was the lineal descendant of the noted Nancy Ward of the Cherokee Nation, who was elected to the position of *Chigua* (Beloved Woman) to represent the Cherokee women in the National Council. He came as a lad to the Indian Territory with his parents, James Ward, Sr., and his wife Lucy (Hainy) Ward, over the "Trail of Tears" from Georgia. James, Jr., attended Dwight Mission and was a student for a term at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire. In April, 1858, he and his young wife joined the Moravian Church, subsequently making their home at New Springplace Mission (near present Oaks, in Delaware County) where he served as assistant missionary. Though his family were among the slave holding Southerners, James Ward remained steadfast with the Moravian Church which took a stand of neutrality in the Indian Territory, during the War between the States. At the beginning of the second Federal invasion of the Territory in the late summer of 1862, bands of Cherokee "Pins" (members of the Keetoowah Society, Union sympathizers) swept through the Nation in revenge against the mixed-blood Cherokee who had any relations with the Southern people. On September 2, 1862, James Ward was waylaid and killed by a band of "Pins," while he was riding out from his home after a herd of cattle. The story of his wife, Esther Hoyt Ward, who was left to care for their five small children, is one of heroism in the annals of the Cherokee Nation. The battles and fighting in the Indian Territory and Arkansas, finally forced her to seek refuge with her children and a small orphan niece, Florence Hoyt, among the Moravians at West Salem, Illinois. Mrs. Ward died of pneumonia soon after her arrival at West Salem, on December 13, 1863, and her children were reared and educated under the auspices of the Moravian Church.

Clara Alice Ward made her home with Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Knoll of West Salem, after the death of her mother. At the age of nine years, she was sent to Hope Seminary, a Moravian school in Indiana, and later made her home in the East, with the Reverend and Mrs. W. H. Rice. Clara Alice had the distinction of being the first Cherokee girl to complete the nurses' training course at Bellevue Hospital, in New York City, from which noted institution she graduated, R.N., in 1887. She made a high record in her chosen profession and continued in private nursing for many years. Her education and work had taken her away from the Cherokee Nation so long that she lost her right to enrollment and did not receive an allotment of land in 1902 though her brother and other members of the family did. By her own efforts, she provided for her old age and, after her retirement at about seventy-five, came to Tulsa to reside near her relatives in 1939.

Shortly after coming to Tulsa to live, she attended the "Old Timers' Celebration" held by the Cherokee in a special program at Tulsa, during which she felt greatly honored as the last surviving child of her parents, the "Missionary Wards." It was on this occasion that Miss Ward had the inspiration to sponsor the publication of a memorial volume to her mother and father. This beautiful little book<sup>1</sup> appearing off the press in January, 1940, now out of print, gives the genealogies of both the Lowry and the Ward families among the Cherokee, and presents a brief historical sketch of the development of the Cherokee Nation and the flowering of Christianity among its people.

By Muriel H. Wright

*Oklahoma Historical Society*

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## SAMUEL ROBERT WILSON

1861-1947

Samuel Robert Wilson was born near Hartford, Sebastian County, Arkansas, on November 1, 1861. His parents, John R. Wilson and Lydia (Sellers) Wilson, were born in Alabama and came to Arkansas from Montgomery County, Alabama, in the early part of 1861. Besides their son, Samuel Robert Wilson, they had a daughter, Levannah, born in Montgomery County, Alabama, on February 10, 1851, who married John C. Crawford near Hartford, Arkansas, in 1871. John R. Wilson was a teacher and served as a justice of the peace and also in the Confederate Army from Arkansas. For a time, he worked as a carpenter on a boat which operated between Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, the principal cargo being supplies for the army. His wife, Lydia, (Sellers) Wilson, died in November, 1863, and three years later (1866) he married a second time, Elizabeth Heavener. To this union were born three children: a daughter, Ella Wilson, who married Jasper Black; and two sons, Floyd R. Wilson, and John R. Wilson, Jr.

Samuel Robert Wilson was two years old when his mother died and only eleven years old at the death of his father (1872). At the age of sixteen (1877), the subject of this sketch removed from Arkansas to Sugar Loaf County (now included in Le Flore County), Choctaw Nation where he settled. He came in a wagon with an Indian trader and lived for a while with Jerry White, a Choctaw citizen who was Judge of Sugar Loaf County. Judge White's son, Buck White, now living at Reichert in Le Flore County, Oklahoma, taught Samuel Robert Wilson the Choctaw

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<sup>1</sup> *Springdale, Moravian Mission, Cherokee Nation* by Muriel H. Wright (Guthrie, 1940).

language which he learned to speak as fluently as a fullblood and for many years he served as a Choctaw interpreter. When the Kansas City Southern Railroad was constructed from Kansas City, Missouri, to Port Arthur, Texas, the name of Choctaw City, a town in Sugar Loaf County, Choctaw Nation, was changed to Heavener (Le Flore County), in which locality Samuel Robert Wilson remained the rest of his life. He died on Friday, December 26, 1947, at 10:15 a.m., and was interred in the Heavener Memorial Cemetery at 2:00 p.m., December 28, 1947.<sup>1</sup> Funeral services were conducted by the local Methodist minister, the Reverend Jesse L. Ragan.<sup>2</sup>

At the age of twenty-two, Samuel Robert Wilson married Julia Hickman of the Choctaw Nation and to this union were born nine children. She and five of her nine children died before allotment of lands in the Choctaw Nation.<sup>3</sup> Three of her children—Dora, Louella, and Ed—all live at Heavener. A deceased daughter, Josephine Wilson, married Rufus Hill and they had four other children whose names in order of age are: Claud, Ruby, and Johnnie—all three daughters—, and Wilson Hill—a son. The names of Ed Wilson's children, all of whom reside in and around Heavener, are: four sons, Ted, S. R., John D., and Stanley; and two daughters, Billy Joe (Wilson) Bennett, and Wanda Lee (Wilson) Carter.

On August 8, 1900, Samuel Robert Wilson was married a second time to Alice Robinson who survives him.<sup>4</sup> To this union the following children were born: Eunice Wilson, who married Charles A. Billingsly, now living in Bakersfield, California; Ruth Wilson, who married C. W. Wofford, living at Heavener; and three sons, Charles, Earl, and Hubert Wilson (deceased), all of Heavener. None of these had children except Earl Wilson who had only one child, named Earl Robert Wilson.

Samuel Robert Wilson's principal occupation throughout life was farming and ranching, and also dealing in real estate and serving as an officer. As an intermarried citizen of the Choctaw Nation, he was called upon to serve with the National Lighthorsemen under the leadership of the late Peter Conser, a prominent Choctaw citizen.<sup>5</sup> Samuel Robert Wilson served from 1907 to 1909 as chief deputy sheriff under George B. Noble, and as field deputy sheriff under H. S. Pilgreen from 1929 to 1930, and held special commissions under practically every sheriff in Le Flore County until age prevented active service. After the erection of the State of Oklahoma, he was the principal organizer of the first Democratic Club in that section of the country where he made his home for over seventy years.

—By Robert L. Williams

*Durant, Oklahoma*

<sup>1</sup> *Heavener Ledger*, January 1, 1948.

<sup>2</sup> *Poteau Sun*, January 2, 1948.

<sup>3</sup> The names of Josephine Wilson (age 18), Dora Wilson (age 14), Louella Wilson (age 11), and Ed Wilson (age 9) are listed as Choctaws by blood on the *Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes*, Oklahoma Historical Society Archives.—Ed.

<sup>4</sup> The names of Alice Wilson and Samuel Robert Wilson are listed as intermarried white on the *Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes*, Oklahoma Historical Society Archives.—Ed.

<sup>5</sup> Any one of the nine National Lighthorsemen, who were appointed by the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation to preserve the peace and aid in the execution of the criminal laws of the Nation, could "summon any number of citizens deemed requisite, over eighteen and under sixty years of age, to aid and assist in keeping order, spilling liquor and arresting offenders, and taking them before the county judge. . . ." (*Constitution, Treaties and Laws of the Choctaw Nation* [Sedalia, Missouri: Democrat Steam Print, 1887], p. 90).—Ed.

## JUSTUS OTHO HALL 1870-1947

Justus Otho Hall was born February 27, 1870, at Warner, Ohio, the son of George W. Hall and his wife, Diantha Elizabeth (Harvey) Hall. His father was born January 6, 1847, and died December 27, 1927; his mother was born May 17, 1849, and died March 9, 1900. They were also the parents of the following children: William Louie Hall, born March 31, 1872, died December 24, 1938; Charles Elmer Hall, born April 26, 1874, died August 5, 1900; Joseph Alla Hall, born August 2, 1876, died September 21, 1941; Rosa Anna Hall Bunn, born February 15, 1881; Mamie Belle Hall, born August 1, 1883, died November 14, 1907.

Justus Otho Hall married Miss Bertha Kelley at Horton at Horton, Kansas, on August 31, 1904. He was a graduate of Kansas University, Class of 1898, and engaged in school work for many years. He was Superintendent of schools at Horton, Beloit, and Hutchinson, Kansas, and was President of the Kansas State Teachers' Association for two years. He also served as Superintendent of schools at Pawhuska, Oklahoma. He died on July 26, 1947, at Muskogee, Oklahoma, and is survived by his wife who resides at 2624 West Okmulgee Avenue, Muskogee.

After giving up his school work he became special agent for the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was still active at the time of his death. He took an active part in civic work, and at the time of his death, he was President of Montfort Stokes Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

—By Robert L. Williams

*Durant, Oklahoma*

## CHARLES ORR JOHNSON 1864-1947

Charles Orr Johnson, son of David and Eliza (Dixson) Johnson, was born on April 28, 1864 in Benton County, Iowa. His father engaged in farming and his son followed in that occupation until they both left the farm in 1892, moving to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and thereafter engaged in the implement business under the firm name of Yuill and Johnson. Both of his parents were born in Ireland, Castle Caulfield, Tyrone.

In 1904 he was elected an Alderman at Large of Cedar Rapids and was Chairman of the Finance Committee and also on the Committee of Public Improvement and Railroads.

He removed from Cedar Rapids to Durant, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory, in 1906, where he engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business and was an extensive land-owner and livestock grower and dealer, and an early promoter for the development of highways.

In 1917 he was a faithful and efficient member and secretary of the Oklahoma State Board of Affairs. He was a charter member of the Durant Rotary Club; a member of the Durant Library Board from the time of its organization until the date of his death; a member of the City Park Board until a short time prior to his death; a member (deacon) of the First Presbyterian Church, U.S., Durant; a Mason (32nd degree); and had been president of the Durant Country Club and active in all civic matters until slowed up by age.

He died on August 25, 1947 and his funeral was held on the 27th day of August, 1947 at the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ebenezer Hotckin, longtime friend officiating, with interment in Highland Cemetery at Durant.

He was married on October 29, 1903 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to Miss Annie Phipps who preceded him in death on November 29, 1944, and interment in Highland Cemetery at Durant.

He was the youngest of eight children and the last to survive. A faithful and upright citizen has passed on.

—By R. L. Williams.

*Durant, Oklahoma*

## GENERAL ANDREW HOLLEY

1859-1947

General Andrew Holley, usually referred to as G. A. Holley, born in Alabama on November 27, 1859, was a son of R. C. and Emaline J. (Jackson) Holley, his full name being General Andrew (Jackson) Holley. He was one of seven children, all deceased now except two brothers, J. T. Holley of Stigler, Oklahoma and F. M. Holley of Hamilton, Alabama, and one sister, Susan Wreich of Itawamba County, Mississippi.<sup>1</sup>

His family moved to Itawamba County, Mississippi, when he was nineteen years old, and he received his education almost entirely in that state, attending school at Rara Avis. He later studied at the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, and finished his education at Iuka Normal Institute.

General Andrew Holley aided in the founding of the Oakland Normal located about twelve miles from Fulton, county seat of Itawamba County, Mississippi. He studied law at Nashville, Tennessee, and after completing his law course was admitted to the practice in 1900, locating at Hamilton, Alabama, where the West Alabama Agricultural School was located. He moved to Stigler, Indian Territory, in 1902, where he opened a law office and practiced until he moved to Maud, Oklahoma, in 1927, where he and his son, "Dutch" (E.D.) Holley were associated in the practice of law, the latter having graduated from the Law Department of the University of Oklahoma in 1921. In 1943, G. A. Holley moved back to Stigler. While at Stigler, he was associated in the practice of law with W. H. Brown, Guy A. Curry, and the late Fred H. Fannin.

He was a life-long Democrat, Chairman of the Haskell County Democratic Central Committee for many years and during the administration of Governor Williams was a Honorary Colonel on his staff. He was a member and Deacon of the Baptist Church. He sent all of his eight children to college, some of whom graduated.

His death occurred at Stigler, Oklahoma on Sept. 9, 1947 where he is buried.

His first wife was Cordelia Permelia Hale and after her death, his second wife was Eva Winter, to whom he was married on August 7, 1902. By his first marriage he had the following children: Hester Ferguson, Eureka Springs, Arkansas; E. D. (Dutch) Holley, Maud, Oklahoma; James A. Holley, Stillwater, Oklahoma; Carmille Rush, Kalamazoo, Michigan. By his second marriage he had the following children: Charlotte Lehmann, Socorro, New Mexico; John Richard Holley and Catherine E. Afill, both of San Francisco, California.

He was a faithful churchman and a fine citizen, and a good husband and father.

—R. L. Williams.

*Durant, Oklahoma*

<sup>1</sup>"Families of Prominence, "Memoirs of Mississippi, Vol. I, p. 941.