

NECROLOGY

ROBERT BRITTON BUFORD

1879 — 1956

Dr. Robert Britton Buford, prominent pioneer editor and civic leader of McIntosh county, died at his home in Eufaula, Oklahoma, July 13, 1956, at the age of seventy-seven years. Funeral services were held at the First Baptist church in Eufaula, with the Reverend Marvin Gennings, pastor of the church, officiating.

The Buford family with a lineage tracable to the feudal days of France and England came to this country in 1635, settling in Virginia. One branch of the family migrated to Tennessee, then to Louisiana and finally into East Texas in 1835, where Dr. Buford's father, John Christopher Buford, was born. As a young man, the father engaged in farming on his own account in Texas, and he was active in that connection until his death. He was but eighteen years of age when he enlisted in the Texas infantry under his father Captain W. R. Buford, for service in the Civil War, and participated in many of important battles of that conflict, serving the entire four years. In 1867 in Sulphur Springs, Texas, John Christopher Buford married Miss Elizabeth Askew a native of Georgia. Robert Britton Buford was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas, April 23, 1879, the sixth of a family of ten children.

His early education was received in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Later he enrolled as a dental student at the University of Tennessee at Nashville. Young Dr. Buford came to Eufaula as a practicing dentist in 1899. He returned to Dental school and received his D. D. S. degree in 1905, returning to Eufaula to continue his practice.

On April 16, 1906 he was married to Miss Marcella Fossick of Sheffield, Alabama, daughter of Thomas Lancelot and Mary Ellis (O'Reilly) Fossick, the former a native of England and the latter of Mississippi. Mr. Fossick operated a stone quarry during the greater part of his life.

In 1900 Dr. Buford gave up his dental profession and became editor and owner of the *Indian Journal*, a stock publishing company, which was owned by the merchants of the town. Dr. Buford purchased all of the newspaper stock in a short time. He continued his activity on the Eufaula paper until 1944 when he retired from the business.

The Indian Journal, the oldest Oklahoma newspaper with continuous publication, recently celebrated its 80th birthday, May 31, 1956. Dr. R. B. Buford was publisher for the longest period. One of the highlights of his newspaper career was his successful fight over a long period of years in making Eufaula a better city and a more prosperous community. He achieved this mainly by constantly boosting civic activities in both his news and editorial columns. Keenly interested in politics and active in religious and civic organizations, Dr. Buford served his community well.

In the early 1900's before statehood, he was a member of the Eufaula baseball team for several years. He served as mayor for six terms. His first term was in 1907 prior to statehood. The subsequent terms covered a period from that time to 1935. During his tenure as mayor the city's water-works and sewer systems were built. The city streets were paved with concrete. The original white way system was built and the first motorized fire-fighting equipment was purchased.

In 1910 he was appointed County Treasurer of McIntosh county to fill an unexpired term. He was chairman of the McIntosh County Exemption board in World War I, now referred to as the Draft Board. In 1934, he was named county administrator of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and in 1935 he was named a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, which nominated President Roosevelt for a second term.

Dr. Buford recently resigned as chairman of the County Excise Board in Eufaula after serving the past twelve years and he was a director of the State National bank of Eufaula at the time of his death. He was a fifty-year member of the Eufaula Masonic lodge, and a charter member of the Lion's club of Eufaula which was organized in 1919. He was also a member of the First Baptist church and served as deacon for many years. On April 16 of this year, he and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Besides his wife, Marcella, he is survived by two sons; John Buford, Checotah, publisher, Robert B. Buford Jr., Eufaula; a daughter, Margaret Buford, Eufaula; a brother, M. Z. Buford, Terrell, Texas; a sister, Mrs. J. C. McDonald, Sulphur Springs, Texas; and two granddaughters, Lynn and Margaret Ann Buford, Checotah.

Eufaula, Oklahoma

—E. C. Hopper

Eufaula, Oklahoma

CARRIE HOWELL ABERNATHY

1878 — 1956

Mrs. Carrie Howell Abernathy, widow of the late Judge George Carl Abernathy, of Shawnee, died in a Shawnee hospital, June 19, 1956 after an illness of several months.

In the death of Mrs. Abernathy Shawnee lost one of its most beloved and cherished women, who for more than fifty years had given freely of her time and talents for the promotion and upbuilding of the best interests of the city, and community. Her passing leaves an irreplaceable vacancy in the religious, and social life of the community. The imprint of her character has left a splendid influence that will be felt by future generations.

Mrs. Abernathy was born October 21, 1878, at Austin, near Lonoke, Arkansas, the eldest daughter of Julius Franklin Howell,¹ and his wife Ida Hinton Howell. Her parents had moved from Suffolk, Virginia, to Austin where he was superintendent of schools. Later he served as superintendent of schools at Morrilton, and at Arkadelphia, Arkansas. In 1885 he became Professor of History at the Arkansas Industrial University at Fayetteville, (later known as the University of Arkansas), and moved his family there.

As there were no grade schools in Fayetteville at that time, Carrie Howell received her primary education from private school, and tutors, until she entered the Preparatory School of the University. There she grew into womanhood, surrounded by the educational, and cultural life of the institution—nurtured in the fine traditions of Southern womanhood of the Victorian era. She graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1900.

¹ An interesting item relative to Mrs. Abernathy's father, Julius Franklin Howell, was that he joined the Army of the Confederacy at the age of fifteen. He was wounded in action and captured by Federal troops in the battle of Abbeyville, three days before the surrender at Appomattox Court House. He was the last surviving member of the Army Corps of General Longstreet, and served as Commander of The United Confederate Veterans from 1938-1940 inclusive. He died at his home in Bristol, Virginia, June 10, 1948, being 102 years old.

During the school year of 1900-1901 she taught elocution at the Baptist College at Mountain Home, Arkansas. Later she took a course in the Columbia School of Oratory, in Chicago, and accepted a position as instructor in Expression, and Evolution at the Southwest Virginia Institute, at Bristol Virginia, (Known as the Virginia Intermont College) where her father had been named President, and the family had moved.

It was while her father was connected with the University of Arkansas that she met George Carl Abernathy, who graduated from that school with her class, in 1900. Young Abernathy was a frequent visitor at the Howell home, and their acquaintance ripened into an engagement, and a mutual devotion that lasted throughout their lives. But it was not until Abernathy had received his L. L. B. Degree from the University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, that they were married, on October 1, 1903, at the home of her parents in Bristol, Virginia. He was practicing law at Warren, Arkansas at that time.

The couple moved to Shawnee Oklahoma July 2, 1904 to make their home, and since that time have been identified with the cultural, social and religious interests of the city. Their home held the very essence of hospitality, and friendship. Judge Abernathy died May 18, 1954, and until her death she maintained the family home. All the years were busy ones for Mrs. Abernathy—Besides raising her family of four children she took active part in the work of the First Presbyterian church for over fifty years: She had been the longest continuing member of the Hawthorne study club, dating membership since 1907: She was a charter member of BB chapter of the PEO sisterhood: She was a Daughter of the American Revolution tracing her membership through her mother's ancestor Hillery Willey. In her youth Mrs. Abernathy was an accomplished musician, and was widely known for her dramatic readings and book reviews.

Survivors include Mrs. Abernathy's four children: Kenneth Abernathy, an Attorney, of Shawnee: Dr. Ruth Abernathy, Professor of Health and Physical Welfare of the University of Calif. Jack H. Abernathy Vice-President of the Big Chief Drilling Co. Oklahoma City, and George C. Abernathy Jr. Attorney, Boston, Mass.

Also surviving are her two brothers: Edward Howell, of Oklahoma City, and Barnes Howell, San Antonio, Texas. Two sisters: Mrs. Tom C. Smith, Bristol, Virginia, and Mrs. Will Bowen, LaCrosse, Virginia.

Services for Mrs. Abernathy were held at the First Presbyterian Church in Shawnee with Rev. La Verne Ross conducting.

—Florence Drake

Shawnee, Oklahoma

WELCOME CECIL MOORE

1884 — 1956

Welcome Cecil Moore, better known as Cecil Moore, well known citizen, lawyer and public servant, former resident of Muskogee, Tulsa and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, departed this life at St. Anthony's Hospital at Oklahoma City on May 16, 1956 at the age of seventy-one years. Funeral services were conducted by Reverend Don Schooler in St. Paul Methodist Church at Muskogee, and interment was in Green Hill Cemetery at Muskogee.

His ancestors, Scotch, Irish and Welch, were early settlers in colonial days in what is now Marlboro County, South Carolina, and active patriots against the royalists in the American Revolution. After the battle of Culloden 1746 many of the people of Scotland migrated to America, and others migrated from Europe, to escape from the restraint of conscience, and their indignant souls were stirred to energetic action when civil oppression lifted its ugly head in the home of their adoption.

Thomas John, Jesse John and Azel John, brothers, were soldiers in Colonel Lemuel Benton's Regiment supporting General Francis Marion in the Revolution and war along the Pee Dee section in South Carolina. Thomas John¹ married Elizabeth Pouncey and their son, Daniel John (1796-1876) married Mary Spears, and their daughter, Mary John (1828-1801) married John Cottingham Woodley (1828-1891) and Mary Ann Woodley, their daughter, married Welcome Andrew Moore, and their son was Welcome Cecil Moore.

Benjamin Moore (1769-1846) son of James and Drusilla Moore, married Frances or Fanny Stubbs, daughter of William Stubbs (1757-1839), a patriot of the Revolution, and William S. Moore (1808-1863), their son, married Mary Adams (1810-1904), and Welcome Andrew Moore (1849-1911), their son, married Mary Ann Woodley (1851-1887) and their son was Welcome Cecil Moore. The Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D. C. records William Stubbs as having served in the U. S. Navy.

Jonathan Adams, a revolutionary patriot, had a son John Adams (1777-1840) who married Celia Cook (1779-1853) and Mary Adams (1810-1904), their daughter, married William S. Moore (1808-1836), and their son Welcome Andrew Moore (1849-1911) married Mary Ann Woodley (1851-1887) and their son was Welcome Cecil Moore. "Jonathan Adams, the first of the name to place his feet upon Marlboro soil, came from Ireland prior to the Revolutionary War, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. He married Miss Mary Robeson and lived not far from the 'burnt factory' a few miles above Bennettsville. He fought through the Revolutionary War as a Whig, and after the struggle had ended, and when within two days march of home, sickened and died. He left three sons, William, Shockley and John to perpetuate the name, and a daughter Divinity."² The story is told that one day Mrs. Jonathan Adams sent her little boy to the mill and he was captured by the Tories who tried to make him tell where his father and folks were but the boy refused to tell so the Tories put a rope around his neck and threatened to hang him, when Mrs. Adams showed up with a shot gun and the Tories fled.

Gully Moore and Jeremiah Moore were soldiers in Benton's Regiment in the Revolution. They were brothers of James Moore, the great great-grandfather of Cecil Moore. James Moore is listed as the first Sheriff of Marlboro County, South Carolina in 1786, and Gully Moore, a man of wealth, signed his bond.³

Cecil Moore's father and mother were both college educated, cultured people, trained in the fine customs and manners of the Old South. They knew the glory of the aristocratic South before the War and they saw that glory pass with the coming of the War. His father was only fifteen years old when the Civil War closed, but he was busy carrying provisions to his older brother, Benjamin F. Moore, then with Sparks' Cavalry at Charleston, South Carolina. His father lost two brothers in that strife. Sherman's army camped on his grandfather's plantation and the soldiers ate everything on the place that was eatable and shot and killed all the livestock and cattle and hogs, leaving the dead carcasses lying in the barnyard for the home folks to bury. Cecil heard the story from his parents and grandparents about the useless and senseless destruction of property by the Union Army, about "carpet bag" rule, and he was always a bitter partisan in favor of his beloved southland and her people.

Welcome Cecil Moore was born at Bennettsville, Marlboro County, South Carolina, October 29, 1884. When he was three years old, his mother having died, his father moved to a plantation near town and on that farm Cecil grew up. He was educated at a country school, Pine Grove, at McColl, in Marlboro

¹ Gregg's *History of the Old Cherokees*, p. 409.

² Thomas's *History of Marlboro County, S. C.*

³ Gregg, *op. cit.*

County, and at sixteen years of age he went to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he took a course in business administration and telegraphy. The next year he was employed by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company as telegraph operator and depot agent at Maxton, North Carolina, and later at Dunn and Wilmington. In 1903, he followed his brothers west, first stopping in Kansas City Missouri, where he was employed by Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway Company as telegraph operator, being next up for train dispatcher when he quit, to accept a position with the Dawes Commission at Muskogee, Indian Territory, upon the recommendation and endorsement of Senator B. R. Tillman. In 1908, he left the federal service and became Deputy County Treasurer of Muskogee County, Oklahoma, under Connell Rogers, the County Treasurer. In 1916 he was elected County Treasurer of Muskogee County, and was re-elected to a second term. Leaving the office of County Treasurer, he was elected to two terms as County Commissioner of Muskogee County, and later was City Manager of the City of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Later, for three years he was Conservation Officer with the State Corporation Commission.

A student of law in his brothers office, he was admitted to the Bar of Oklahoma in 1927, and after practicing law for a few years in 1933 he was appointed Deputy Revenue Collector at Muskogee. In short time he was promoted to the office of Deputy Revenue Agent, Bureau of Internal Revenue, in the estate and gift tax work, which position he held for about twenty years and until he retired on January 1, 1955 to become Assistant State Treasurer of the State of Oklahoma, under John D. Conner, the efficient and popular State Treasurer, which position he held until his death.

He made a fine record as a public official and had many friends. As County Treasurer, his office was considered one of the best kept offices in the state. As Deputy Revenue Agent, he handled many complicated and difficult cases for the Government with intelligence, efficiency and fair dealing. His duties called for the attention of one versed in the law and accounting. The Treasury Department of the United States conferred upon him the Gallatin award for his long, faithful and meritorious service.

The writer knew him personally and in the conduct of his official duties and feels that no person ever held office in Oklahoma who performed the duties of the office with an eye to the public good more zealously than he did. Similar expressions from many of his friends have been heard since his untimely departure.

He was a member of the Democratic party, Modern Woodmen of America, Yoemen of America, Oklahoma Bar Association, and the St. Luke's Methodist Church of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. For a time he was a member and officer of St. Paul Methodist Church at Muskogee, Oklahoma.

His family surviving him are his widow, Bessie Bob Moore; sisters, Mary Celia Sauls, Bennie Leal Cope, Mozelle Smoak; and brothers, William Belton Moore, Lauriston Hill Moore and James Gibson Moore. On the 6th day of December, 1916, at Marshall, Missouri, he married Bessie Bob Taylor, of a prominent and aristocratic family of Missouri. Their only child died in infancy.

Welcome Cecil Moore passed from this world on the 16th day of May, 1956. Tender and loving hands bore him to his last resting place beneath a great blanket of flowers offered by his many friends as a token of their esteem. He was a good man, of a good family, an efficient public servant, and he gave to his generation the best in him. Like the words of Socrates in the play, "Surely, surely, to a good man there can come no evil in life or in death."

—Fred P. Branson