

## CAPTAIN JAMES E. REYNOLDS

By Rosa Ayleene Nance\*

Captain James E. Reynolds whose life figured for over half a century in the development and progress of Eastern Indian Territory was a pioneer of great purpose and attainment. He became a resident of the Indian Territory two years after the close of the Civil War, having come west from his native state of Mississippi. A proud Confederate veteran, he faced a frontier life with a soldier's strong determination to achieve success and independence. The Choctaw Nation was his adopted country because of the Choctaw Indian lineage of his wife, Felicity.

James Elisha Reynolds was born July 17, 1837, at Granada Carroll County, Mississippi. He was the son of Bowen and Sarah Meux Reynolds, both of whom were of old Colonial stock of North Carolina and Virginia. The lives of his ancestors cover practically every period of American existence.<sup>1</sup>

Sarah Meux Reynolds, the mother of James Reynolds was born April 30, 1794, at Hanover, Virginia. She was the maternal granddaughter of Benjamin Oliver, who was a soldier of the French and Indian War.<sup>2</sup> Her paternal grandfather was Thomas Meux, soldier of the Revolutionary War and she was a direct descendant of Colonel John Lightfoot, who served on the Virginia Council, during the period of "Bacon's Rebellion" in 1675. Sarah Meux was educated at the Washington Henry Academy, in Hanover County and a sampler, worked by her there, as a child eight years of age, is still cherished by her descendants. It bears the date 1802, with her name and four lines of Pope's "Universal Prayer":

"Teach me to feel another's woe.  
To hide the fault I see  
That mercy I to others shew  
That mercy shew to me."

Bowen Reynolds, the father of James E. Reynolds, was born September 13, 1791, in Wilkes County, North Carolina. His father

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<sup>1</sup> Anna C. Bippier, *The Reynolds Family Association of America, Historical Collection* (1882-1922), Thirty-first Annual Report (Brooklyn Eagle Press, Brooklyn, N. Y.), pp. 269-70.

<sup>2</sup> See *Appendix A* for genealogical data on the Reynolds Family in the Meux and Lightfoot lines, *ibid.*



Captain James E. Reynolds and Fidelity (Tuchman) Reynolds on their wedding trip to New Orleans, 1895



was Elisha Reynolds, who as a soldier in the American Revolution had served as Lieutenant under the command of Captain Samuel Johnson, at the Battle of Kings Mountain, in 1780. In 1786 he married Judith Edins, of Surrey County North Carolina, and because of her deeply religious training, their son Bowen, was reared as a soldier of the great Methodist army which was mobilized in those early days. He became a Methodist minister and following his marriage, November 17, 1817, to Sarah Meux, in Virginia, whose family had been Episcopalian for generations, the young couple moved to Tennessee. They accompanied a colony of Southerners who went westward beyond the Virginia mountains. This colonist movement established Methodism in Kentucky and Tennessee during the crusading period of Bishop Francis Asbury and Samuel Davis. After ten years in Tennessee, the Reverend Reynolds was sent by his church into the Mississippi country as a missionary to the Indians, before the region was opened to settlement. The family lived first at Teoc and later at Grenada which was the birth-place of the ninth child and the subject of this article, James Elisha Reynolds.

From this heritage of courage through strife and a consecrated service to mankind, was developed a spirit of ardent and fearless temperament in the character of young James Reynolds. When the Southern States seceded he was among the first to enter the army.

He quickly disposed of a mercantile business which he had established at Carrollton and joined the Confederate army, April 1, 1861.<sup>1</sup> He was in the military organization known as Company K, 11th Mississippi Infantry under the command of Colonel Moore and Captain P. P. Liddell. From the starting point at Corinth, the regiment was sent to Lynchburg, Virginia, and then to Harper's Ferry, where it became a part of the Brigade under General Stonewall Jackson. After the first battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861, James Reynolds was hospitalized four months with typhoid fever and injuries. While convalescing from this illness, Reynolds was placed in the Virginia childhood home of Robert L. Owen who later became his business partner in the Indian Territory. At that time Robert was a small lad, but through all the ensuing years of family friendship, the story was related many times of young Robert L. Owen having shot blackbirds for his mother Narcissa Chisholm Owen to make the injured soldier a pie.

In February, 1862, James Reynolds re-enlisted in the army of Tennessee as member of Company K, 30th Mississippi regiment, Walthal brigade, under Captain G. F. Niel. As sergeant, he then took part in many battles east of the Mississippi river. After the battles of Perryville, Kentucky and Murfreesboro, in which he

<sup>1</sup> D. C. Gideon, *Indian Territory, Descriptive and Genealogical* (New York, 1901), p. 266.

served as first sergeant, he was promoted to second lieutenant "for meritorious conduct on the Battlefield." He was severely wounded in the battle of Lookout Mountain, November 24, 1863 and was made First Lieutenant later being commended for the rank of Captain of Company K. At New Hope Church Station Georgia, in the battle during Sherman's campaign, May 5, 1864, Captain Reynolds received a leg wound which prevented him from further military service. The injury troubled him all the rest of his life, for it was received while he was still carrying his arm in a sling from the wound at Lookout Mountain.<sup>4</sup>

At the close of the war young Reynolds first accompanied a group of comrades down into the interior of old Mexico. They were rebellious and while in that state of mind, felt they would prefer living apart from the jurisdiction of the United States. Reynolds was convinced very soon that this was a mistake, however, and answered the call of his homeland by quickly returning to his native state.

He was married August 11, 1866 to Miss Felicity Long Turnbull, of Lexington, Mississippi. They visited New Orleans on their wedding trip, with his sister Mary who nineteen years earlier had married John Robert Buhler, son of John Christian Buhler, Orange Grove Plantation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. and Mrs. Buhler wanted to assist the young couple in starting a mercantile store in New Orleans in order to have them establish their home there. Reynolds had been a merchant before the war, his only business experience. This decision was postponed, however, until a return to the bride's home at Lexington, and her mother later influenced a move to the Indian Territory.

Mrs. Reynolds was a member of the Choctaw Indian tribe, with also a strain of Chickasaw blood. She was born, November 18, 1847 at Lexington, Mississippi, Holmes County, the daughter of Hannah and Anthony Turnbull. Her maternal grandmother was Felicity LeFlore Long, sister to Greenwood LeFlore, Malmaison, Mississippi, who was the last Choctaw chief east of the Mississippi river.

The parents of Felicity LeFlore were Major Louis LeFlore and Rebecca Cravat LeFlore who were the parents of eleven children, now having many descendants in Oklahoma.<sup>5</sup> Rebecca LeFlore was the daughter of John Cravat, Frenchman of Mobile, Alabama who had been adopted into the Choctaw tribe by his marriage to Rebecca's mother, full blood member of the Oklafalaya iksa or clan.

<sup>4</sup> See Appendix B for "Reminiscences of Captain James E. Reynolds, Battleground Experiences."

<sup>5</sup> Michael LeFlore, brother of Major Louis LeFlore, also had many descendants of Choctaw by blood in Oklahoma. He went from Canada to Mexico, and thence to Mississippi where he married a fullblood Choctaw after his brother settled there.

The maternal grandfather of Mrs. Reynolds was Samuel Long, an Englishman whose influence as a highly educated man of stern Christian character was felt throughout succeeding generations. He took a prominent part in promoting the Indian nation, and in 1837 when the newly created Holmes County supervisors sought a required acreage for settlement of a county site at Lexington, he contributed thirty acres of the land allotted by the government to his Indian wife, Felicity.\* He likewise contributed building sites for the Holmes County Court House there, and for the Presbyterian Church. He sponsored schools to educate the Indians and held classes in his home for members of his own and neighboring Indian families in the study of the English language.

Samuel Long died in 1844, three years before the birth of his granddaughter, Felicity, but there was a grandson, Samuel Long Turnbull, born March 18, 1831. When Felicity Turnbull had reached the age of thirteen years, the family decided that she enter a girl's seminary located a day's travel from her home. She was accompanied on the journey by her adult brother, Samuel. During several hours travel on the train, he suggested an exchange of seats with his sister, and shortly afterwards was killed instantly by a blow on the head from a rail which penetrated the floor of the train coach. That tragedy with the wartime conditions which soon prevailed, ended the college training for the young girl. The inherited admonitions of her Grandfather Long remained through her lifetime, however, and many years later in the Indian Territory, she and her husband, Captain James Reynolds provided a college education for each of their children.

The pioneer settlement of the James E. Reynolds family in the Indian Territory, has been credited to the influence of Mrs. Reynolds's mother, Hannah, who thirty-six years earlier had resided in the region for two years. Hannah Long had married Anthony Turnbull, one half blood Choctaw of the Yalabusha County, September 7, 1829. Three years later Anthony and Hannah Turnbull with their infant son Samuel left the Mississippi territory to explore western land ceded to the Choctaws by terms of the Dancing Rabbit Creek treaty, 1830. Though financially independent of the land exchange, by terms of the treaty, they were fired with the spirit of adventure and had visions of great agricultural achievement in this new country. They were accompanied by slaves from their plantation home and spent two years in the Kiamichi Mountain country, residing near the present site of Talihina. They were visited there by Mrs. Turnbull's father, Samuel Long who was displeased with the living conditions and the primitive surroundings. He ordered his daughter and her family to return home and to

\* Centennial Edition, *Lexington Advertiser* (Lexington, Mississippi), December 15, 1937, Sec. 1, p. 2, col. 3.

hasten that return he took the homesick slaves back to Mississippi. The Anthony Turnbull family soon followed. Anthony died in 1844 and his widow Hannah was married two years later to James Jordan. She was again widowed before the marriage of her daughter Felicity to James E. Reynolds.

Hannah Jordan cherished vivid memories of the wilderness in this territory. She predicted it a land of great opportunity, far superior to the unhappy financial conditions prevailing in the Reconstruction period, following the close of the Civil War. Their former prosperity was gone although she had retained capital sufficient to finance a move to the west for her daughter and son-in-law. She also wished to return with them to the Territory and finally the decision was made.

Captain Reynolds first made an exploratory trip to this region. His letters praising the country were so enthusiastic that his wife was prepared for the move by the time he reached home. In the summer of 1867, with their year old son, James Reynolds, Captain and Mrs. Reynolds embarked on a steamboat for the start of their new life, as pioneers to the west. Hannah Jordan followed one year later, and lived until August 13, 1887. She was buried in the Reynolds family plot at Oak Hill Cemetery, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

While on the boat trip to the Indian Territory, an association began between the James Reynolds and the Robert Beall Rutherford<sup>1</sup> families which continued through a life long friendship. Rutherford with his wife, Sally Wallace Rutherford, both members of noted Virginia families had been on a visit to their homes in Virginia, after having resided in Clarksville, Arkansas, during the Civil War. Rutherford settled in Fort Smith to practice law where he later became county and probate judge of Sebastian County. The Reynolds family settled seven miles to the south in their inherited part of Choctaw nation and the lives of the two families were merged into a pioneering kinship. Members of the two families later became affiliated with United Daughters of the Confederacy and in 1908, the Confederate reunion in Chattanooga, Tennessee was attended by Grace Reynolds, young daughter of Captain and Mrs. James Reynolds, together with Helen Rutherford, Muskogee, the niece to Judge R. B. Rutherford. They were pages from the Indian Territory to the Assembly and Dr. Hailey, McAlester, was the delegate.

On reaching the territory, Captain and Mrs. Reynolds preferred a location near a point of transportation and settled a few miles

<sup>1</sup>Jerry Raad, "Samuel Morton Rutherford," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXX, No. 2 (Summer, 1952), pp. 149-59.

southwest of Fort Smith in the old Skullyville<sup>8</sup> region of the Choctaw nation. Their Choctaw tribal allotments were acquired in what was known as the Braden bottom land in the Arkansas river and the Poteau river valleys. Their first shelter was a cabin which had a puncheon floor. Canchrake had to be cleared before there was suitable place for a house and after a few months residence in a rudely constructed house they built another home on the hill which is now known as Arkoma Hill. This was their permanent abode for over a quarter of a century.

With their frontier home established, Captain Reynolds then centered his attention on farming projects, and had a part in the development of the region. As a land owner, he gradually accumulated farm properties of several thousand acres, through increased family Indian land and through his own personal investments. The land was cleared as it was acquired and cotton, food crops, vegetables and fruit were produced. He soon began to manage those agricultural projects very successfully, though his boyhood business experience had been limited to mercantile business. That knowledge also proved valuable, however, as he placed general supply stores through the region on a plan that was parallel to the present day system of chain supply stores for farmers. Another important early day business enterprise was his establishment of a tobacco factory, which operated for many years on his property south of Fort Smith.<sup>9</sup>

Captain Reynolds soon became interested in coal mining. He also credited his mother-in-law Hannah Jordan with creating his interest in minerals. In the descriptive accounts she made of her early life in the Kiamichi mountains was her following statement of a lead mine location.<sup>10</sup> This mine known only by Anthony Turabull from which he used lead from 1832 to 1834, now told by Hannah Jordan to James Reynolds in 1869, for Hannah had followed her menfolk on a mining trip and had kept silent on her discovery, for over thirty-six years:

"From the old Turabull residence, now Jack McCurtain's place, one mile south of the old Taskahoma capital. The lead was ten or twelve miles northwest up the Kiamichi river close to a tall mountain, situated on the river and on the right of the road toward the old Anderson place. I think the deposit was 50 miles above Doakville. Anthony cut the lead out with a hatchet for his own and his neighbor's use in making bullets. As he cut it out of the vein at that time, it had to be kept secret as there was penalty of death for divulging the whereabouts of a mineral."

<sup>8</sup> Skullyville was known as the Choctaw Agency (established 1832), the site of which is about a mile and a half northeast of present Spiro in Le Flore County, Oklahoma.

<sup>9</sup> *Fort Smith Press*, July 4, 1920, "Obituary Column."

<sup>10</sup> Ledger belonging to James E. Reynolds.



Captain Reynolds foresaw a great future for the coal industry in the territory, and determined to invest his time, energy and money in promotion of coal mining, coal having been discovered near the Texas road in the Choctaw Nation. Therefore he has been called the "first capitalist" to begin the development of coal mining in the McAlester region.<sup>11</sup> He is also credited with having built the first dwelling house in old McAlester for which he is called one of the town's founders.<sup>12</sup> At that time he had intention of establishing his own family in McAlester to reside and when that plan changed he joined with other capitalists in organizing another township, located one half mile south of the old McAlester town to be known as South McAlester. He then built the first stone business building, where in partnership with the late Senator Robert L. Owen, he established the Indian Trading Post.<sup>13</sup> This was run as a mercantile supply store and was later sold to a Carr Furniture Store firm. The building has changed ownership several times and the site is now the location of the building owned by *The McAlester News-Capital*, newspaper publishing company.

After residing for over twenty years in their Skullyville County hill home, the characteristic spirit of restless energy of Captain Reynolds became active again. The family then included three sons and four daughters. Success had been attained for family maintenance, he had toiled long and faithfully toward the progress of the region. His problems of a struggling pioneer had been solved and accordingly he decided the time had arrived for new residence location and new business expansion. He was attracted to the region of south Texas where the family had spent several winters during school terms. Because of his association with D. A. Cauthron, a cattleman of Sonora, Texas, he also considered a location there in the San Angelo country. Both these plans were terminated however, by Mrs. Reynolds who quietly but firmly stated her preference to remain in the Choctaw nation, with no intention of any future pioneering experiences again. As a happy compromise then the location for another home was chosen to be at Cameron, sixteen miles distant from the old homeplace.

Cameron, Indian Territory, in the late eighties was a new town and fast becoming the most important one in the eastern territory. The town was named in honor of William Cameron, Scottish coal miner who for many years was the government coal supervisor in the Choctaw nation.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Gideon, op. cit., p. 287.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Statement from McAlester citizens, including Mr. E. T. Richards, retired business executive who had been accountant for J. J. McAlester Coal Company in early days.

<sup>15</sup> Charles N. Gould, *Oklahoma Place Names* (Norman, 1933), p. 83.

The Cameron postoffice opened January, 1868, with William Green the first postmaster.<sup>10</sup> The Frisco railroad had been extended in 1866 from Fort Smith to Paris, Texas,<sup>11</sup> and was routed through Cameron as it crossed the Choctaw nation. The town was also the location of the United States Commissioners' Court, and many lawyers in Eastern Indian Territory were moving there for professional opportunities.

The town was located on a prairie plateau, facing Cavanaugh mountain on the south and the Sugar Loaf Mountain on the eastern border adjoining Arkansas. It was accessible to travel for horse drawn vehicles through the hills of its northern boundary, by a pass over Back Bone Mountain. A toll gate was operated at the entrance to the pass at the top the Mountain and the fees collected were used to maintain the road. One fee was charged for horse-back riders, another for wagons, another for buggies, the passage free to all citizens of the Choctaw Nation. Jess Riddle held the contract, for many years to operate the gate.<sup>12</sup>

Homestead rights were obtained by Mrs. Reynolds for the site of a new home which was built at Cameron in 1890. The location was on a hill slope with the house constructed of native stone from their hillside quarries. A castle type design with turrets was used with walls two feet thick, these having kept the building well preserved to the present date. Coal burning, grate-style fireplaces furnished the heating system. One room in the new house was set apart for displaying enlarged pictures of famous War Generals and memorial collections of Captain Reynolds. The pictures rested on easels draped with large Confederate flags of the stars and bars.

Captain Reynolds' hobby was the cultivation of flowers. He had a terraced garden at the front of the new home where roses, cape jessamines, magnolias and flowering shrubs were raised. He gave his own personal care to the flowers and credited his longevity to the physical exercise of daily work in his garden. During the cape jessamine blooming season, small boxes of the flowers wrapped in wet cotton were prepared for all visitors in the home, and were often presented to favorite railroad officials, also. The Frisco "Cannon Ball" train on its northbound trip could be seen several miles across the prairie from the front porch and the gleam of the headlight was watched with interest when the family

<sup>10</sup> George H. Shick, "First Post Offices within the Boundaries of Oklahoma," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. XXVI, No. 2 (Summer, 1948), p. 8.

<sup>11</sup> Public relations data furnished by the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad.

<sup>12</sup> The tollgate at the pass on Backbone Mountain was on the old Fort Smith-Fort Towson Road about a mile and a half south of Pocola in Le Flore County. Jess Riddle, a Choctaw citizen whose home was on the south side of the Mountain, operated the tollgate at the pass through the 1870's up to about the time of the construction of the Frisco Railroad in the region in 1866-7.—Ed.

had regular summer evening visits for singing and talking together.

Captain and Mrs. Reynolds had both been devoted members of the Presbyterian Church. They had formerly attended service at Fort Smith and after locating at Cameron they felt the need of a place to worship. Also there was apparent need of school facilities to provide classes for students of all ages. They decided therefore to found a mission church school at Cameron. Through their church affiliations they arranged for a school to be sponsored by the Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. So, in 1893, the school which was named the Cameron Institute was founded.<sup>19</sup> The Institute was financed principally by the Presbyterian Finance fund, though it also operated under terms of the Choctaw Indian schools as tuition for the students of Indian lineage was paid by the tribal government. It was a co-educational school, consisting of primary, intermediate and academic classes. All religious denominations were accepted, and chapel services were conducted daily at the school. The chapel also served as a place for Sunday school and Church, for residents of Cameron. Services were held there each Sunday by the school's residential Presbyterian minister. The school was conducted during the first year in a one-story frame building. Then Captain and Mrs. Reynolds contributed stone material and a building site adjacent to their own home for a two-story structure. It was completed in 1895.

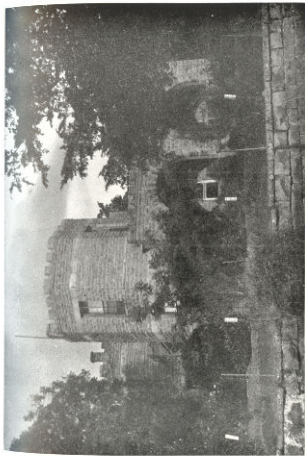
Though he did not officially govern the Institute, Captain Reynolds acted as advisor to the General Presbyterian Board of Missions. First teachers were J. F. McKenzie and Max Nolan, followed by E. W. Simpson, Mary Wortz, Sadie James, Ella Barnwell, Sue Edna Shibley, C. E. Powell. The Reverend William Lacey was the minister for several years. In 1896 the school was placed under the Presidency of Reverend T. B. Lunsford, who also taught the upper classes. His son Will Lunsford was a teacher and Mrs. Etha West Lunsford,<sup>20</sup> wife of another son, T. B. Lunsford, Jr., was in charge of the primary department for many years.

The school operated until after statehood and many present day Oklahoma residents received their early schooling at the old Cameron Institute.<sup>21</sup> After county seats were established many

<sup>19</sup> See Appendix C for notes on Cameron Institute, taken from the annual reports of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S., 1895 to 1902.

<sup>20</sup> Mrs. Etha West Lunsford now resides at Lincoln, Arkansas. Her late husband, T. B. Lunsford, was formerly on the Arkansas State Industrial Commission.

<sup>21</sup> As recorded by Mrs. Lunsford, students of Cameron Institute include the following who live in Oklahoma City (1954): Mrs. P. C. Heaslett (the former Edna Williams), Etha Ware, Jeff and Robert Beatty (sons of a pioneer Cameron watch dealer), Mrs. E. P. Allen whose father was the late Judge Phil Brewer, an attorney at Cameron. Dr. Anna Lewis, Head of the History Department at Oklahoma College for Women, Chickasha, is also a former student of the Institute.



Residence of Captain James E. Reynolds at Campoon. Philip Terhune, owner of photo.



families were forced to leave Cameron for business reasons. The U. S. Commissioners' Court had been moved to Poteau in 1900. Public schools were becoming numerous and eventually the attendance at the Institute became so small, it was necessary to close the institution. The building served as a warehouse for several years. Vandals destroyed the window panes and finally the structure was dismantled. The only remaining object now of the Institute furnishings is the old chapel organ, still cherished by members of the Reynolds family.

The business expansion program for Captain Reynolds at Cameron was a general merchandise store and a fruit industry. Peach orchards were developed on the hill back of his home and fancy Elberta peaches were produced there and shipped in car lots to the city markets. This industry provided a valuable pay roll to the town as during the packing and shipping season, the service of many employees was required. A winding road was cleared and marked to pass the Institute to the orchard site. The natural rock base of the soil provided all weather transportation from packing sheds to the railway station. In 1903 a shipment of peaches was sent to supply the markets in Liverpool, England, and Elberta peaches from the Reynolds Fruit Company, Cameron, Indian Territory was listed in the shipment.<sup>27</sup>

The Cameron merchandise store, owned by Captain Reynolds was merged with the fruit company in 1903, to become a partnership concern with his son, the late Earl Reynolds, and was operated by him under the firm name of E. V. Reynolds and Company until his passing in 1938. Another son, Hugh Anthony Reynolds, was his partner in the Braden Supply Store. That store operated for over forty years in serving families of the farming region along the Arkansas River. Through sentiment for the family interests, Hugh Reynolds and his family remained Braden residents through many flood seasons of disaster. The 1943 flood however, damaged his home and store building to the extent of a forced removal. He is now overseer for the land sections formed into a townsite by his father in 1911. That townsite includes hill land in the original acreage acquired on family filing many years earlier and was named Arkoma to represent the proximity to the boundary line of the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Captain Reynolds never surrendered the cause of Southern Confederacy in his heart and for that reason he bore the title of an "unreconstructed rebel." He never held or aspired to hold public office, either in the territory or the state which followed. Instead he preferred to direct all his influence to promote personal friends and the leaders of his choice. He was staunch in his fight

<sup>27</sup> Account Ledger belonging to James E. Reynolds. See, also, Joseph B. Thurn, *A Standard History of Oklahoma* (New York, Chicago, 1916), Vol. II, p. 837.

for a double statehood, and was persuaded by his friend Chief Greenwood McCurtain to become a delegate to the Sequoyah Constitutional Convention,<sup>25</sup> held in Muskogee, August 19, 1905. He served as a member of the finance committee.<sup>26</sup> After failure of the Sequoyah movement and after the admission of the Indian Territory into the single state of Oklahoma, he again experienced bitter disappointment toward government. He stubbornly refused to cast a vote of any kind in any state race until his personal friend of many years, Robert L. Owen, became a candidate for the United State Senate.<sup>27</sup> At the beginning of World War I, however, he immediately became reconciled completely to the United States government and extended all the support of his impulsive nature. He contacted his old army comrade, Colonel John S. Moseby, Washington D. C., in the hope of forming a battalion of Confederate veterans to join the American troops in France,<sup>28</sup> with the provision they would be allowed to go in battle under an old Confederate Battle Flag. The close of the war came before official approval had been granted.

Expressive of Captain Reynold's resolute spirit is this excerpt from a letter written by him, November 27, 1919, to a niece Miss Edith Buhler, New York, New York, in response to her request for his opinion on world conditions, following World War I:

"When the war closed in 1865, with bleeding heart I surrendered my individuality as we stacked arms and held up our hands in battle as subjects of the victor. I have remained as such since then, attending the Presbyterian Church and the Masonic Lodge as practically the only public gathering. I am sorry to say I am in no way competent to pass judgment since I am still an unreconstructed Confederate. With my parole I came west to the Indian Territory. When this World War closed I have aspired only to being a true loyal subject of the United States. My prayer is for our soldiers who fought and brought about this victory to have a voice in the

<sup>25</sup>Amos Maxwell, "The Sequoyah Convention," *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* Vol. XXVIII, No. 2 (Summer, 1950), pp. 161-92, and *ibid.*, No. 3 (Autumn, 1950) pp. 299-340.

<sup>26</sup>Letter from A. L. Rice to the writer:

Hugo, Oklahoma  
June 23, 1951

Dear Mrs. Nance:

I am glad to say I remember meeting James E. Reynolds at the Convention at Muskogee. He was quite an interesting person as well as C. N. Haskell and others who have passed across the great beyond.

(Signed) A. L. Rice

<sup>27</sup>*The Potomac Sun*, "Memory Lane" column, July 14, 1949.

<sup>28</sup>Clipping from *Washington Post*, D. C., December 7, 1917:

"Colonel John S. Moseby celebrated his 81 birthday December 6. Hele and hearty the aged Confederate Cavalryman spent the day in his apartment, 1229 Twelfth street, Washington, receiving numerous friends and such of his comrades as were able to greet him. Colonel Moseby still feels the fire of a warrior coursing through his veins. He says he feels as young as he did fifty years ago and would like nothing better than to form a regiment and get into the fighting in Europe. Colonel Moseby who until a year ago was a Government employee now resides with his daughter, Mrs. Stuart Moseby Calcutt."

future and say no more war. Had we not better stay at the head as at present than go to the bottom of the League of Nations? Now we can only stay where they have put us at the head or be attached to the foot, regardless of the cost to humanity who have grown so wicked that Providence was compelled to stop things."

Formation of the Arkoma townsite in 1911 was the last important business enterprise of Captain Reynolds. He created a small suburban settlement on the hill where rental houses were built. Also, he made arrangements for the Fort Smith Street Car Company to furnish regular service to the residents for access to their employment and to the schools in nearby Fort Smith. He formed a partnership with John Underwood of Spiro to drill wells for providing water to the community.<sup>27</sup>

Frequent trips to this neighborhood which had been their first home site in the territory, caused Captain and Mrs. Reynolds to make a decision to reside there again. They had a house built several hundred yards distant from their original home constructed in 1869 and spent their remaining nine years in the old Choctaw nation region which had seemed a magic wilderness on their arrival in their youth.

Captain Reynolds was a strong dominant personality. He admonished his children to display courage, energy, integrity and loyalty. His motto was "Surrender if necessary, but never be Conquered." Because of wounds received as a young soldier, his health received deepest solicitude from his wife and family. He was slender in stature, almost to frailty, though he had a very erect military carriage, with an elastic step. He was a great believer in proper diet, and, when traveling from home, his case always contained a tin of homemade graham biscuits to serve as his

<sup>27</sup> From Ledger belonging to J. E. Reynolds:

LOG OF SOLINGEN'S PROSPECT WELL—REYNOLDS  
AND UNDERWOOD

April—Clay, and slate rock first	25 feet—water first.
Sand rock	27 feet
Black slate	48 feet
Struck water again (at 106)	
Slate grit	25 feet
Rock hard	20 feet
Black slate	91 feet
Dark rock sandstone	36 feet
May 13—Struck water again	252 feet
June 10—Hard rock	450 deep
Black rock	510
Light shale	560
Hard rock	570
Black shale	615
White sandstone	660
Grey shale	680
White sandstone	712



bread. He was a believer in woman suffrage and a strong prohibitionist. One of his desired projects was a bridge across the Poteau river, and ironically the bridge was constructed the year after his passing.

Mrs. Reynolds was blessed with the radiance of good health, a kind disposition and unselfish nature. Here is the story of a good wife, mother and friend whose life of loving service to her family is a benediction. She was gifted in music and the echoes of her songs reflect the beauty and dignity of a well spent life. After the passing of her husband to whom she had administered so many years, her spirit languished. James E. Reynolds died July 3, 1920 and the death of his wife, Felicity followed in October of the same year.<sup>23</sup>

In compliance with the expressed wish of Captain Reynolds, the grave vaults in Oak Hill cemetery, Fort Smith, Arkansas in which he and Mrs. Reynolds are interred, are marked by statuary: Three lifesize figures, of marble which were carved in Italy portray a wounded soldier supported by two young women. That had been his own personal experience, following wounds received at the New Hope Battle, Georgia, in 1864. He had been left on the battlefield thought to be fatally injured and was discovered by the daughters of his commanding officer. For their help he was eternally grateful. The tomb inscription is, "Lest We Forget."

#### APPENDIX A

##### The Meaux Line of the Reynolds Family:

This is a very old French family of the Gallic tribe of the Meidi, from which the city of Meaux near Paris received its name. The family had been established in England ever since the year 1066, when Ketel De Meaux, their Norman ancestor came over with the conqueror, William of Orange. The lands which he received were in Yorkshire, with family branches established in the Isle of Wight and in Kingston. This family intermarried with the Plantagenet Royal line and their descent is given in the Exeter Volume of "Plantagenet Blood Royal." The name is derived from a root meaning excellence, virility, strength and sweetness. It is from the same root as Melliss, which means a bee and honey. It is very ancient. The armorial bearings are:

<sup>23</sup>Sons and daughters of Captain and Mrs. Reynolds, who reached maturity were James, Ida, Ross, Hugh, Earl, Grace, Felicity. The two now surviving are Mrs. Grace Kidd, widow of the late Henry Kidd, Amarillo, Texas and Mr. Hugh Anthony Reynolds, Ft. Smith, Arkansas.

Grandchildren who have been continuous residents of Oklahoma are Mrs. Rosa Ayleen (James C.) Nance and Mrs. Winnie (Horace) Hunter, Purcell, the daughters of Ross and Harvey Carr. Others are Mrs. Elizabeth Callaway, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Hugh Reynolds Jr., New York, N. Y., the daughter and son of Willie Robinson Reynolds and Hugh Reynolds; Ralph Booman, Jackson, Mississippi, and Bert Wayne Booman, Kansas City, Mo., the sons of Felicity and Bert Booman; Helen Murray, Crockett, Texas, and Reynolds Murray, Carlsbad, New Mexico daughter and son of Ida and Dr. M. W. Murray; Henry Hugh Kidd, Borger, Texas son of Grace and Henry Kidd.



Marble Statuary that marks the graves of Captain and Mrs. Reynolds, Oak Hill Cemetery, Fort Smith, Arkansas.



Arms: pale of six, or, and az; on a chief gu. 3 crosses, pattee of the first; Crest: 2 wings, endorsed, the points downward, ar; tied together with cord, or. (from the Norman people and their existing descendants)—H. S. King and Co.

In the spring of the year 1700 according to Baird's *Huguenot Emigration to America* a band of 700 colonists under the leadership of the Marquis Oliver de la Moine came to Virginia and founded Manakintown on the James River; a large grant of land having been made to this brave young nobleman who had escaped from France to England after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and brought his Huguenot followers from France and England to the New world.<sup>29</sup> John Meux, the first known ancestor of the family in America, who left England 1714 purchased a large estate on the Pamunkey river. (Plantagenet Blood Royal, Exeter Volume) John Meux died there 1728 according to register of St. Peter's Parish. His son Richard, born there in 1711 married Elizabeth Lightfoot, granddaughter of Colonel John Lightfoot of the Virginia Council. They were great grandparents of James E. Reynolds, Cameron, Oklahoma.

#### The Reynolds Family (The Lightfoot Line):

This is an old English family, many of whose sons came to America in the early Colonial days, settling in Virginia and in New England and trading with the West Indies. The earliest traced English ancestor was Reverend Richard Lightfoot, rector of Stoke Newcove, Northamptonshire, England, born 1592. He was active in his parish in 1601 and was buried there 1625. His will is quoted in William and Mary College Quarterly, volume 11. His oldest son was John Lightfoot, born 1598, barrister at law at Gray's Inn, London, 1617. John Lightfoot was born in England 1620 and like his father John 1, was of Gray's Inn 1641. He came to Gloucester, County Virginia in 1671. He was member of the Kings Council, also being Commissioner in chief of King and Queen County. St. Peter's parish gives the following inscription on his grave, "Colonel John Lightfoot, Esq. obiit xxviii XXVIII Die Maja circa medidm. Hec et Anne Line 1707." The arms of the family are also given which are three mussel shells to denote a crusading ancestor. Colonel John Lightfoot, Virginia Council married Anne Goodrich whose father was a Lieutenant Colonel during Bacon's rebellion in 1676. Their seventh son was Major Sherwood Lightfoot whose daughter Elizabeth, born November, 23, 1716 became the wife of Richard Meux and they were the great great grandparents of James E. Reynolds, Cameron, Oklahoma.

#### APPENDIX B

##### "Reminiscences of Captain James E. Reynolds—Perryville, Kentucky Battle."

"As I remember it was on the morning of Sept. 14. We advanced in line of battle across an old field under heavy fire which was picking off our men. As we quietly advanced and stretched our files after closing on the right as the men were cut down and out by the enemies sharpshooters, we thought not of danger but pushed with all energy to reach a long ridge where we would make our stand for the days battle against the enemy in line, then opposing us on another ridge 100 yards away. On getting on the ridge we were ordered to take advantage of the hill and lead and fire at will. The enemies position on the opposite hill showed they were arrayed in line of battle when they stood and loaded and fired by manual orders all day, but were replaced with fresh troops to their lines frequently. We were near enough to hear them distinctly giving orders in loading, firing etc. The enemy lined up their men behind the hill enough to expose their men from the waist up only. We immediately prepared for work by falling under

<sup>29</sup> The largest number of Huguenot colonists settled at Manakintown which was located on the south bank of the James River about twenty miles above the falls near Richmond, on land that had been occupied by the Monacan Indian tribe, whence the name Manakintown.—Ed.

the hill entirely protected, then selected five men—one to load guns—one to haul them up to one man who laid flat on the ground, with his face exposed only while he with his gun resting on the ground took aim at the enemy's belt buckles—then fired and replaced the empty gun with one freshly loaded and fired again. I was on the firing line. The boys dug holes with their bayonets for my feet to rest in so as to prevent being kicked off the hill by our old guns when they fired. Thus arranged, I with the five men loading ten guns, handed up as fast as one was emptied, kept my position there all day, consuming 170 cartridges without getting a scratch except from powder burns and kick on my face and a black shoulder that was disabled for weeks after, caused from the kicking of our own guns.

Charlie Morris as I remember, was shot in the head and was the only one killed in Co. K. after getting our position on the hill. The two Hughes boys, Steve and Joe, their cousin Buck Humphries, Sgts. Loft, Thompson, Pettigrew and Morris as I remember, were on my right on the firing line. We charged the enemy at eight o'clock P.M. They retreated leaving their dead and wounded on the field for us. After making my details as 1st. Sgt. and our picket lines established 2nd. Sgt. Aaron Loft and I started down the enemies line with all the water containers we could muster on a mission of mercy and did all we could for the suffering ranks. We worked with them until 4 a.m. and until our water gave out, also ourselves. The dying were more quiet when we decided to return to our own command. After starting back I became exhausted and decided to rest a while. Sgt. Loft went on. The enemy were strewn thick for miles along our path. I selected for my bed a two foot space between a dead horse and what appeared to be his dead rider, who lay by him. I took the overcoat and blanket off the horse and made a pallet bed between them, which I got up and covered with overcoat and prepared to go to sleep, with a clear conscience and exhausted body. No sooner had I begun to sleep than to my amazement the supposedly dead man proved to be not quite dead but in last agony, raised his right hand and landed it limp in my face to remain motionless—and he was really dead! I was entirely alone with the dead and dying, several thousand in number. No one except those placed in the same position, surrounded as I was, could imagine my feelings. After a second's thought, and after looking at the man and feeling for heartbeats, and convincing myself the man was dead, I took off the overcoat, which I had taken from the dead horse and laid it on the man with care and deliberation—after which I rose quietly and started to my command not before saying to myself however, "I am not a coward but when it comes to a dead man slapping me in the face, I can and will give him the field." I started off with a good step giving him my back without looking behind and with cold chills running over me every moment as I could imagine feeling the dead man's hand clapping on my back every step I took. That dead Yankee was the only Yankee I ever gave my back to on a battlefield, notwithstanding I have frequently had to retreat in battle. I always had a pride against being shot in the back and invariably retreated backwards.

Murfreesboro—

After the battle of Perryville we started out of Kentucky, on my retreat through Cumberland Gap pursued by the enemy who had been re-enforced. We marched, fighting our way both day and night without stopping to eat or sleep until we got to an old town in Tennessee, Tawwell, I think, at the end of a seven day retreat. After a short rest we went on to Knoxville and then took the train cars back to Chattanooga and to Shelbyville again, where we remained until after the battle of Murfreesborough, Tenn., December 31, 1862 where our regiment, with Col. Scates, 30th Mass. lost over half their men, when we charged the enemies entrenched line and the Wild Cat battery, Co. K out of 54 men to go into battle, lost 22. We retreated from their battery fire but rallied when re-inforcements came up—flanked out of their breast works and soon occupied the enemies battle grounds. That night, 14

this engagement, my haversack was shot to pieces. My hat and coat were plucked but I escaped otherwise unharmed and unscathed except for small cut on the right cheek from a passing bullet, shot by one of my own men who was firing on the rear line.

#### Lookout Mountain—

It was at Lookout Mountain November 24, 1863 and after my brigade (Walsh's) had surrendered when with my comrades Steve and Joe Hughes, Buck Humphreys, H. C. Latham, we ran the gauntlet to escape. I with 158 bullet holes in my clothes and body wounds escaped with a severe breast wound received in the retreat. My comrades knew of a cave in the mountains which they soon reached and climbed a ladder to safety—to our army on top of the mountain. I faced 20,000 men as I retreated until I lost the use of my right arm and could not load my gun. I was a lieutenant then but took a run from one of my company "McDonough," who would not go with me but surrendered instead. After getting from under fire I threw down my sword and blanket, which was shot to pieces. I was again promoted—to first Lieutenant for meritorious conduct after this battle of Lookout Mountain.

#### APPENDIX C

The following notes on Cameron Institute are from the annual report of the Executive Committee of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, Historical Foundation, Montreat North Carolina, T. H. Spence, director:

"The other high school was inaugurated at Cameron, Choctaw Nation, a small but growing town twenty one miles on the "Frisco" road south of Fort Smith, Ark., and was placed under the care of Mr. J. P. McKensie, a student of Austin Theological Seminary, who with Mr. Nolen, a young man and a ruling elder as his assistant, began the school January 1. The whole enrollment here has reached seventy." (For Year ending March 30th, 1895, p. 4.)

"The school at Cameron opened in November, Mr. E. W. Simpson, a graduate of Hampden-Sidney College, Va., principal. Both principals have assistant teachers." (For year ending March 31st, 1896, p. VI.)

"We have two High Schools in the Choctaw Nation—one at Cameron, a small town twenty-one miles from Fort Smith, Ark. We have a two-story stone building for church and school purposes, with Rev. T. B. Lunsford in charge of church and school. He has had two school assistants, with an enrollment of 127 pupils during the year." (For Year ending March 31st, 1897, p. VII.)

T. B. Lunsford was still in charge. "The school (at Cameron) and church are beacon lights, and power for good in that section." (For Year ending March 31st, 1898, p. IX.)

"Rev T. B. Lunsford, Principal of our High School at Cameron, offered his resignation, because of failing health, in February last, and was succeeded by his son, Mr. J. W. Lunsford, who, with two assistants, has continued the school to the end of the session, with an enrollment during the year of 125 pupils." (For Year ending March 31st, 1899, p. X.)

Cameron—Prof. T. M. Whitson, Principal . . . 8 teachers, 117 white, 23 Indian pupils enrolled." (For Year ending March 31st, 1900, p. X.)

"Cameron has a stone building which cost \$2,000, and has done fine work under Professor Lacy and his assistants. It has not only improved the moral tone of the town, but made it impossible to rent a house in the place. With wise and aggressive management it may likewise develop into a college of great influence for good in that whole section." (For Year ending March 31st, 1902, p. V.)