

## NECROLOGY

MINNIE REGINA SLIEF  
1868-1963

Minnie R. Slief was regarded with affection and high respect by the people of Cheyenne, Oklahoma for her fifty-five years of faithful and kindly service as a pioneer abstractor in this her home town in Roger Mills County. She was born on September 27, 1868 at Caldwell, Kansas, the daughter of Anthony John Slief and Johanna (neé Eisenrath) Slief. Her father made the historic "Run" into the Unassigned Lands of Oklahoma on April 22, 1889, from the North line at Big Camp, Buffalo Springs, Northeast of Hennessey, Oklahoma, and homesteaded four miles Southwest of Dover. His wife and three small daughters, Minnie the younger of the three, joined him late that year after he had built a log cabin for their temporary home. This homestead where Minnie grew up was known as the "Box Springs Farm" for the flowing springs which were used by the Indians and cattlemen as a watering place near the old Chisholm Trail.

Minnie attended the Box Springs School where she received her diploma. In the Fall of 1896, she enrolled in the Capitol City Business College, Guthrie, Oklahoma Territory. Her first employment was with the Constitutional Convention held in Guthrie from November 22, 1896 through September 17, 1897, at which time a general election was held to adopt or reject the Constitution, also to elect all state, district, county and township officers. In the interim following the Convention adjournment and the newly elected officers taking office, Minnie was employed by A. W. West, Attorney General for the Territory of Oklahoma, and later for a short period was employed by the West Realty Company of Guthrie.

The Constitutional Convention defined the boundaries and named the counties and designating the county seats. This necessitated the transcribing of official county records in many areas. Minnie accepted employment with a firm transcribing records in Western Oklahoma including Roger Mills County. When this transcribing was completed for Roger Mills County, Minnie accepted a position with the Miller-Cornel Abstract Company at Cheyenne, the county seat of Roger Mills County. This firm later became the Miller-Baird Abstract Company. On March 15, 1918, Miss Slief purchased R. F. Baird's interest and one Sylvester Grim purchased Madden Miller's interest and the firm became the Slief-Grim Abstract Company, with Miss Slief as its President. In 1921, the firm name became Slief-Vaughn when A. G. T. Vaughn acquired Mr. Grim's interest. It was operated under this firm name until in the late 50's when the abstract firm was acquired by E. C. Peryman and the name changed to the Cheyenne Abstract Company. Miss Slief remained with the firm.

Minnie Slief was elected the first chairman of the Democratic Central Committee of Roger Mills County in 1918. She was active in the American Legion Auxiliary having served as its president and was in charge of the American Legion Poppy Drives for many years. She was a member of the Platonic Club, the Philharmonic Club and the Business and Professional Women's Club. She was active in all civic and fund raising campaigns of the community, most often as the chairman, for such funds as the Christmas Seal Sale, Easter Seal Sale, Heart Association and church benefits. Miss Slief was active in the



Minnie Regina Slier

Western Oklahoma Council of Catholic Women serving in many offices of the organization. She taught Sunday School in the local church at Cheyenne, and was sponsor of the church there having donated the land upon which the church was built. In 1948, as a token of appreciation for her many years of church work she received the papal medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice," one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon one of Catholic faith.

Miss Minnie Siefert belonged to her professional organization, the Oklahoma Abstractors Association. She was also a member of "The 66ers," an association for lineal descendants of those who made the Run into the Oklahoma Unassigned Lands on April 22, 1889.

Miss Siefert was known in her community as "Miss Minnie," an endearing term given to her many years before when she became an early resident of Cheyenne on April 6, 1908. In commemoration of this anniversary the Mayor of Cheyenne issued the following:

"PROCLAMATION"

"WHEREAS, on the 6th day of April, 1963, Miss Minnie R. Siefert will have been in the land title business in and for Roger Mills County, State of Oklahoma, for 55 years,

"AND WHEREAS, Miss Minnie R. Siefert has contributed materially to her church, her clubs, her political party and to each and every community endeavor during said period;

"AND WHEREAS, it is most fitting and proper that her great host of friends and neighbors take time to honor the said Miss Minnie R. Siefert for her many years of devoted service to this community and to the people therein;

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, THAT the 6th day of April, 1963, be, and it is hereby proclaimed to be "MISS MINNIE DAY" in Cheyenne, Oklahoma, and all of her great host of friends are seriously urged to join in the festivities honoring her on said date.

"Dated this 29th day of March, 1963, at Cheyenne, Oklahoma.

"W. R. KROWS

"Mayor of the town of Cheyenne, Oklahoma"

The festivities of the day, April 6, 1963, were held by receiving friends and well wishers coming to a close with an evening program held in the American Legion Hall sponsored by the Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. A program was presented with Mr. Guy Davis as toastmaster, the principal speakers were Judge Giles Peterson, Mrs. John Cassidy, Mrs. Charlie Burns and a summation by Mr. W. W. Blackburn of Elk City, Oklahoma. Songs appropriate to the occasion were sung by Ous Harrington and Mrs. Charlie Burns. Refreshments were served by the American Legion and Auxiliary.

PROGRAM  
 "MISS MINNIE DAY"  
 CHEYENNE, OKLAHOMA  
 APRIL 6, 1963

PRESENTATION OF OLD GLORY ..... AMERICAN LEGION  
 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ..... LED BY MAYOR W. R. KROWS  
 NATIONAL ANTHEM ..... MRS. CHARLIE BURNS  
 INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS ..... MR. GUY DAVIS  
 MISS MINNIE'S "ABSTRACT" ..... JUDGE GILES PETERSON  
 "THE WORLD IS MINE TONIGHT" ..... OUS HARRINGTON  
 A SUCCESSFUL LIFE ..... MRS. JOHN CASADY

"CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN" .....MRS. CHARLIE BURNS  
 SUMMATION .....MR. W. W. BLACKBURN  
 "I LOVE YOU TRULY" .....LED BY MRS. CHARLIE BURNS  
 RETIRE THE COLORS .....AMERICAN LEGION  
 REFRESHMENTS .....AMERICAN LEGION AND AUXILIARY

The *Cheyenne Star* newspaper, date of April 4, 1963 carried twenty-one ads from merchants and other business firms in which they congratulated Miss Slief for her fifty-five years as an abstractor in Roger Mills County. In addition, a feature article was published giving a resume of Miss Slief's activities in the community, Mayor W. R. Krowe's proclamation for "Miss Minnie Day," and the Resolutions of the Roger Mills County Bar Association for her diligent service and kindnesses shown to them at all times. The Editorial gave reasons for the celebration which were:

"This week Cheyenne is endeavoring to show its appreciation for one of its great citizens, Miss Minnie Slief. Regardless of the many wonderful words of appreciation, regardless of all the honors bestowed upon her, the thing that Miss Minnie will appreciate the most, is the fact that she is appreciated. No doubt the expressions of appreciation for Miss Minnie Slief as stated by the people of Cheyenne will be an inspiration to younger persons to so live that their lives too may be appreciated."

Miss Minnie Slief passed away suddenly on July 15, 1963 at Cheyenne, Oklahoma. Requiem services were celebrated at St. Joseph's Church, Cheyenne on July 19, 1963 with burial in the family lot, Kingfisher Cemetery, Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

—GOLDA H. SLIEF

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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IRENE BUZZARD ROBISON  
 1891 - 1963

Irene Buzzard Robison was born December 25, 1891, in St. Mary's Kansas, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Buzzard, who came to Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma Territory, when Irene was three months old. Mr. Buzzard bought a "claim" near the little town of Dale where the family lived for several years. Two sisters and a brother made up the family after their father died. Irene attended school at Dale, and graduated from McLoud High school, and later from Central State College at Edmond. She taught school at Dale, and at other schools in the County.

She was married to Clarence Robison, then Assistant County Attorney, November 28, 1915. The family lived at Tecumseh where they were active in the religious, social, and civic life of the community until 1944, when they moved to Shawnee where they lived until her death November 1, 1963. Funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian Church, with the Reverend Wendell Patterson, pastor, officiating. Interment was in the Shawnee Mission cemetery.

In this brief sketch on Mrs. Robison's life, one can only tell something of the consecrated work and rich personality of this woman who spent so much of her time and strength in service for others. Her sympathy for the unfortunate, her generosity to the poor, her patience with those who have failed, her pride in the success of those who have earned a reward was an inspiration to others to strive. Even her keen appreciation of music, and art, her love of books, her loyalty to friends was exemplified in her daily life.

First in Mrs. Robison's life was her family. Except for her religion, her family was her strongest interest. Her three daughters, Mrs. W. P. Mathews of Oklahoma City; Mrs. Ray E. J. Millard of Miami, Florida; Mrs. Lou Albee Hamlin, of the home; and Dr. Clarence Robison, Jr. of Oklahoma City, need no introduction. They each reflect many of their mother's characteristics.

Her church activities included any active service that did not interfere with her home or family duties. For instance she had baked the communion bread for the Church service continuously for many years.

Mrs. Robison had belonged to some of the active Women's clubs in both Tecumseh, and Shawnee, where she never shirked a required obligation, and was an intelligent leader in discussions of National Affairs. She gave more time, strength and energy to the work of the Pottawatomie County Historical Society than any other member. One who knew her well tells how she loved this work. Mrs. Nora Dehman, of Shawnee, Oklahoma, who prepared "A Resolution" to the memory of Mrs. Robison.

#### A Resolution

"I wish to pay a tribute to the memory of our beloved friend, Mrs. Clarence Robison, who for years was president of the Pottawatomie County Historical Society, and Curator of the museum at the time of her death.

"She had three main interests in life: her family, her church and the Historical Society of Pottawatomie County. I lived near her at the time she accepted the leadership of this very worthwhile organization.

"Being a woman of intelligence, faith and vision, and blessed with a sense of true values, she began the rehabilitation of the Historical Society and the reconstruction of the facilities of the little old Shawnee Mission Church, making it a museum for the growing Historical Society.

"Today, this museum is one of our most interesting historical spots, with relics and trophies of the earliest history of the County, and of the State of Oklahoma.

"Her work began to attract attention. Former residents of this county began writing to her, proud to identify themselves as natives of Pottawatomie County. Some sent valuable statistics, which they treasured, to be placed in the museum. As we look about this museum and observe the records and portraits of those who helped form the history of this County, whose influence is still widely felt, we realize that this museum is an essential part of the history of our State.

"The death of Irene Robison is a blow to this Society. But it is hoped that those who follow will catch the Torch of her interest in this worthwhile organization and make of her vision an ever growing, flourishing tribute to the Pioneers of Pottawatomie County, State of Oklahoma."

Of the many who are anxious to testify to the work of this wonderful woman we can use only a few from those who knew her best. Mrs. Lizzie H. Henke, of Shawnee says:

"My memories of Irene Robison are many, but just what can I say in so few allotted lines? I have known her since childhood. All through the years we have shared our sorrows and joys together. From our



THE HOBISON FAMILY

Front row, left to right: Mrs. Hobison, Judge Clarence Robinson, Aggie Jo Millard. Stand-  
ing back row, left to right: James Matthews, Dr. Clarence Robinson, Mrs. Alice Jennie.

first day in school, on through the grades we sat together on the old double desk seats.

"She had a deep sense of right and wrong. I remember how she begged her mother to take a mouse away from their cat, because she thought it would be wrong for the cat to devour the mouse.

"No truer, or more loyal friend ever lived than Irene Robison."

Mrs. Florence R. Pigg, herself deeply interested in Pottawatomie County Historical Society said: "In the death of Mrs. Irene Robison, the Pottawatomie County Historical Society has suffered an irreparable loss. Serving as president a number of years, then as curator of the museum, her interest, enthusiasm and energy was an inspiration to all. She was untiring in her efforts to promote the growth and progress of the Society, in her desire to accomplish much of value for posterity. Her charming personality won the hearts of all who knew her."

Mrs. Lela Gardner, corresponding secretary of the Historical Society, wrote: "Mrs. Irene Robison was a dedicated worker for the Pottawatomie County Historical Society. An early day pioneer in this county, she wished to preserve the historical data, and the antiques connected with it. She loved the work as president of the Society, and as curator of the museum."

The Reverend Wendell K. Patterson, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Shawnee said: "Mrs. Robison was a faithful member of our church, and in many ways served Him who is 'The Bread of Life.'"

—FLORENCE DRAKE

Shawnee, Oklahoma