

## THE WINN-KARNES FAMILY of WASHINGTON COUNTY

by Lyda Winn Pace, granddaughter of Eliza Hancock Winn

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We know very little about the ancestry of our paternal grandmother. We know that her maiden name was Hancock, that she had several sisters and one brother named Addison. We know that she was a courageous woman with a strong Christian character and that she was a member of the Methodist church.

Our father and two uncles have told us many things of interest in their life in childhood and things about their mother, that we can piece together and make them live again.

She married our grandfather, James Minor Winn, in 1864, after his first wife, Nancy Bloyed Winn, died in 1862. His ten children were all married and gone from home. He owned a large acreage in the rich valley of what is now West Fork. The home was in the south part of this farm and, according to events handed down to us, was on the main road. The country was sparsely settled, with wilderness all around. He owned a large number of horses, cattle and sheep. Also a slave woman and two children, a girl and a boy.

During the war, soldiers came in search of supplies or anything they could find that would be of value to them. The slaves were hidden under the floor with a trap door opening. All was going well and the soldiers were about to leave, when the boy got curious and pushed the door up enough to see out. A soldier spied the opening and the boy was taken. They never heard of him again. The mother died soon afterward, but the girl, Em, was kept in the family and proved a great blessing to them.

The soldiers were also taking several head of horses. Among them was grandma's favorite. She went to the soldier leading it, and engaged him in conversation. Catching him off guard, she suddenly jerked the reins from his hand, gave the horse a slap and before the soldier knew what was happening the horse was gone.

Our grandfather died in 1868, leaving her with three small children and one yet unborn. The children of James Minor Winn and Eliza Hancock Winn were:

Martha, born 1865; died 1892

Walker Robert, born 1866; died Feb. 9, 1948

George Albright, born March 3, 1867; died Jan. 2, 1932

James Addison (Jimmie), born April 28, 1869 (four months after the death of his father)

Grandma had many problems to solve and many harrassing times, as she supported and cared for her children with only the help of Em. Once a panther came very close to the house. Grandma put the children under the feather bed and turned the frantic dogs in the house. The panther could be seen just outside, the window, clawing on a log. In desperation Em took chunks of fire on a large shovel and dared go outside and drive it away.

On another occasion a funeral procession, traveling by wagon, was overtaken by darkness as they neared Grandma's house. A pack of wolves had been following for some distance. Grandma gave them a rail fence to burn that night to keep the wolves from attacking the corpse.

Our father remembered when he was quite small, being sent to the nearest neighbor to borrow some coals of fire. Everybody had a fireplace and had to keep some coals covered in the back, in order to have fire to cook on and to light their candles. For some reason their coals had died out and no way to cook till they got more.

Em gathered most of their fire wood from the woods near the house. She always wanted to take one or two of the children with her and was always cautious about wild animals. Every few minutes she would stop her work and listen. Once a neighbor hid in some bushes. He screamed like a panther, thinking Em would run, but instead, her protective spirit arose and she hurled a big rock in the direction of the scream. Her aim hit the mark and a cry of pain came up. That trick wasn't tried again.

Grandma had a boarder who peddled pills. One rainy day when the boys were having to amuse themselves indoors, they found a bottle of the sugar-coated pills. They would fill their hands with the pills and hold them under the drip of the house, then drink the water off. By night they were three very sick little boys and no trouble to tell what happened to the "Pills of Mr. Shills."

Oct. 6, 1889, Walker Winn and Margaret Chapman were married. She was the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Reed Chapman of the Round Mountain community, three and a half miles north of West Fork. They were married on horseback, which was a popular custom for weddings at that time. They, with two or three other couples in attendance, rode to the gate of the officiating Justice of the Peace and he gave the marriage vows standing on the ground.

Walker was a farmer and stockman, living in communities around West Fork till 1908, when they moved to Winslow where his brothers, George and Jimmie had already taken their residence. Walker Winn and Margaret (Maggie) Winn had three daughters:

Ethel, born Jan. 4, 1892; died July 11, 1950

Stella, born Oct. 30, 1893

Dora (Dode), born May 13, 1895; died Sept. 10, 1946

Ethel Winn was among the first telephone operators of the Winslow Telephone Company. After a short time she became an assistant to her uncle in the Winslow post office. J. A. (Jimmie) Winn was the depot agent for the Frisco railroad and also postmaster, with the post office in part of the depot.

Ethel Winn was married Jan. 26, 1915, to Austin Yoes of Winslow. It was a church wedding in the Methodist church. Issue:

Wendell C. Yoes, born Jan. 24, 1916

Ellis Gray Yoes, born Dec. 5, 1917

Wendell C. Yoes married (1st) Dona Ramey of Winslow in 1936. They had daughter, Judith Ann. Wendell C. Yoes married (2nd) Stella Arnold of Fort Smith in 1946.

Judith Ann Yoes married (1st) Harold Van Asche of Fayetteville. Issue: Melissa, born April 20, 1959. Judith Ann married (2nd) James Teas. Issue: Sheryl, born Oct. 5, 1961.

Ellis Gray Yoes married Vivian Cobb of Fort Smith in 1944. Issue: Robert (Bobbie), born May 5, 1951; and Rebecca (Becky), born March 29, 1955. Ellis Gray Yoes is owner and manager of the Yoes Printing and Lithographing Co. of Fort Smith (1963).

Stella Winn, second daughter of Walker and Margaret Winn, never married. She graduated from Winslow school in 1912, attended high school at West Fork and took a business course in the Springfield, Mo. Business College. She taught school for a number of years and in 1920 was appointed Postmaster at Winslow, serving till 1933. Her father, Walker R. Winn, was assistant postmaster.

Dora (Dode) Winn was the youngest daughter of Walker and Margaret Winn. She attended the Winslow school and for a number of years was an operator for the Winslow Telephone Co. She was married May 22, 1918 to Glen T. Duncan of Winslow. He was serving in the Army of World War I and home on leave before sailing for France. Dora Winn Duncan and Glen T. Duncan had one daughter:

Ruby Glenn, born June 30, 1924. Ruby was married to Jack Ruble of Nebraska in 1944. Issue: Glenda, born 1945; Debra (Debby), born 1951; Timothy (Timmy), born 1954.

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George A. Winn married Mary Stockburger Feb. 2, 1890. She was a daughter of John C. and Martha Reed Stockburger of the Round Mountain community north of West Fork. At the time of their marriage, he was a clerk in the store at Brentwood. A flood nearly washed them and their house away, so they moved to a farm at Woolsey. A year later they bought a farm north of West Fork. In 1898 they moved to Porter (later Schaberg) in Crawford County, where he had a general merchandise store. In 1905 they moved back to Washington County, at Winslow, where he went into partnership in the mercantile business with his half-brother Clyde (Jack) Karnes. They put up a two-story building, with plate glass front, and were doing a big business when Jack accidentally killed himself July 9, 1906. The Bank of Winslow was organized in 1907 and George A. Winn was elected cashier and served in that capacity until the liquidation of the bank in 1931.

Children of George A. Winn and Mary Stockburger Winn were:

Omer Addison, born Feb. 11, 1891  
 Martha Ann, born Sept. 27, 1892  
 Aliza Hexter (Lyda), born July 16, 1897  
 Robert George, born March 17, 1903

Omer Winn never married. He studied telegraphy under his uncle, James A. Winn, then went to Springfield, Mo. Business College. After finishing the course he worked for the Kansas Natural Gas Co. in Kansas City for a few years, then for the Frisco railroad at Ashdown. In 1917 he volunteered for service in World War I, but was discharged on account of a heart condition. During World War II he was a guard at the Frisco railroad tunnel at Winslow. He is a woodsman, with hunting and trapping a hobby. He resides at the family home near Winslow.

Martha Ann Winn graduated from Winslow school in 1911 and that fall was elected assistant cashier to the Bank of Winslow and served in that capacity until her marriage in 1925. She was married to the Rev. Thos. Carey of Ardmore, Okla. He was a Presbyterian minister of English birth and came to America as a young man. He served in several major cities in Oklahoma and was pastor of the Yale Avenue Presbyterian church in Tulsa at the time of his retirement in 1935. They moved to a farm at Siloam Springs, Ark. He continued to preach, however, and served the Gravette, Ark. church for a number of years.

Thos. Carey and Martha Ann Winn Carey had two sons:

Thomas Winn Carey, born Feb. 28, 1927

Robert Williams Carey, born Mar. 16, 1929. Died in infancy.

Thomas Winn Carey graduated from Siloam Springs high school in 1945 and entered the Army soon afterward. After serving two years in Germany, he married Rita Kathrene Holfelder Oct. 23, 1948, just before sailing to America. She was from Heidelberg. He entered the University of Arkansas soon after his return and graduated from the Civil Engineering department in 1953. They went to California where he now holds the position of a bridge engineer with the state of California. Thomas Winn Carey and Rita Holfelder Carey have one son: Thomas George (Mike), born May 5, 1952.

Eliza Hexter (Lyda) graduated from Winslow high school in 1916. After working as an operator for the Winslow Telephone Company for six years, she took a business course in the Fayetteville Business College and in 1926 was elected assistant cashier of the Bank of Winslow and served in that position till the liquidation of the bank in 1931. In 1939 she was married to Rev. C.B. Pace, a Methodist minister serving in the East Oklahoma Conference. He was a native of Tennessee. After his death in 1944, she made her home with her brother and mother in Winslow. She worked as relief operator for the Winslow Telephone Company in 1946, tutored a third-grade boy in the home one school year and also gave music lessons in the home from time to time, till the duties of the home and the care of her aging mother required all her time. The mother, Mary Stockburger Winn, passed away April 28, 1962.

Robert George Winn graduated from University high school at Fayetteville. He received an A.B. and B.O. degree from Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. in 1928 and an M.A. degree from the University of Florida in 1931. He taught in the Lydia Patterson Institute, a Methodist Mission school in El Paso, Texas one year, and two years in the College of the Ozarks at Clarksville, Ark., before going to California in 1936. On May 23, 1933 he married Bernice Withers of Rogers. Issue: Mary Lou, born May 5, 1935; she died at birth; and Betty Ann, born Nov. 17, 1936. He taught several terms of school in California before going into Civil Service work in the Employment Division. In 1942 he joined the Army but was given a discharge in 1943 on account of his age. He was placed back in Civil Service as councilor for disabled veterans. He is now retired and makes his home in California.

Betty Ann Winn, daughter of Robert G. and Bernice Withers Winn, graduated from high school in Compton, California. June 17, 1956 she was married to John Naranjo. He is a design engineer. They have two children: John Richard, born Nov. 5, 1957; and Robert Randell, born Jan. 28, 1962.

James A. Winn and Laura Karnes were married May 7, 1892. He was a telegraph operator for the Frisco railroad and stationed at LeFlore, Okla. He also served at Poteau, Okla. and West Fork, Ark. before coming to Winslow in 1894. He served as an operator or depot agent at Winslow for 50 years, retiring in 1944. J. A. Winn and wife Laura were charter members of the Winslow Methodist Church and of the Order of the Eastern Star. He was also instrumental in organizing the Masonic Lodge in 1897. Laura Karnes Winn died Dec. 26, 1940. J. A. Winn later married Minnie Studebaker Thompson. After his retirement they moved to Fort Smith, where he passed away April 2, 1949.

Children of James A. Winn and Laura Karnes Winn were:

Dee Fulton, born Jan. 16, 1893; died Aug. 2, 1894  
 Paul Douglas, born May 2, 1894; died July 24, 1901  
 Troy Burl, born Jan. 9, 1897; died July 13, 1955  
 Ruby Jeter, born Dec. 14, 1904; died March 30, 1907  
 Eliza Berneice, born May 10, 1908  
 Vivian Julia, born July 12, 1916; died April 25, 1935

Troy Burl Winn married Bobbie Owens of Springdale. He was an operator for the Frisco railroad and served at different places in Arkansas and Oklahoma for 37 years. A bad heart condition forced his retirement shortly before his death in 1955. He died in California and is buried at Grangeville Cemetery near Hanford, Calif., also near Corcoran where his sister Berneice resides. Though he is buried in California, his wife erected a stone in the family lot at the Karnes Cemetery, about one mile south of West Fork, Ark. The Karnes Cemetery dates back to the first Karnes settlers and used by practically all the Karnes descendants.

Eliza Berneice Winn married (1st) Ralph Osburn in July 1926. Issue: Ruby Berneice, born May 28, 1927. 2nd marriage of Eliza Berneice was to John (Rube) Kelton in 1937. They have resided in Corcoran, Calif. most of the time since their marriage. Ruby Berneice Osburn married Joe Brown. They have one daughter, Alicia by adoption.

Vivian Julia Winn was killed instantly April 25, 1935, when the automobile she was driving skidded on wet pavement south of Fayetteville. She was a senior in Winslow high school and would have graduated in a few weeks.

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The Winn families of Winslow were active in all phases of the work in the Winslow Methodist Church. After the death of George Winn in January 1932, the adult Sunday School class of which he was a member, named the class "The George A. Winn Bible Class" as a tribute to him. It carried that name as long as there were any members surviving, which was more than 20 years.

William Karnes and Mary Ann Chapman were married Aug. 31, 1890. She was the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Reed Chapman and sister to Margaret Chapman Winn. William Karnes was a farmer. They raised their family on the old home place previously owned by his father. Their children were:

Bessie Pearl, born May 22, 1892; died Oct. 30, 1928  
 James Daniel, born Oct. 22, 1894; died Aug. 4, 1950  
 Cecil Gibson, born Oct. 26, 1896

(more)

Bethel Mae, born Nov. 6, 1898  
 Lee Roy, born June 17, 1901  
 Ruth, born Oct. 9, 1903  
 Wayne Murser, born June 24, 1906  
 Pauline Opal, born Dec. 21, 1908

Pearl Karnes married Ben L. Courtney of Fayetteville Sept. 17, 1917. Issue: William Maurice, born Oct. 16, 1918; and Joseph Earl, born Nov. 1, 1920. Their mother died when they were quite small and they were raised by their paternal grandparents, William and Mary Ann Karnes. William Maurice Courtney married Marie Eisley Mar. 25, 1948. Issue: Mike and Linda. William M. is a newspaper publisher in Wynne, Ark. Joseph Earl Courtney works at the White Sands Proving Grounds at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

James Daniel Karnes went to Canada when a young man and spent most of his life there and in northwestern states. He died in Washington but his body was brought back to the Karnes Cemetery for burial.

Cecil Gibson Karnes married Blanch Stewart Apr. 19, 1921. Issue: Stewart Dale, born Mar. 26, 1922; Josephine, born Mar. 17, 1924; Kenneth Ray; Keith. (They were married and reared their family in Denver, Colo.) There are eleven grandchildren.

Bethel Mae Karnes married Wm. R. (Bob) Linton May 7, 1920. Issue: Robert Addis, born Mar. 26, 1921. He married \_\_\_\_\_ and they have 3 sons: John Robert, Joseph Lee, Gary.

Lee Roy Karnes married Iris Davis of West Fork July 2, 1927. Issue: Lora Lee, Mildred Ann, Donald Roger, Wanda Luretta. They live on a farm near the Daniel Karnes home place. Iris Karnes is a nurse working in the Fayetteville hospitals. Lora Lee Karnes married Jim Bell of Fayetteville. Mildred Ann is a nurse in Fayetteville hospital. Ruth Karnes married Oval Tanner July 31, 1927. Issue: Betty Lou, Mary Jane, Cecil, O.L., Marie. The children of Oval Tanner and Ruth Karnes married as follows:

Bettie Lou Tanner married Roy Webber of West Fork  
 Mary Jane Tanner married Eugene Bartholomew of West Fork  
 Cecil Tanner married Mary Lou Phillips  
 O. L. Tanner married Mae Jones of West Fork  
 Marie Tanner married Olan Parker of Fayetteville

There are eleven grandchildren of Ruth Karnes and Oval Tanner.

Wayne Murser Karnes married Melva Underhill Sept. 1925. Issue: Two sons -- Avner and Richard. They are residents of Colorado.

Pauline Opal Karnes married Argil Brock, Nov. 15, 1930. Issue; Arline Brock who married Ancil Waterson of West Fork; they have three children; and Mary Florence Brock who married Randell Burris. They have one child.

Ellen Karnes was married to John Clark of West Fork in 1885. Issue:  
 Maud died Jan. 1952  
 Bert, born 1890; died Jan. 1960  
 Newell, born 1895; died Oct. 1960

Maud Clark married Claud Rutherford of West Fork. They lived for a number of years in Nebraska, but after the death of her father in 1930

they returned to West Fork to live with her mother Ellen. Children of Maud Clark and Claud Rutherford were: Ellis; and Burl, died in 1963.

Bert Clark married Clara J. Pyeatte of Cane Hill. Issue: one son Robert. Clara J. Clark died in Oklahoma City. Bert Clark later married Velma Temple of Texarkana. He was a retired salesman.

Newell Clark married Mary Morelock of Dallas, Texas. After he retired as a salesman, they moved to West Fork, where he had been reared. He was serving as Mayor of the town at the time of his death. He is buried in the National Cemetery.

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J. M. Karnes married Martha A. Winn Oct. 21, 1883. Issue:

Bessie Myrtle, born May 27, 1885; died July 19, 1886

Daniel Hugh, born June 30, 1887; died Nov. 2, 1913

Ernest, born Jan. 24, 1889; died Oct. 25, 1891

J.M.Karnes was a merchant in West Fork and continued in that business until his death in 1920. Daniel Hugh Karnes lived to manhood and served three years in the U.S. Army. After his discharge he married Mildred Cravens of West Fork, just nine months before his death.

Feb. 28, 1894, J.M.Karnes and Eva Robinson were married. She is the daughter of Sam and Harriet Robinson. She is still living in their home in West Fork (1963). J.M.Karnes and Eva Robinson had 5 children:

Grace M., born May 10, 1895

Hazel, born Oct. 13, 1897; died Sept. 15, 1951

Melva, born May 4, 1900

Clint Howard, born June 17, 1905

Kenneth Leon, born Jan. 12, 1915

Grace M. Karnes was employed as a secretary in Oklahoma City for 29 years and in Detroit for nine years. Hazel Karnes taught in the schools of Dallas, Texas for 20 years. Dec. 12, 1950 she was married to W. H. Moses of Dallas. She died 1951 and is buried in the National Cemetery in Fayetteville. Melva Karnes taught several years in the schools of west Texas. Clint Howard Karnes married Evaline Miller of West Fork. They have lived in Denver, Colo. most of the time. Kenneth Leon Karnes married Dorothy Miles. They live in Little Rock and have two children (by adoption): Kenna Kay, born Oct. 12, 1958; and Mark Miles, born Feb. 5, 1954.

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Andrew (Little Andy) Karnes was married to Florence Dye of the West Fork community, Oct. 18, 1896. He was a farmer and lived his entire life on the farm which was a part of the original Karnes land. Andrew Karnes and his wife, Florence Dye Karnes, had one daughter, Lillian. Lillian Karnes lost her first husband, Lawrence Cohenour, during the flu epidemic of 1918, not long after their marriage. She later married James Altman of Texas and had issue: one daughter Juanita. Juanita married ----- Stockley of Amarillo, Texas. They now live in California.

Samuel Clyde (Jack) Karnes, only child of Daniel and Eliza Karnes, was married to Amanda (Bobbie) Langston of West Fork, in October, 1899. She was the daughter of Bart and ----- Emerson Langston.

Jack Karnes had a general mercantile store at Woolsey before coming to Winslow in 1903 or 1904. He was in partnership with his half-brother George when he accidentally shot himself July 9, 1906. In 1911 when the Order of the Eastern Star was organized in Winslow, it was given the name of "Clyde Chapter" as a memorial to him.

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