
Sources notes:

- 2012: Retyped and reformatted by Randy C. Smart from 4 poorly-printed pages, the source of which I've forgotten. But it's such a great write-up for a dramatic piece of our history.
 - 1976 was hand-written on the top of the first page.
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When twenty-year-old **Eliza Hancock** married **James Minor Winn V**, in 1864, she took unto herself not only a widower more than twice her age, but ten stepchildren, some of whom were married with growing families of their own. During the four years before her husband's death in December 1868 at the age of 58, she bore him three children: **Martha**, in 1865; **Walker**, in 1866; **George**, in 1867; and four months after his father's death, another child was born--James, in 1869.

Left alone with four small children at one of the most critical times in the history of the US, the Reconstruction days immediately following the Civil War, Eliza Winn was able to keep her young family together, with the help of a devoted ex-slave girl, Emaline, who chose to cast her lot with the safety of the farm where she was born. The two held the family intact during those trying times, the widowed mother managing the large farm near what is now the town of West Fork, Arkansas, while the teen-age black girl assumed the responsibility of looking after four lively children.

In 1877, Eliza Hancock Winn married another widower, Daniel Howry Karnes, the owner of a nearby farm. Daniel Karnes was 50 years of age when he married the 33 year old Eliza. [Marriage license shows 49 and 36--Randy] His first wife, Rachel Strickland, had recently died, leaving him with five children whose ages overlapped those of the Winn children. His oldest, James M., was born January 17, 1857; the second , Ellen, January 2, 1866; William H., in 1870; Laura, March 27, 1872; and Andrew, 1875.

This second marriage was a mutual advantage to both families. The young widow needed a man to help in the operation of her large farm and her young boys needed the guiding hand of a father. The children of Daniel Karnes, especially the two-year-old baby Andrew, needed the love and care of a mother. Through the marriage of these two people in need of each other began the intertwining of two of the earliest pioneer families in the West Fork area.

Eliza's first husband James, had settled in what was to become the town in 1832. In 1851, the Karnes family arrived from Tennessee, and settled on the middle fork of the White River, south of Elkins. One year later in 1852 they moved to the valley of the west fork. Members of the Karnes and Winn families were soon intermarried. Rachel, stepdaughter of Eliza and a year older, married John Karnes, brother of Eliza's second husband, Daniel. Rachel now became the sister-in-law as well as the stepdaughter if Eliza.

The only child born to the union of Daniel Karnes and Eliza Hancock Winn was a son, Samuel Clyde (Jack), October 22, 1878. Apparently the relationship between the parents and among the children was harmonious. This amicability was further evidenced by the fact that as the children grew to maturity their fondness toward each other developed into romanticism. On October 21, 1883, James M. Karnes married his stepsister, Martha Winn. In 1892, James A. Winn married his stepsister, Laura Karnes. Thus the half-brother of each, Jack, became the brother-in-law of each. As further evidence of the amicability in the group, was the fact that the stepbrothers married sisters outside the circle. On October 6, 1889 Walker Winn married Margaret Chapman. On August 31, 1890, Walker's stepbrother, William Karnes, married Margaret's sister, Mary Ann Chapman, making the offspring of these marriage double cousins-by marriage.

The picture of the Karnes-Winn family reunion the appears with this article was taken in the summer of 1894, just outside the front yard of the old home place, about halfway between West Fork and Woolsey. Although the house has been rebuilt, the location is the same, and the property remains in the possession of descendants of the Karnes family and occupied by members to the fifth generation.

Daniel Karnes occupied the house until his death on January 13, 1896. His widow continued to live on the farm until her death on December 26, 1900. The property was then occupied by Mary Ann and Will Karnes during the remainder of their lives. He died in April 1949; his widow continued to live there until her death, July 17, 1954. At this time the place continued to be occupied by a member of the Karnes family. When her mother became disabled and in need of care, a daughter of Mary Ann and Will, Mrs. Bethel Linton and her husband Robert returned from their home in Colorado to the old home place to care for her. After the death of Bethel Linton in 1972, the property went to the Lintons' son, Robert Linton Jr., who still owns the land on which the original home stood.

Nearby, on a part of the farm, lives the widow of Lee Karnes. Lee was a son of Will and Mary Ann. He died October 8, 1969. Adjoining the home of Lee's widow, Iris Davis Karnes, is the home of her daughter, Wanda and her husband, Kenneth Miller, and their son, Gregory. On the other side of Iris lives her son Donald with his wife Shirley McKenzie, and the couple's two boys, Yancy and Franklin. Thus the original farm remains in the Karnes family and is occupied by descendants of Daniel Karnes down to the fifth generation.



The Winn-Karnes family reunion in the summer of 1894. Picture was taken in front of the family home between West Fork and Woolsey.

Identification:

Back row L. to R. -

- George A. Winn, b. March 3, 1867, m. February 2, 1890, d. January 2, 1932 In front of him stands his son Omer. b. Feb. 11, 1891
- Walker R. Winn, b. January 13, 1866, m. October 6, 1889, d. Feb. 9, 1948
- John Clark, b. May 5, 1860, m. 1885, d. October 25, 1930
- Ellen Karnes Clark, b. January 2, 1866, m. 1885, d. Jan. 23, 1953
- James M. Karnes, b. Jan. 17, 1857, d. Aug. 20, 1920 (James M. Karnes married first his stepsister, Martha Winn, b. Feb. 12, 1865, m. Oct. 21, 1883, d. Oct. 7, 1892)

- Next to James M. Karnes stands his second wife, Eva Robinson Karnes, b. Sept. 15, 1875, m. Feb. 28, 1894, d. Nov. 7, 1967
- Daniel H. Karnes, b. Hawkins County, Tenn. Oct. 13, 1827, d. Jan. 13, 1896 (he was the father of the Karnes children and stepfather of the Winns)
- Andrew (know as Little Andy to distinguish him from his older cousin Andrew) son of John and Rachel Winn Karnes, b. May 14, 1875, m. Oct. 18, 1896 to Florence Dye, d. March 6, 1947
- Samuel Clyde (Jack) in back of the table, the son and only child of Daniel and Eliza, thus half-brother to both the Karnes and Winns, was born Oct. 22, 1878, m. 1898 to Miss Amanda (Bobbie) Langston, d. July 9, 1906
- Eliza Hancock Winn Karnes, b. 1844, first married to James Minor Winn V in 1864, second to Daniel Karnes in Sept. 1877, d. Dec. 26, 1900 (she was the mother of the Winn children and stepmother of the Karnes children)
- Will (William) Karnes, b. 1870, m. Aug. 31, 1890, d. April 1949
- James A. Winn, b. April 28, 1869 (four months after his father's death), m. his stepsister Laura Karnes, 1892, d. April 2, 1949
- James' son Dee in front of his father, b. 1893, d. Aug. 2, 1894 only a short time after the picture was made.

Front row L. to R. -

- Omer Winn
- Mary Stockburger Winn, wife of George Winn, b. July 5, 1864, m. Feb. 2, 1890, d. April 28, 1962, holding her daughter Martha, b. Sept. 27, 1892, m. to Thomas Carey 1925
- Margaret Chapman Winn, wife of Walker Winn, b. 1867, m. Oct. 6, 1889, d. 1933, holding her daughter, Stella, b. Oct. 30, 1893, d. March 3, 1975
- Standing beside her mother Margaret Winn is Ethel, b. Jan. 4, 1892, m. Jan. 26, 1915 to Austin Yoes, d. July 11, 1950
- Mary Ann Chapman Karnes, wife of Will Karnes, b. 1869, m. Aug. 31, 1890, d. July 17, 1954, holding her daughter Pearl, b. May 22, 1892, m. to Ben Courtney, Sept. 17, 1917, d. Oct. 30, 1928
- Hugh Karnes, son of James M. Karnes and his first wife Martha Winn, b. June 30, 1887, m. Mildred Cravens, d. Nov. 2, 1913
- Bert Clark, son of Ellen Karnes and John Clark, b. 1890, m. Clara J. Pyeatte, d. Jan. 1960
- Maud Clark, Bert's sister, b. 18??, m. Claud Rutherford, d. Jan. 1952
- Laura Karnes Winn, wife of James A. Winn, b. March 27, 1872, m. 1892, d. Dec. 26, 1940. She is holding her son Paul, b. May 2, 1894, d. July 24, 1901

All the children of Daniel Karnes and Eliza Winn-Karnes, and their spouses, lived their entire lives in Washington County.



Eliza Winn-Karnes and her son Clyde (Jack). The picture was taken in 1898.