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BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM W. BURTON AND ELIZA BURTON

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SHADY POINT, OKLAHOMA.

Gomer Gower, Field Worker, June 1, 1937.

William W. Burton was born at Point Cedar, Clark County, Arkansas, on April 4, 1863, and came to the Indian Territory with his parents, John and Barbara Granville Burton, in December 1879, where his father leased land for a two year period from Adam Morris, who was an intermarried white man who, under contract with the Federal Government, had moved two groups of Choctaw Indians from Mississippi to the Indian Territory, afterwards serving as paymaster for the Choctaw Citizens, from revenues collected for royalties and permits. This land was located at a point about three miles east of what is now the town of Howe.

The family later moved to a point near Monroe where the parents of Mr. Burton died and were buried in what is known as the Union Cemetery; just across the State line from Monroe in the State of Arkansas.

Eliza Burton was born in Mississippi on April 12, 1870, and was an infant when brought by her

parents, Mr. and Mrs John M. Boazman, to the Indian Territory who settled near Cameron and later moved to a point just across the State line from Hackett where they leased land from a Choctaw Indian named Tom Sexton, where they lived the remainder of their lives and are buried in the Hicks Cemetery, in Sebastian County, Arkansas.

On September 7, 1890, these good people were united in marriage and soon thereafter moved to a point near what is now Panama, where they resided for several years and later, in 1896, moved to their present home at Shady point. Their neighbors,- if people living within two to five miles may be called such,- while living near the present town of Panama were John Hickman and family. John Goodnight, the father of Ed Goodnight, President of the Central National Bank at Poteau, was also a neighbor.

These people are of the sort of which Oklahoma may well feel proud, as it is to them and others of their kind that the State owes so much for having suffered the hardships attendant on wresting a living from an undeveloped virgin land beset with

droughts one year and overflows the next; and undaunted by the many difficulties which they encountered, fought and labored on determined to create surroundings for their children which would excel those under which they themselves were reared. In this purpose they succeeded in a marked degree. Their four children have all reflected honor on the efforts of their parents, as will be shown by their accomplishments: Monroe, their eldest son, was appointed Postmaster at Poteau on April 1, 1934, which position he fills in an admirable manner. A married daughter (Mrs. Price Waters) has been Postmistress at Shady Point since 1930. She also discharges her duties in a creditable manner. Olin, another son, is a prosperous business man at Bokoshe. While Earl, their baby boy, is connected with the Agricultural Agent's Office for Le Flore County. Of these outstanding children the parents feel justly proud, and no doubt are made realize that a well-spent life, even though it has been fought with hardships, is rewarded by the devotion and appreciation

of the children for whose education and advancement they made many sacrifices.

Of their early life in the Indian Territory Mrs. Burton recalls that her father, J. M. Boazman, was engaged in supplying the town of Hackett, Arkansas, then a thriving village near the State line, with beeves and hogs for the butcher trade, buying them from Indians and others who had such for sale. She saw him on numerous occasions riding in home with a deer, which he had shot, tied behind his saddle and lying across the horse. On occasions, too, religious services would be held by itinerant missionaries at her father's home, a small log cabin, which would be attended by Indians who would leave their guns leaning against a tree out in the yard. It was when the children had grown up large enough to attend school that her father moved to the place near Hackett, Arkansas, in order that his children would be given scholastic advantages which could not be had in the Indian Territory.

Her brother, James Boazman, was a charter member of Moshulatubbee Lodge number thirteen.

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of the Masonic Order, and is held in the highest esteem by all his Masonic brethren, on account of his untiring efforts in behalf of the craft.

Mr. Burton, though he is now seventy-four years of age, is still hale and hearty and takes keen delight in his growing crops; displaying the true spirit of the pioneer in his eagerness to be up and doing rather than sitting around thinking about what "might have been". As before stated he has been too busy battling the elements; carrying out plans designed for the betterment of the condition of his children, to have time left to devote to immaterial matters. The same must be said of his good wife, Eliza, who, it can plainly be seen, has devoted her life to the same high purposes.

For these reasons, and the further fact that they have lived through the transition period from Territorial days to Statehood, they are entitled to honorable mention when the annals of the State are recorded.