

Elisha Thomas Marvel [6148(11)1]

The Marvels came from Thurman, Iowa to Oklahoma in 1893. Elisha Thomas and Martha (Eccleston) Marvel {6148(11)1} with their six boys and two girls homesteaded in Custer, County near Weatherford. They later farmed land on the bank of the South Canadian River, former Indian Lease Land in Blaine County.

After the Panhandle was open for settlers, E.T.'s sons, Arvel, Loren, Clifford, and Bert were able to file in Beaver County. When Forgan was organized in 1912, the brothers, except Clifford Marvel [6148(11)15] who returned to Iowa, moved into town and started businesses for themselves. Lizzie, a widow {Mary Elizabeth (Garrett) Marvel} of another brother, Frank Marvel [6148(11)14], also moved from Iowa to Forgan.

In 1912, the parents, E.T. and Martha and the youngest son, Earl, and Martha's mother, Mary Frances (Morris) (Eccleston) Thrapp, all moved into the sod house on the Bert Marvel {Elisha Hurbert Marvel [6148(11)13]} farm southeast of Forgan. Earl Marvel {Earl Nolie Marvel [6148(11)1(11)]} later married May Rossiter.

A sister, Lillie Alice (Marvel) Harrison [6148(11)19] and two children, Albert Harrison [6148(11)191] and Irene Harrison [6148(11)192] joined the families in 1916. In 1926, Lillie married James D. Bilbro.

Eventually, Loren, Bert, and their families took up residence elsewhere. Only Arvel, Lillie Alice, and Lizzie remained life-long residents of Forgan.

Arvel and Mary (Barrett) Marvel were engaged in farming and the mercantile business. Three children were born to them: Floyd in 1895; Gladys in 1897 and DeWayne in 1899. DeWayne died in 1907 before there was an established cemetery in Forgan. A landowner north of town had buried a member of his family on the south end of his farm. He offered a parcel of land surrounding the grave for a municipal cemetery. The grave of DeWayne Marvel [6148(11)113] may have been the third grave to be dug in that windswept prairie land. His grave is still marked at the northeast corner of the present cemetery.

Arvel and Mary were faithful members of the Methodist church. A tribute to Arvel's faith was his weekly comment, "It's always good to be in the house of the Lord." He



Clifford Percy - Elisha "Bert"
Lillie Alice
Elisha Thomas - Earl - Martha - Oscar "OK"

served an Mayor of Forgan in the early 40's. He was buried near his son DeWayne in 1961. Mary was buried by his side in 1963. The new Forgan United Methodist Church now stands on the site of the Marvel's former home on Main street.

Arvel and Mary's oldest son, Floyd Marvel [6148(11)111] married Fronia Mae Bixler in 1916. Floyd farmed and was employed at the Ford Motor Company. Later he managed his own service station and operated a school bus for the Forgan School District. Floyd served as Star Route mail carrier, serving customers between Liberal, Forgan and Beaver for eighteen years before his retirement in 1970. Floyd and Fronia raised three children, Eva, Darrel, and John (J.A.) who graduated from Forgan High School in 1935, 1938, and 1940 respectively. At this writing Mrs. Eva (Marvel) Still [6148(11)1111] lives in Liberal, Kansas. Darrel and Bille (Granot) Marvel [6148(11)1112] own and operate the Marlow Business Machine Company in Marlow, Oklahoma. John Marvel [6148(11)1113], the youngest, completed his doctor's degree and served as an administrator of several institutions of higher education in Wyoming, Colorado, and Hawaii before he and his wife Frances (Smith) retired in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Floyd was buried in the Forgan Cemetery in 1985. His wife, Fronia, 93 now maintains her home in Liberal, Kansas.

Arvel and Mary's daughter, Gladys (Marvel) Lawrence [6148(11)112], also 93 years of age, presently resides in Oklahoma City with her daughter Iris Lawrence [6148(11)1121]. Her son S. H. lives in the same city.