THE MALONE FAMILY MEMORIES

Joseph M. Malone and Mattie E. Jones first met at Lone Elm in Franklin County, Arkansas, some time after 1878. That was the year he had come to Lone Elm with a cousin, Tom J. Francis and family. He had left his home near Tupelo, Lee County, Mississippi, because of his stepmother and was working on the Calvin A. Marlar farm when the 1880 census was taken.

Mattie Elizabeth Jones was born in Sevier County, Arkansas, in January 1865. After the death of her father, her mother brought Mattie and her two brothers to Lone Elm where her sister, Cynthia Tenable, was living. Mattie was about 10 at the time and she remembered camping on the south side of the river at Ozark before crossing the next day by ferry. This would have been about 1875. Joseph M. Malone, age 22, and Mattie Jones, age 19, of Mulberry were married in January l884. We have their original marriage license. They must have moved to Dyer around 1890 as the earliest personal property tax receipt found is for 1892 for District 28 in Crawford County. They probably rented for several years, then bought the homeplace about 1902, adding 15 more acres in 1907, making a total of 55 acres in all. This homeplace was a dog-trot style house and was located west of Dyer between the Robert Lester and Dick Heard houses. The road leading to the house went through some woods.

I remember one special Christmas at this place when Mr. Heard played Santa Claus and came riding through the woods jingling bells as if he was on Santa's sleigh. I don't know if he was dressed up as Santa or not. I remember that we had a program and I recited a poem. I suppose we then got our gifts from the tree.

One time Mamma and Dora Carter (Patton) were at home alone when they saw an old woman they knew coming through the woods. They decided to scare her, so when she got to the gate and called out "Mrs. Malone?" they began to groan and moan. The poor old soul didn't tarry long after that.

Another time Mama and Aunt Lula were doing the laundry at a creek not far back of the house. It had a small waterfall. All of a sudden they began to see snakes everywhere. Come to find out they must have been near a "nest" of little snakes and they got out of there fast.

To Mr. and Mrs. Malone were born three children. Lula Malone was born October 11, 1884, and Walter L. Malone was born June 2, 1886. Rose Belle Malone was born July 29, 1888.

When Mama was about 12 years old, she decided to try to contact Grandpa's family back in Mississippi. I don't remember how she did it. Maybe she did as I did years later—wrote to the postmaster in Tupelo. Anyhow she started corresponding with some of his relatives. The next year Grandpa made good on his strawberry crop and decided to take a trip back to his old home in Mississippi. He expected Grandma to go with him, but she thought Mama should go since she was the one who first got in touch after all those years.

I can imagine what a thrill it must have been for both of them to make the long trip on the train. Also her meeting so many relatives she hadn't known about,

When the train reached Memphis, there was great excitement. Newsboys were shouting, "President McKinley shot!" Mama said, "Why, he's the president of Arkansas!" She said that's how dumb she was—probably confusing the president with the governor. This was in 1901.

As a result of their visit, the son of Grandpa's oldest brother came to Dyer later. His name was Ed Malone, and he ended up marrying Daisy Carter and living in Dyer for many years.

Lula married Horace Mason and they lived between Dyer and Alma until about 1915 when they moved to Oklahoma. Lula and Horace had five children. The three oldest were born near Dyer: Edgar, born October 1, 1904; Vera, born January 17, 1907; and Mattie, born July 7, 1910. William was born in Oklahoma in 1917, and Fred Lee was born in Seminole, Seminole County, Oklahoma, on October 15, 1920.

Walter Malone married Annie Carr, and they lived in and around Dyer, Alma, and Van Buren [Arkansas] for a number of years. To them were born seven children: Golda, Marie, Walter Dale, twins Myrle and Mildred, Nora Fay, and Wanda Ruth.

Rose Belle Malone was united in marriage to James Matthew Hopper on the 6th day of November 1908, by Charles Horton, a Methodist minister. The wedding took place in her parents' home and we have the write up of it from the paper. Matt served as depot agent at Dyer, and they lived not far from the station. I was born there on September 4, 1909. About two years later, in 1911, he was transferred to Altus. There two more children were born: Joseph M. on July 16, 1912, and Edythe Imogene on February 12, 1918. In 1930 Matt gave up the agent's job as they had moved to Ozark, Arkansas. In Ozark were born two more children: Claude James in 1924, but he only lived ten days; and John Malcolm who was born on October 31, 1926.

The Malones lived in Dyer for many years before selling their home and moving to Seminole, Oklahoma, in 1919 or 1920. Horace and Lula were living in Seminole at the time, and he was operating a grocery store. Mr. and Mrs. Malone bought a home there where they lived until about 1927. They then moved to Ozark and lived with Matt and Rose. Mattie Malone died in 1930 and Joe Malone died in 1934. Both are buried in Highland Cemetery in Ozark,

Lula Malone Mason died in October 1937, and Horace Mason died in 1957. Both are buried in Seminole.

Walter L. Malone died March 30, 1963, at Winnfield, Winn Parish, Louisiana, where he lived with his second wife. He was 77 years old. His first wife, Annie Carr Malone, died in Alma in 1931 and is buried there.

Matt Hopper served as Missouri Pacific agent in Altus from 1911 to 1930. After moving to Ozark, he worked for the Arkansas Western Gas Company and during the Depression for the W.P.A. He then was Welfare Director for Franklin County from 1940 until his retirement in 1952. He was mayor of Ozark from 1955 until 1958. For 25 years he was manager of the Franklin County Fair.

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