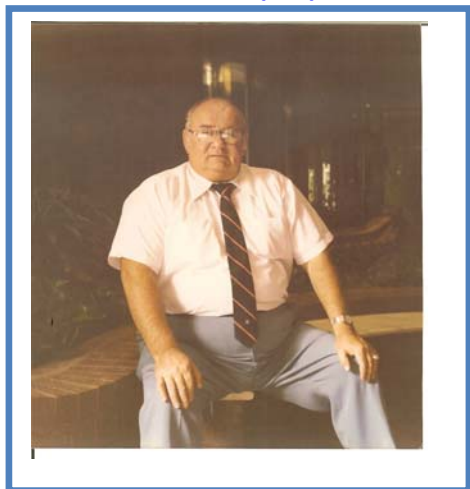


The Robert Rankin Chapter Remembers

William Marion (Bill) Hall,



Personal:

Bill was born June 23, 1932 in Enid, Oklahoma to Edgar Woodie and Sarah Gregory Featherston Hall. After his birth, Bill was brought home to the family ranch and locker plant at Fort Cobb, Oklahoma. This was located next to the Anadarko Indian Reservation, which is known as Indian City U.S.A. Edgar, Bill's father was one of the very few white men who enjoyed a close relationship with the Indians living on the reservation at that time. However, this did not stop Bill from being chased home on numerous occasions by Indian Braves on horseback for taking games of Cowboys & Indians a little too seriously!

Educational, Military, & Career: While in his teens, Bill began corresponding with a pen-pal named Sylvia Grace O'Dell who lived in Newport, Isle of Wight, England. In 1949, Bill joined the United States Army-Air Force, eventually choosing to be career Air Force. During his early years in the Military, Bill became a Methodist Minister with the goal of ministering to his fellow soldiers. During an assignment in France, Bill took the opportunity to visit his pen-pal, Sylvia in England. Bill and

Sylvia were married March 6, 1954 in Newport, Isle of Wight, England. As he married a Catholic, his military career took off in a different direction. Bill's military career lasted twenty-one and a half years, during which time he served with the Occupation Forces in Germany, as well as tours in Korea and Vietnam. He received numerous medals and commendations during this time, including four Oak Leaf Clusters. While in Vietnam, Bill began an orphanage for Vietnamese Children. After he retired, Bill went back to school and received an Associates Degree in Bio-Medical Engineering. During his second career, he held numerous positions in manufacturing, including a position as Plant Manager of FMC Corporation, as well as Vice President of Manufacturing for SunStone Oil Company.

Bill was a 32nd Degree Mason and a lifelong lover of history, especially the Civil War era and military. He was also an enthusiastic antique firearm collector and woodworker.

Genealogy: He spent over forty years as a genealogist, trying his darndest to get his children interested in their family history. Finally, his daughter was bitten by the genealogy bug, and became a member of the NSDAR, San Jacinto Chapter. After this was accomplished, Bill joined NSSAR by going in under his daughter! His Revolutionary War Ancestor is Colonel William Loftin, whose daughter Lavinia married Jesse Featherston.

Bill and Sylvia were married for 51 years and left a legacy of four children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Bill passed away on June 11, 2005. Sylvia missed her childhood pen-pal so much that she joined him in Heaven on January 23, 2006.