

William Timothy and Martha Belle Langfitt Quinlin



**William Timothy
Quinlin**
(1868-1930)



**Martha Belle Langfitt
(Quinlan)**
(1878-1957)

Virginia Josephine (1862 – 1931)
William Jack (1866 – 1932)
Martha Belle (1867 – 1944)

WILL QUINLIN WAS THE FOURTH son of eight sons and two daughters born to John Quinlan and his wife Julia Rafferty Quinlan. All of the children were born in the Java Center New York area, which is about 30 miles east of Lake Erie and south of Buffalo.

Will's assertive attitude was apparent early in his life. At a school where Margaret Quinlan McNulty later taught, Will Quinlin started school. On his first day Will was seated on the backbench between two other boys. The teacher asked the names of the boys seated on the backbench. Will threw his arms back knocking the other two boys to the floor. He then told the teacher that Will Quinlin was the only one sitting on the backbench. During his teenage years Will and his sister Mary, who later became a nun, were the waltz champions of North Java and the Skating Champs of Silver Lake.

Will Quinlin spelled his Quinlin with an "i" where as the others in the family used the conventional "a" spelling. The Hall &

Mooney Lithograph of 'The Burning of The Steam-Boat Erie', a copy of which hung in the Quinlan home in New York, listed



Will Quinlin
ca 1895

the Quinlin that was saved as having his name spelled with an 'i'. Will decided that he would use that. The old lithograph is still being handed down in the Quinlin family and at the present time, 2009, is a cherished

possession of Will's grandson Tim Quinlin.

Will went to work on building an oil pipeline out of Olean, New York where his fighting abilities soon became well known. At that time in Northern West Virginia oil and gas had been discovered in some of the coal mining areas. The coal miners were hostile to the oil field hands. Will's introduction to the oil field came about when he and some of his friends from the pipeline job were hired to work these oil fields and to take on the coal miners, which they successfully did. In Mody Boatright's 'Folklore Of The Oil Industry', Bill Quinlan is identified as the most famous of the fighting drillers and a story is told of his days in the Coalinga, CA fields.

It was in Doddridge County West Virginia that Will met Martha Belle Langfitt. Belle was the daughter of John Langfitt and Zubie Eneix Langfitt, both of whom were from families who had been in the Northern West Virginia area for several generations. Belle was the oldest of John and Zubie's three daughters.



Will Quinlin
ca 1910

Five children were born to Belle and Will. The first two, a girl then a boy, died in infancy and are buried in the Church of Christ Cedar Grove Cemetery in Shirley, West Virginia. Virginia Josephine born in 1900 and William Jack in 1903 were born in Clarksburg, West Virginia while the youngest; Martha Belle was born in Los Angeles, California in 1909.

The family lived in West Virginia until sometime before 1909, date of Martha's birth, then they moved to California. In California they lived in Los Angeles and in Coalinga. The children went to school at

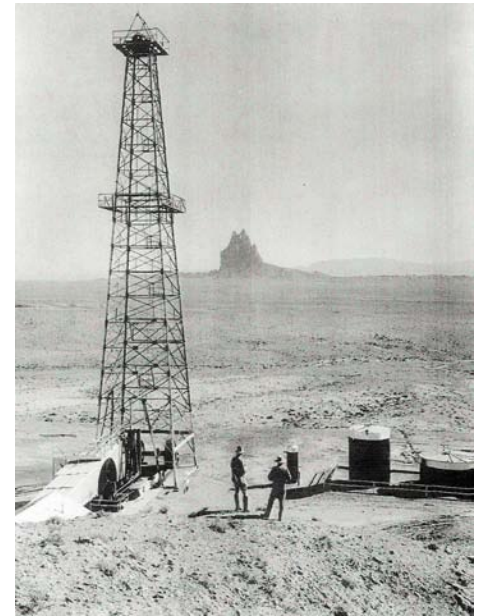
the Oil King School in Coalinga. A photo of Jack and schoolmates in front of the School indicates the school having been built in 1908. Jack appears to be six or seven in the photo. A photo of Virginia in 1915 and identified as having been taken in Los Angeles places the family still in California into 1915. Another photo, this of a young Martha, is identified as being from the Ohio Street House in Lawrence, Kansas and is dated 1917.

The family home was maintained in Lawrence with Virginia, Jack and Martha all completing their education there. Will worked in many oil fields around the country. Notes and photos show Will having worked in Blackwell, OK; Ranger, TX; Casper and Meeteetse, WY; Walden, CO and Shiprock, NM and I am sure many others. Will and his son Jack worked at the same time but on different rigs at Walden and worked together in Meeteetse. The last time they worked together was at the drilling rig on Rattlesnake #17 near Shiprock.

After Shiprock Jack moved on to the Oil Fields in California but Will stayed in the Four Corners Area of New Mexico. In early 1930 Will was severely burned in a gas explosion at the Coal Creek Refinery in

Bloomfield near Farmington, New Mexico. Will was hospitalized in Farmington then later moved to Denver, Colorado where he passed away on April 11, 1930.

Belle continued to reside in Lawrence until her death on Jan. 24, 1957. Belle's daughter Martha, Mrs. Jim Moore, and her family also resided in Lawrence.



Rattlesnake Field Shiprock, NM
ca 1930



Limited Field Coalinga, CA
ca 1910