

Robbie Louise Davis Johnson

Robbie Louise Davis was born in Breckenridge, Texas, on July 16, 1896. Her loving parents were Hattie Collins Davis and George Robert Davis. She had two siblings, an older sister, Oma Davis, and a younger brother, Louie G. Davis. Her grade school education was conducted and completed in the Breckenridge public schools.

Growing up in a devout Methodist family, she initially attended Polytechnic College in Fort Worth, Texas (now Texas Wesleyan University). She only attended for one year, from the fall of 1914 to the spring of 1915. Polytechnic was then an all-girls school that was intended to be the “Women’s College for Southern Methodism”, and its name was changed to Texas Woman’s College in 1914. Her sister, Oma, was also enrolled there as a sophomore, being one year ahead of Robbie. However, when Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, opened in the fall of 1915, as a co-ed college, both she and her sister quickly transferred 40 miles east to SMU. Her sister, Oma, graduated at mid-term in 1917, and Robbie graduated in the first four-year graduating class from SMU in the Spring of 1919.

Robbie returned to Breckenridge after graduating where she met and fell in love with a young lawyer, T. Edgar Johnson. He was a recent World War I veteran and a 1915 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. She and T. Edgar were married two days after her 24th birthday on July 18, 1920. The ceremony took place under the pecan trees at the ranch headquarters of the Chimney Creek Ranch in southwestern Shackelford County. The ranch had recently been purchased by her parents, Hattie Collins Davis and G. R. Davis.

Robbie Davis Johnson and T. Edgar Johnson quickly settled in Breckenridge to begin their family and establish her husband’s law practice. This location was easily accessible to the Chimney Creek Ranch, as it was only some 40 miles east of the ranch. She had one daughter, Mary Frances Johnson, born April 20, 1920. She had a second daughter, Robbie Lou Johnson, born on February 23, 1926, but she unfortunately died as an infant on October 1, 1926, and is buried in Breckenridge.

In 1930, in the depths of the great Depression in America, she and her small family moved to Vernon, Texas. Starting anew, she lived the rest of her life in Vernon. She inherited the Chimney Creek Ranch on the death of her father, G. R. Davis, in 1957. She remained active in the management and operations of the ranch until her death in 1973.

She was always active in the Methodist Church both in Breckenridge and Vernon. She and her husband were instrumental in the construction of the present First United Methodist Church of Vernon as completed in 1950. She was always active in Sunday School and the United Methodist Women and its various women’s circles.

Robbie Davis Johnson died in Vernon, Texas, on January 5, 1973, at age 76. She is buried alongside her husband in Vernon. She was survived by her daughter, Mary Frances “Chan” Johnson Paup Driscoll, two grandsons, Henry B. Paup and T. Edgar Paup, and one granddaughter, Patricia Louise Paup Lambert. Her grandchildren addressed her as “Monnie”.