

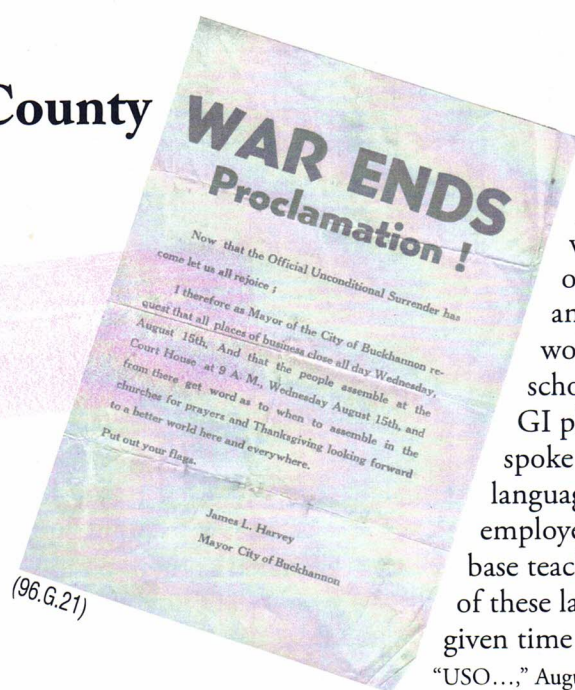
WWII War Brides to Upshur County

— Amy Williams Tenney

A Princess Among Us

As a child I road my bike on Boggess Street; it was paved, no gravel. We always knew about the Princess' house and as we rode by I would envision Cinderella sitting behind the curtains in her sparkly dress and in the garage, a carriage with six white horses attached to it. Fast forward to a 2018 Facebook post about "the Princess" and a flood of memories came back, who was she? Was she really a Princess? Why did she have a home in Buckhannon? So with the resources of the internet and a little time I found my answers.

Shamsi Adham was born May 29, 1930, probably in Teheran, Iran where her father had served as Mayor (*Daily Herald*, "USO...", August 31, 1953). She was the granddaughter of His Excellency Kakimed Dovieh of Iran. She was educated in Paris, France where she studied language and had a degree for Sage-femme et Puericulture (*Buckhannon Record*, "James Hyre, Upshur Countian...", April 12, 1946) [sage-femme meaning midwife or wise women and puericulture meaning nurturing or childcare]. In 1944 Shamsi and her three brothers, a sister, and a niece arrived in New York City, and at that time she enrolled in Columbia University. While studying in New York Shamsi met James Edward Hyre son of Edwin I Hyre of French Creek, WV. James was stationed in New York as a recruiting officer for the US Navy (*Daily Herald*, "USO...", August 31, 1953). James and Shamsi married in New York, January 15, 1946 (*Buckhannon Record*, "James Hyre, Upshur Countian...", April 12, 1946). By April of that year they had arrived in Upshur County, living in Tennerton, probably with James' family [the Hyre's owned 72 acres where Tomblyn-Clutter Funeral Home is today]. In November 1946 they purchased a home on Boggess Street in Buckhannon which they held until 1975 when they finally sold it (*Upshur County Deed Book* 117:43). James was enrolled at WVWC under the GI bill in 1947, but there is no indication he graduated. While here in Buckhannon in the 1940's, Shamsi spoke to several civic groups about Iran, language, freedom, and education. She liked Buckhannon, saying that it was "very nice, composed of kind and friendly people" (*Buckhannon Record*, "James Hyre, Upshur Countian...", April 12, 1946). By 1953, James was based at Kessler Air base in Biloxi, Mississippi. In a 1953 interview with the *Biloxi Daily Herald*, Shamsi stated that as soon as James was released from the service they would return to Buckhannon



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where they own a home and Mr. Hyre would attend school under the GI plan. Shamsi spoke nine different languages and was employed at the air base teaching any one of these languages at a given time (*Daily Herald*, "USO...", August 31, 1953).

Shamsi became a citizen of the United States on May 8, 1953. The Wesleyan College yearbook showed James as a senior in physics in 1962. An article in the February 1962 issue of the WVWC *Pharos* newspaper stated that both James and Shamsi were students at WVWC although there is no official record of her enrollment. (*Murmurmontis* 1962)(*Pharos*, February, 1962).



MRS. SHAMSI HYRE
(Photo by Lockett's Studio)

(*Daily Herald*, August 31, 1953)

By 1969 Shamsi and James were investing in real estate in Mississippi. In November, just three months after Hurricane Camille sweep through Biloxi, they petitioned the zoning board to allow them to build 12 duplexes in a single family area (*Daily Herald*, "Legal Notice," November 26, 1969). This must have been the beginning of a very lucrative real estate career. Johnny Harris of Biloxi who managed one of the Hyre's rental complexes stated "Mrs. Hyre was sharp in business. She would buy houses and turn them into apartments." Her 2005 obituary goes on to state she would be remembered as a sharp business women and that she and James both were instructors at Kessler Air Force base. They loved to travel, but in later years health did not permit them to travel as much. Having survived Hurricane Camille in 1969, they

felt nothing could be as bad, so James and Shamsi chose to stay in their home when Hurricane Katrina made landfall. James was 83 and Shamsi was 75 when they both drowned in their home in Ocean Springs, Mississippi on August 29, 2005. They had no children. Shamsi was survived by her sister and James was survived by a brother, Herbert, and two sisters. Both James and Shamsi were buried in the Biloxi National Cemetery, Biloxi, Mississippi (*Sun Herald* "obits" October 23, 2005).

WWII War Brides

1. Mrs. Warden Miller, formerly Miss Monica Haines of Luton, England, arrived in the U.S. on the S.S. Christobal in New York in February of 1946. The couple was married in May of 1945 and settled in Ivanhoe where Mr. Miller was originally from.
2. Mrs. Hartsel Marsh, formerly Miss Elsie Kayner of Downham Market, Norfolk, England. She arrived in the states aboard the S.S. Santa Paula and the couple settled in Upshur County in March of 1946 with a nine month old baby. They lived on Route 3 where Mr. Marsh was a Farmer.
3. Mrs. James Hyre, formerly Princess F. Shamsi L. Adham, of the Royal Family of Iran (Persia). The couple married in New York City in January of 1946. Miss Hyre had been enrolled at Colombia University in New York City since 1944. The couple lived in Buckhannon where Princess F. Shamsi L. Adham Hyre enjoyed the scenery and friendly community.
4. Mrs. Kenneth Casto, formerly Miss Mavis Smith of Deckiow, England, settled with her new husband in Adrian. Mrs. Casto was formerly a shop clerk in England. Mr. Casto was a truck driver. She arrived in the States with their one year old daughter on the "Surtania." The couple was married in February of 1945.
5. Mrs. Orrin Snyder, formerly Mrs. Nora McGivern, was the only war bride to come to Upshur County from Ireland. She came to America aboard the S.S. Barry in May of 1946 and worked at St. Joseph's Hospital as a nurse. The couple settled in Adrian where Mr. Snyder worked as a farmer. They were married in August of 1945 in Manchester, England.
6. Mrs. Stanley Jeskie, formerly Miss Rose Teresa of Trinidad. The couple married in 1941 and had two sons upon their return to Adrian. Mr. Jeskie remained enlisted with the Army, stationed in Panama. Mrs. Jeskie and their children eventually would join him there.
7. Mrs. Wade Phipps, formerly Miss Elaine Minchin, of Durbin, South Africa. The couple married in April of 1945 in Italy. Mrs. Phipps arrived with their infant daughter in June of 1946. They settled in Upshur county where Mr. Phipps worked with Fred Iden Motors. Mrs. Phipps did clerical work in an Army hospital before their marriage.
8. Mrs. Brooks Cobb, formerly Miss Ruth Stubbs of East London, was a telephone operator in East London before their marriage in March of 1944 in London. She traveled to the states aboard the Washington with their 18-month old daughter.
9. Mrs. Guy Osborn, formerly Miss Margaret McClean of Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland. The couple married in December of 1945 in Winchester, England. Mrs. Osborn arrived in Upshur County in August of 1946. Mr. Osborn remained enlisted with the Army for several years after their marriage (*Buckhannon Record*, "Nine Foreign-born War Brides..." September 13, 1946).
10. Mrs. Gerald Davidson and twin sons of Deal Kent, England, reunited with her husband at Randolph Street. They were married in England two years before her arrival in Buckhannon (*Buckhannon Record*, "English Wife Arrives Here..." September 20, 1946).

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