

The E.H. Childress Endowed Scholarship

Elmer Hardy Childress was born January 11, 1890 near Flynn in Leon County, Texas. He moved to Coleman County in 1892 and then to Swisher County in 1904. He attended both elementary school and high school, but his father took him out of these schools before he was able to graduate. He also attended Wayland Baptist College, finishing his grade school, high school, and junior college work there. He received his degree from Wayland in 1911—as Wayland’s FIRST graduate. He borrowed money from S.F. (Rack) Flores of Tulia to pay for his education at Wayland and also worked at any available odd jobs on campus during his years as a student.

On June 13, 1918, he married Addie E. Brown of Santa Anna, Coleman County, Texas. In 1925, he moved to Stamford, Texas, where he lived until his death on March 18, 1972. The Childress family was blessed with three children: Robert F., a farm manager and rural mail carrier in Delhi, Louisiana; William B., a doctor in Tulia, Texas; and E. Hardy Jr., a minister at Southwest Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas.

His love for and loyalty to Wayland and all she stood for was beautiful to see. For several years before his death, he would return to Wayland for Homecoming and other events, and was recognized with pride as the oldest living alumnus. His deep conviction about the importance of education was a driving force in his life. He influenced his sons with this conviction, and with this scholarship fund he will continue to encourage youth toward adequate education.

Wayland is proud to have this scholarship award to perpetuate the great Christian spirit of an outstanding man such as E.H. Childress and to recognize his important position in the history of the College.