

MELVIN AND LUCY JANE ESSEX MCCOLLOUGH FAMILY
JOHN AND LOUISA GROVE ESSEX
By Mrs. D.W. Short

John and Louisa Grove Essex moved from Atchison County Missouri, to Purcell Indian Territory in the 1880's. They owned a hotel in Purcell. During the Oklahoma Run, in April 1889, they stood on the hotel veranda and watched the people cross the Canadian River in a great rush to stake a claim and settle there. Their children were grown. Alice and Clara and a son, Frank. Alice married Charles A. Herrington, and lived in Norman. Clara married a Mr. Dunbar; died later. Frank homesteaded a farm west of Norman, the northeast quarter section 26-9-3-west. He gave the northeast corner of his farm for the New Hope school house. He married Clara Foster. Their children were John, Ruth, Raymond and Frank.

John and Louisa Essex traded their hotel for a farm three miles west of Norman and lived there several years (West Main Street Road). Their oldest daughter, Lucy Jane, and husband, Melvin McCollough, lived in Atchison County, Missouri; they decided to sell their farm home and move to Oklahoma. Mr. McCollough came in a rail road immigrant car, bringing several nice mares and a stallion, along with household goods and farming equipment. He planned to buy a ranch in the Indian Territory and raise horses and cattle. He took the stock to the Essex farm to pasture, and leased a house in Norman, in which to live until he could buy the ranch. Mrs. McCollough and children, Maude and Blanche, arrived in Norman via chair car, on the Santa Fe, in January, 1891. Maude carefully carrying the bird cage and her bird, Sanky.

There were no churches nor schools in the Indian Territory, so the family settled west of Norman, purchasing the southeast quarter 29-9-3 west, just south of Mrs. McCollough's brother, Frank's, farm. They built a home there on West Main Road and the family resided there for many years.

But we were young and very happy and really had a lot of fun. I shall never forget the wonderful hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. George Walls.

In 1952 Dan and I stood on the exact spot where we were married in 1902 in the old home and renewed our marriage vows. Now Dan is gone and I live alone at 448 Elm Avenue in Norman. I have been song leader, pianist, then historian for the Cleveland County Extension Homemakers since 1928, and a member of New Hope group 45 years.

Melvin Isaac Short married Ruth Heard of Guymon, Oklahoma. They live at 125 West Apache Street, Norman. Their children are Lucile, Robert and Roberta (twins) and Mary Blanche. Lucile married Don McMillan, and they spent 15 years as missionaries in the Congo (Africa). Robert is dead; he was a pilot for Eastern Air Lines. Roberta married Gene Charles Smith, a lawyer in Oklahoma City, and Mary Blanche married John Mayo Bohannon, a petroleum engineer. The Bohannon's live in Houston, Texas. All are graduates of Oklahoma University except Lucile and Don who graduated at Phillips University, Enid, Oklahoma.

DANIEL WEBSTER AND BLANCHE McCOLLOUGH SHORT

By Blanche

Dan and I started housekeeping in 1902 on a farm southwest of Norman, in a pretty white cottage. Dan raised fine corn, and attended the University. The Canadian River overflowed and ruined the crops, and completely ruined the farm. The water did not get into the house. Later we moved to a farm in the Ten Mile Flat. In October 1904, the Canadian River overflowed, ruined the crops; overturned a trunk in which I had the little clothes for our first baby. Those little white clothes were ruined with the muddy water; they never looked really white again. Dan scraped the dried mud off the floors. Everything was plain awful.

Melvin was born soon afterward in the home of my parents, the Melvin McCollough's. He was named Melvin Isaac for his grandfathers. About 1911 Dan and I and neighbors Clara and Bess Merkle, University students, started out in a covered wagon, for a camping trip to the Wichita Mountains. We stuck in the quick sand trying to cross the Canadian River at the old Adkins Crossing, near where the bridge is now. Men helped pull the wagon out but everything we had was soaked with muddy water EXCEPT OUR BATHING SUITS!!!

Those bathing suits were in a suit case on top of the trunk that contained our clothes. Mr. George Walls lived near the Canadian River and suggested, really INVITED us to come to his house and WASH OUR CLOTHES. We certainly had no desire to re-cross that river and of course wanted to continue our outing, so we spent the day washing and washing our clothes, trying to get that terrible brown muddy water stain out of them. Dan even took his turn AT THE WASHBOARD, and washed his heavier clothes. WHAT A DAY.

Construction Company, and Mr. Barbour's sons have continued the business. Harvey served on the Board of Regents of Bethany Peniel College, and was a member of the church board of the First Nazarene Church in Oklahoma City.

Bill (William), Harvey and Dan were members of the O.U. football teams; Dan's last year to play was in 1903. Dan served as an elder of the board of the First Christian Church, Norman, and was an elder emeritus when he died, July 26, 1955.

All of the members of Isaac and Nancy Grigsby Short's family and their husband or wife are deceased except Mrs. Dan Short (Blanche McCollough Short).

ISAAC AND NANCY ANN GRIGSBY SHORT
AND THEIR FAMILY

Isaac and Nancy Ann Grigsby Short and their nine children moved from Carolton, Carol County, Missouri, to the Indian Territory in covered wagons. They settled at Dougherty where they lived for two years. In 1894, Mr. Short bought a farm west of Norman, Cleveland County, and moved his family here. He was a farmer, and he and his sons raised fine corn crops on this land which is now known as the South Campus of the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Short had chosen a farm close to town so that his children could have access to a good education.

The children of Isaac and Ann Short were: William, Dora, Frances, Daniel, John, Albert, Mary, Rae and Harvey.

Frances married John Hodge and lived in Norman at 126 West Symmes. Their two daughters, Edith Lair and Thelma Lynn, still live in this home.

Daniel married Blanche McCollough.

Albert married Susie Bailey and Mary married Jim Rather. They were the parents of Leona, Nilah, Clifford and Claude. Leona Rather married Lewis Anderson and lives at 405 West Johnson Street. Leona raised her sister Nilah Curtis' baby girl, Darlene. Darlene Curtis Anderson graduated from Norman High School and from the University of Oklahoma School of Nursing. She served a term as instructor of nursing in South America, with the Peace Corps. After she returned from South America, Darlene went to Boston, Mass., for graduate study.

Clifford Rather lives in Denver, Colo., and Claude lives in Dallas, Texas. Nilah has been an invalid for many years; she now lives in Colorado.

Harvey Short married ^{Harriet} Hattie Denison, daughter of Commissioner Jim Denison, and he and his brother-in-law, Wylie H. Barbour, started the Barbour-Short

Maude married Fred Raymond Lacy. They were the parents of Lucy, Elaba, Raymond and Loretta. Raymond died in infancy, of pneumonia. Lucy died from severe burns. Elaba married Eugene Frank Lyons, engineer with WKY Radio and Television Station. Loretta married Lloyd Kirkendoll. She is a widow, in San Bernardino, California.

Blanche married Daniel Webster Short. Their children were Melvin Isaac and Marvin Edward. Marvin died at the age of 33 years.

Mr. McCollough helped to organize the First Christian Church in Norman and the members of the family continued to be active members in that church. He served several years as secretary of the Cleveland County Sunday School Association, and organized a number of Union Sunday Schools over the County, in school houses. Every year there would be county conventions attended by delegates from those Sunday schools, along with those in Norman, Moore, Noble and Lexington. Those conventions were very important and attended by many people. Always there would be a good program, with reports given by the delegates.

The herd of mares my father brought to Oklahoma took THE BLIND STAGGERS and DIED. The big NEWFOUNDLAND dog he brought along in the immigrant car, to guard the stock and other contents of that car, presumably ate poison that had been put out for coyotes and died.

There was just one room on the farm we bought, and soon we built the three bed room home where the family lived so long, and Dan and I lived in later years. The former owner of our farm was a Dutchman. When he saw my mother's pretty kitchen stove he stared, then exclaimed, "ach...and it even has a reservoir on behind!"

The Al Salyer Olds-Cadillac Agency is located where the old ^{Mr. Collough} house stood.

WHO EVER DREAMED THERE WOULD BE A WHITE-WAY PAVED ROAD BY THE OLD HOME???