

Hugh Black lived in southern Indiana at the end of the Civil War. He had been a soldier, I think in the union army. He was married to Ellen Smith and they had a son John. She died in 1881 and shortly after that he took John to Uvalde Texas, Upshur County to be a sheep farmer. He married Angeline Ayres who had a son about the same age as John named Red Ayers. Hugh and Angeline had two daughters, Allison "Alice" (named after his mother) and Pearl. One day a man rode up to the door, Angeline got on his horse with him and rode away. Then the drought of 1889 came and the price of sheep went so far down, many of the sheepmen were ruined. Hugh was going to go to California when he heard about the land run in Oklahoma. He packed up the kids and went to Oklahoma (Indian Territory). Apparently Hugh scouted the land before the run, because he told John where to meet him after the run. They crossed the Canadian river at Ford's crossing south of Purcell. Hugh made the run on horseback, Red drove the wagon carrying Alice with him, and John was on horseback with Pearl riding behind him. Mother always said "tied on" behind him. He chose a piece of land with a creek running through it and a natural spring, where they camped the first night, a few miles east of what would be Noble, OK in Cleveland County. Later they lived in a sod house until a small frame house could be built. When John was 16, his father Hugh took pneumonia and died. He was buried on one end of a high hill north and west of the farm. He was later moved to Fairview Cemetery. The girls were raised by a neighbor, a distant cousin also by the name of Black.

As the new Territory grew, the needs were many. Grandpa John was resourceful and used his wagon to haul water to Tecumseh, the territorial capital. When water became available locally, lumber was still in short supply. He sold his wagon to people who wanted it as lumber, and I think his mules.

He married Josie Jicha (pronounced Jeeka). Josie's parents had come to America from Czechoslovakia on one of the many immigrant boats. The first time they sailed, storms blew them all the way back to where they started. They sailed again, and this time they made it. Josie's mother was pregnant at the time and the baby was born soon after they landed. Before they left Czechoslovakia, Josie's grandmother had a beautiful wool paisley scarf that she cut into four pieces and gave one to each of her daughters. One of those pieces was passed on to Josie

and I have it in the cedar chest. Josie and John had five children: Hugh, Mary, John, Homer & Clyde. Josie died when Clyde was 10 years old. His dad (John) remarried, Margaret Vaughan. Everyone called her Aunt Maggie. They had no children. My sisters used to go out to the farm to spend the night, probably in late 1930's. They said it was exciting because Aunt Maggie slept with a PISTOL under her pillow! Hugh and Homer stayed with farming in the same area. Mary married Merle DeLong and moved to Noble, OK. Clyde went to school through the 10th grade. I think he was 16. He was offered a full Engineering scholarship to Oklahoma A&M but Grandpa Black wouldn't let him go, said he needed him on the farm. Four years later in 1922, he married Effie Quarles, the daughter of nearby farmer. His parents were against it, so they eloped to Oklahoma City. His brother John and his wife Wilma went with them. Clyde & Effie farmed on the "home place" for a few years before moving to Noble to run a gas station and a restaurant. They eventually moved to Norman where he was a partner in a car dealership. He bought out his partner in 1945 and ran Clyde Black Motor Company until 1964 when he retired and sold the franchise. They kept the home place until the early 1960's, when he sold it, but quickly bought another piece of property across the road where he continued to run cattle for a number of years. Effie was a voracious reader and aspiring writer. With only an eighth grade education, she began taking college courses when she was 60 years old to aid her writing ambitions and attended the Writer's Short Courses at OU for many years. She was published twice. She was also active in Douglas Bible Study group, and taught Sunday School at McFarlin Memorial Methodist Church for years, as well as being a member of the Norman Garden Club. She was also very fashion conscious and worked at Kerr Department Store on Campus Corner at various times. She was offered the job as head of the department, but had to decline as her husband did not approve.