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JOHN D. SHROYER AND FAMILY ²⁶

J. C. Shroyer ¹³

John D. Shroyer staked his claim five miles west of Moore, the northwest quarter of Section 13-10N-4W, Cleveland County, on April 22, 1889. He came from Maysville, Kansas. The would be settlers waited about two weeks in the town of Purcell, Indian Territory, to await the day of the opening. Because his horses were work stock, Mr. Shroyer borrowed a riding pony from Mr. Paull, a friend and fellow settler, to ride into the unsettled land.

John D. was born on the 19th day of October, 1853, in Perry County, Ohio, one of seven sons born to John Shroyer and Mary (Zartman) Shroyer. He was a grandson of Phillip and Catherine(Nash) Shroyer of Pennsylvania. Having made his claim on the evening of April 22, 1889, he was surprised the next morning to find another rider claiming the same land. After John D. inquired of the rider if he had made a mistake, the rider, being a rugged individual and displaying sidearms, said he didn't think so, but for twenty dollars he would seek other land. John D. paid the twenty dollars and the rider moved on. Shroyer lived in a dug-out, as most of the settlers did, until he was able to build and move into his two room house built almost in the middle of the homestead, which still stands, but has been enlarged on two occasions. He met Ida Alice Hess, born April 30, 1872, in Alexandria, Missouri, Clark County, when she came to Oklahoma to visit her aunt, Ann Stafford, who lived on the neighboring farm. They were married March 4, 1893, and lived on the homestead. John and Ida tilled the rich virgin soil, growing grain for their cattle and corn for their horses. John bred and raised both work horses and buggy ponies which were very much in demand and need in the pioneer days. The family attended Sunday School and church services at the school house, located one

and one-half miles north of the homestead. Later all the neighbors decided they needed a church home. John and Ida gave an acre of land for the church in the extreme northwest corner of the homestead. The neighbors all gave donations and a church building was erected and later dedicated Antioch Christian Church on July 27, 1902, with a basket dinner and fellowship meeting following. Many picnics were held at the church and ice cream was made in ten gallon cans set in barrels and turned by hand. Lemonade also was made in ten gallon cans. The neighbors came from miles around in wagons and on horseback. Many church and neighborhood fellowships were held in the wooded area of the Shroyer homestead. Even today many of the church picnics are held in the same area of the farm.

John D. passed away on the 36th anniversary of his coming to the new land, April 22, 1925. Ida lived on the homestead raising Red Poll cattle and laying hens until her health failed in 1943. She then lived with her daughter, Eva, and son-in-law, Wimer Siler, until her death on Oct. 22, 1949. John and Ida are buried in Moore Cemetery, Moore, Okla.

Two children were born to John and Ida Shroyer: they were Eva Mae and Eddy John.

I. Eva Mae Shroyer (Siler) born May 4, 1894, on the family homestead. She attended school at Porch school (later called Fairview School) located north of the homestead. She married Wimer F. Siler, born April 27, 1895, the son of John L. and Edith Siler, on New Year's Day, 1913, at the home of her parents. Wimer and Eva served their community in many ways. Wimer served on the school board many years. He served in the church as a Sunday School superintendent, a deacon and as Chairman of the Church Board. Eva taught Sunday School classes and played the piano for worship services. Their large home with a full

basement was always available and used many times for youth meetings and church fellowships. Wimer and Eva maintained a good farming program and operated a Grade A dairy farm. He was in partnership with Gene Shroyer on a threshing machine and cook shack, which they operated together for many years. He was a Past Master of the Wheatland Uriah Masonic Lodge. Wimer died August 28, 1958, and was buried in the Moore Cemetery, Moore, Oklahoma.

They had three daughters.

A. Lucille Alice Siler (Jullian) was born March 27, 1914, on the family homestead. She attended Fairview Elementary School, graduated from Moore High School and worked in Oklahoma City. She married Joe Parker June 13, 1937, and they moved to Gainesville, Texas. Joe died January 6, 1962. Lucille is now married to John Jullian. They live in Dallas, Texas, and own and operate an engraving company. Lucille and Joe Parker had one son.

1. Dennis Lee Parker was born April 8, 1940. He attended school in Gainesville, Texas, graduating from the high school there. He served in the armed forces and when he was discharged he attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Dennis married Janice Lyle of Gainesville, Texas, August 24, 1963. They have two sons: Chet Aron Parker born September 25, 1966, and Joey Lyle Parker born March 25, 1969. They live in Anaheim, California, where he is employed with an oil company.

B. Cynthia Quanita Siler (Sharp) was born March 7, 1916, on the family homestead. She graduated from Moore High School. She worked for Civil Service, serving overseas during World War II. She married Raymond Sharp June 15, 1947. Raymond and Cynthia make their home in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he is employed by Southerland Lumber Company. They have two sons.

1. Craig Siler Sharp born March 15, 1949, is now living in Los Angeles,

California, and works for a Transportation Company.

2. Brian Raymond Sharp was born March 22, 1952. He is a student at Bloomington, Indiana.

C. Ruth Fern Siler (Jones) was born July 15, 1917. She graduated from Moore High School and worked in Oklahoma City following her graduation. She married H. Thomas Jones on July 24, 1937, at Antioch Christian Church. They live in Wichita Falls, Texas, where Thomas is co-owner of an aircraft and maintenance company. They have two sons.

1. Lynn Alden Jones was born March 16, 1940. He graduated from high school in Wichita Falls, Texas, and attended and graduated from Central State College, Edmond, Oklahoma. He married Vernell Shepard, daughter of Vern and Betty Shepard, August 30, 1963. Lynn and Vernell are active in Antioch Christian Church where both teach classes. Lynn served as a deacon and Sunday School superintendent. He served in the Army and is now a Captain in the Army Reserves. They have two children: Christi Lynn Jones born June 16, 1966; and Mark Russell Jones born May 19, 1969. Lynn is employed with the O. G. & E. Company in Oklahoma City.

2. Melvin Thomas Jones was born June 18, 1951. After he graduated from Wichita Falls High School, he served in the Armed Forces and is now in the Army Reserves. Melvin married Brenda Farley July 17, 1971. They live in Marble Falls, Texas, where he is employed by the Telephone Company.

II. Eddy John Shroyer was born October 5, 1896, on the family homestead. He attended Porch School (later to become known as Fairview School). Eddy served in the Army during World War I. After he received his discharge he returned to the homestead to again take up his farming occupation. It was then he met the new school teacher at Fairview Elementary School, Pearl P. Owens. Pearl was born November 27, 1898, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles

Owens, another pioneer homestead family, who came from Kentucky to settle near Harrah, Oklahoma. Eddy and Pearl were married August 3, 1919, and built their home on the north edge of the Shroyer homestead. They carried water from the nearby creek to mix cement for the basement and foundation. The home is located $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of Antioch Christian Church.

Eddy and Pearl farmed the land - raising grain, beef cattle, hogs and chickens. Selling eggs was a big thing in the early days. They also maintained a small milk cow operation.

Eddy and Pearl were active in community and church affairs. They had three children; Eddy Hugh, Gwendolyn and John Charles.

A. Eddie Hugh Shroyer was born October 17, 1920. He attended Fairview Elementary School and Moore High School. He served in the Armed Forces in England during World War II. Hugh married Christine Edgemon of Noble, Oklahoma, December 3, 1946. They had one son, Arno Hugh Shroyer, born November 11, 1947, who is now a sergeant in U.S. Air Force. Hugh died March 15, 1947. His death was caused by recurrence of injuries received in a jeep accident while serving his country.

B. Gwendolyn Joy Shroyer (Garner) was born November 23, 1922. She attended Fairview Elementary School and graduated from Moore High School. She married Everett L. Garner November 2, 1946. They had two sons. Gwendolyn later married Curtis Stacey of Seattle, Washington. They had one daughter. Gwendolyn now lives in Tennessee on the campus at Johnson Bible College where she is employed as bookkeeper and housemother of the Boy's Dormitory. She has three children.

1. Spencer L. Garner was born August 21, 1947. He graduated from Capitol Hill High School and later attended Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, Tennessee, where he met Patricia Hamilton of Sevierville, Tennessee. They were

married August 25, 1968. After graduation from Johnson Bible College, Spencer attended the University of Tennessee, where he received a BA degree. Spencer now teaches school at Rockwood, Tennessee, and preaches at Post Oak Christian Church, the oldest Christian Church in Tennessee. Spencer and Patty have two daughters, Gwendolyn Hope Garner born May, 1969, and Lydia Jane Garner born March, 1971.

2. John Stuart Garner was born May 3, 1950. He graduated from Capitol Hill High School, and later attended Johnson Bible College, Knoxville, Tennessee. After graduation he became Associate Minister of North Druid Hills Christian Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

3. Susan Candice Stamey was born November 20, 1955. She attended school in Oklahoma City. Susan now makes her home in Vinton, California.

C. John Charles Shroyer (J. C.) was born September 24, 1925. While attending Moore High School, J.C. was active in the F. F. A. Chapter. He was a charter member of the association and served as an officer for two years. Upon graduating J. C. was awarded the State Farmer or Junior Master Farmer's degree.

J. C. then continued to help his father manage the homestead as well as another farm that Eddy bought on the South Canadian River three miles south, J. C. married Virginia Lee Kelly, a granddaughter of Billy Williamson, a neighbor and homesteader. They were married at Antioch Christian Church November 4, 1949. They live in the family home east of Antioch Church. Eddy and Pearl had moved to the lower farm on the South Canadian River where they remained until their deaths. Eddy died on November 30, 1950, and Pearl June 14, 1970.

J. C. and Virginia are active in civic and community affairs. J. C. is a Charter member of Moore Masonic Lodge and Moore Rotary Club. In 1955 J. C.

was selected for "Outstanding Young Farmer of Cleveland County" award. He is presently serving as North District Vice President of Cleveland County Cattlemen's Association.

Virginia is a Charter member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Moore and serves as Judge in the Precinct Election Board. They are both active in church work at Antioch where J. C. serves as an elder and Sunday School teacher and Virginia serves as head of the infant nursery department.

J. C. and Virginia have two children.

1. Mary Margaret Shroyer (Harding) was born February 17, 1951. She attended Moore High School where she was very active in various singing groups, a member of the National Honor Society and prior to graduation was awarded the outstanding Senior Girl plaque. She married Lt. Dennis Wayne Harding. They live near Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he is stationed in the Army. After his discharge from active service, they will reside in Kansas City, Kansas, where Dennis will be employed in the Government Accounting office.

2. John Charles Shroyer, Jr., was born June 23, 1952. He attended Moore High School where he was very active in F. F. A., where he served as an officer of the organization. He received many prizes and awards in the production and exhibiting of swine in the Registered Duroc Division. He is now employed in the hog casing department at Wilson Certified Foods of Oklahoma City.