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THE ALBERT HENRY SYMCOX FAMILY

By John Raymond Symcox

Henry Symcox was born July 12, 1831, in Newhall, England, about 50 miles from London. He was married to Mary Omega Lewis on November 10, 1857, who was reported to be the daughter of an English Duke. He objected to the marriage, so the young people eloped and came to the Bahama Islands near Nassau where her sister and husband lived. Her brother-in-law was engaged in the business of supplying meat for the British Navy. He gave employment to Henry Symcox who became an expert butcher. About 1860, Henry and Amelia Symcox moved to Tampa, Florida, and to them were born five children among them being Albert Henry Symcox on March 23, 1865. After serving in the Confederate Army, Henry Symcox moved with his family to Grayson County, Texas, and resided in the Pottsboro community. As some of the older children were married, they came up into Oklahoma Territory and settled in what is now known as Cleveland County. Henry Symcox then came to this county in about 1885 looking for a place to live. He found a farm one mile east and one quarter mile south of what is now known as the Hollywood Corner north of Norman. He proposed a trade with the owner for his land in Texas and it was made. Henry Symcox lived on this farm until his death in 1913.

Albert Henry Symcox, his son, came with him into Oklahoma, but put out on his own. He made the run in 1889 into Oklahoma and staked out a claim on a quarter section of land situated in the Northwest portion of what is now known as the 10 mile flat northwest of Norman, only to find a Sooner was already on the land. They went to court, but it is said that before trial settlement was made by Albert Henry Symcox paying the Sooner \$200.00. He

lived on this land until 1904. In the meantime, he built a house on this place only to have it demolished by the great cyclone of 1893. On December 4, 1894, he married Louisa Antoniette Bishop who was an orphan girl who made her way from Arkansas where she was born and was living with friends in this area. To them were born four children while they lived in 10 mile flat among them being John Raymond Symcox on October 21, 1903.

The family sold their farm and moved to Altus in 1904 where they bought another farm. In 1908, it was sold and they moved to Medford, Oregon, where Albert Henry Symcox has a sister living, and bought a 30 acre apple orchard in the famous Rogue River Valley. They became homesick for Oklahoma, and sold their orchard for a nice profit after 18 months, and located on a farm near Cordell in the latter part of 1909. John Raymond Symcox entered school in the first grade there and graduated from Cordell High School and later from Abilene Christian College in 1925. On June 4, 1927, he was married to Vera McCurley, and to them were born two sons, Don and Phil. Raymond Symcox began work as a bookkeeper in 1925 at the Farmers National Bank in Cordell, and in 1941 became President. After living in Cordell for 44 years, he moved with his family to Norman where he became President of the City National Bank in 1953. He is presently Chairman of the Board of Directors of that Bank and also the Farmers National Bank in Cordell. His oldest son, Don, is President of the Norman bank, and his other son, Phil, is Executive Vice-President.

Raymond and Vera Symcox reside at 207 Merkle Drive, Norman, Oklahoma.

Don Symcox married Mary Louise Lee, daughter of former senator Josh Lee. They have two sons and one daughter and reside at 2417 Smoking Oak Rd. in Norman.

Phil Symcox married Betty Dolman of Ardmore. They have two sons
and reside at 1117 Berry Circle in Norman.