

GOERGE OLIVER CHEW

~~by Nola Chew Pryor, Great Granddaughter~~

George Oliver Chew, born January 10, 1832 in Virginia, came to Texas as a child with his parents, Benjamin Chew and Caroline Eastland Chew. He grew up in Fayette County, near La Grange, Texas. On June 29, 1984, he married Nancy Evaline Taylor, born in 1839 in Tennessee.

George Chew served in the Home Guard for Fayette County in the Confederate Army.

George and "Eva" had nine children--Henry (April 1856), Frances Gipson (Dec. 1857), Sybil Wootan (May 1896), Miriam Davis (1870), Walter (1871), Lenora Tuckness (1875), William (1877), Virgil (1879), S. C. Chew (Nov. 1880).

The family moved during the 1870's--first to Gonzales County, then to Coleman County. During a severe winter in the early 1880's their cattle drifted to the Hill Country in western Llano County and the family soon followed. Land was purchased from T.H. Miller--320 acres for \$260 down payment on Nov. 1, 1883 with \$180 more due on January 1, 1884.

The land was not fenced and a house had to be built. The first house was built partly of logs, and was later enlarged with rooms upstairs. On acre of this land was later deeded for the Chew Family Cemetery, when George and Eva were buried. George died July 27, 1901 and Eva in 1922.

Henry Chew--my grandfather, met a neighbor girl, Martha Lee Harlow and they were married June 7, 1884. Martha had arrived earlier with her parents, Elisha and Eleanor Beesley Harlow from Illinois, by way of Burnet County. Martha was born near Springfield, Illinois on Nov. 25, 1864.

Henry purchased land adjoining his father and built a house of logs and lumber, adding more rooms as the family grew.

On this land was built the first New Hope (Esbon) schoolhouse, which was later moved to a new location about a mile east of this land. Early day school teachers often boarded with the family.

The children of Henry and Martha Chew were: Osceola (Sept. 2, 1885), Leon (Jan. 31, 1887), Oliver Leroy and Eleanor (twins--Dec. 13, 1888), Minnie Bush (May 15, 1890), Harremore (Sept. 7, 1891), Herbert (Jan. 22, 1893), (Jan. 22, 1895), James "Tavis", (Sept. 25, 1896), (Feb. 22, 1899), Viola Tuckness (Oct. 13, 1901), Retta (April 9, 1904).

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Henry Chew died at age 47, and Martha a hard time keeping the

family together. For several years, she carried the mail three times a week from the Esbon Postoffice to Valley Spring, taking along a child to open the numerous gates.

Martha died during her ninetieth year and both she and Henry are buried in the Chew Cemetery.

Marion Chew, my father was born January 22, 1895. He served in the army during World War I for two years. After his return home, he married Edna Wootan, (April 23, 1898) at Mason, on January 28, 1920. Marion was a farmer, and they lived mostly in Llano and Mason Counties, finally retiring at Valley Spring in 1955.

Their Children are Nola Irene Pryor (October 25, 1920) and Gene Chew (Aug. 21, 1925). Edna died Sept. 4, 1979 and is buried in the Chew Cemetery. Marion lives at Care Inn and is 94.

On Feb. 20, 1943 Nola Chew married Robert Pryor at Brady, Texas and has resided in Llano County since 1948. They have one son, Stephen Pryor (Dec. 29, 1946) who married Margaret McKinney (May 27, 1951) at Llano February 28, 1970. Their Children are: Cory (Sept. 24, 1974), Stephanie (Sept. 19, 1977) Robert "Robbie" (Jan. 14, 1984). They live in Austin.

(Nola Chew Pryor)

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