DYER - RHODES

Few people who have read Mrs. Lorena Moss Lancaster's "**Looking Back At Dyer**" could have devoured the pages more than I, or felt more a part. Since she has called upon us to "Leave our footprints on the sands of time", I feel a sense of duty to contribute to "**Another Look At Dyer**".

Happily, I read accounts of my father's family, thanks to my Aunt Lucy Nelson Thomas and her daughter, my cousin, Mary Lou Thomas Kelley. However, since my mother's family was mentioned very little, I would like to take this opportunity to try my hand at writing of them. I realize that any student of Genealogy will have to do much to substantiate what I have given here. At least, it will give them something from which to work and me the self-assurance that 1 tried.

Quoting from "**Looking Back At Dyer**," published 1976: "BENJAMIN DYER, born 1798 in North Carolina—the oldest son of Caleb and Rebecca Howard Dyer—and his wife, MARTHA (PATSY) POGUE, left North Carolina and came to the Arkansas Territory in 1832 and settled on Frog Bayou, the present site of Mountainburg. It was then a vast wilderness of virgin timber, inhabited by Indians, wild animals and game".

1. Ben and Patsy had four children:

11. Mira (1825), who married William Orrick,

12. Nancy, who married William Burrough,

13. Caroline, who married Pleasant Blevins, and

14. Benjamin Dyer.

14. The fourth child, and only son, BENJAMIN DYER JR., **1st** married MARY ANN ETHERLY and they had three children:

141. Caroline Lucinda Dyer, who married Ransom Riley Rhodes,

142. William Dyer who married Survilla Griffith, and

143. Leonard Dyer who married POLLY ANN TURNER.

14. Shortly after Leonard's birth, Mary Ann died, leaving Benjamin, Jr with three children. He then **2nd** married Savilla Jane Turner and this union was blessed with ten children:

144. Savilla Dyer, who married W. F. Rhodes,

145. Frank Dyer, who married Martha Meadors,

146. Emily Dyer, who married William J. Peters,

147. John Dyer, who married Sarah Smith,

148. Henry Dyer, who married Dalie Peters,

149. Susie Dyer, died unmarried,

14A. Elisha Dyer, who married Lena Moss,

14B. Martha Dyer, who married C. F. Blevins,

14C. Nancy Dyer, who married William Parker, and

14D. Mira Dyer, who married William Smith.

141. The oldest child of Benjamin Dyer, Jr, and Mary Ann Etherly, CAROLINE LUCINDA DYER (born 16 Aug 1853, died 17 Mar 1934), m/d RANSOM RILEY RHODES (born 17 Jan 1849, died 17 Dec 1929) in Crawford County, Arkansas, on 17 Mar 1870 at home. Mr Frank Berna, minister of the Gospel, officiated and Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Reavis were witnesses. (Mrs. Reavis given name was Ruth). Caroline and Ransom homesteaded a farm atop a mountain near Mountainburg. They were blessed with ten children:

1411. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN RHODES (born 18 Oct 1871, died 1933), married Isabella Vaught on August 23, 1892. He was a farmer and they were Baptist by faith, taking active parts in the Dyer Baptist Church. A land owner, their home and out-buildings were very impressive, as one entered Dyer, just after turning off Highway 64 onto Washington Street. He was interested in the growth and development of Dyer and served as Alderman in 1921, 1922, and 1925. In 1923, he was elected Mayor of Dyer. Uncle Elisha's Bible records "They had 13 children—no names given." But we have listed 11 children:

14111. Carl Emmitt Rhodes, born 18 Mar 1893, premature, and lived twelve days.

14112. Clifford McKinley Rhodes born 29 Jun 1894, died 28 Jan 1899, age 4 years

14113. Flora Arlena Rhodes born 02 Oct 1896, died Sep 1919, m/d Raymond Hill. They had one son:

141131. Grady Lee Hill born Sep 1919, who married Reba Richards.

14114. Virgil Lee Rhodes born 31 Dec 1899, died 28 Nov 1960, m/d Bonnie Josie Bourland (born 04 Mar 1901) on 8 Nov 1919. They had two children who grew up in Dyer:

141141. Norma Ruth Rhodes born 12 Aug 1920 who married Woodrow Wilson Winborn (born 23 Jul 1918) on April 21, 1941 and they now live in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

141142. Benjamin Franklin Rhodes born Aug 1925, who married Virginia Kamm and has remained in Dyer as the owner-operator of "Frankie's" Grocery.

14115. Bazello Leafy Rhodes born 29 Jan 1901, died 27 Jun 1929, married Sollie A. Autry. They had two daughters:

141151. Melba Rhodes

141152. Lawanda Rhodes. Shortly after the death of their mother, Melba and Lawanda lived with their grandparents and went to school at Dyer.

14116. Herbert Everett Rhodes married Elma Fine

14117. Thurman Richard Rhodes married Jennie Shaver

14118. Hilda May Rhodes **1st** married Jack Cole and they had one child. Later, Hilda **2nd** married Charles Herbert.

141181. Polly Ray Cole.

14119. Edna Eleanor Rhodes married Eugene Harris and moved to Detroit, Michigan.

1411A. Fadau Lawanda Rhodes married Maurice Dorrough and lived in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

1411B. Lorenzo Dowell Rhodes, no descendants.

1412. MARION TERRELL RHODES born 05 Sep 1873, died 1943, married Jerusha Wagner born 1883, died 1942, on September 03, 1900. He was a land owner and farmer. He taught school in 1901 and his commitment to education was evident by the number of youth to which he made personal, unsecured college loans. He never felt his faith misplaced, for he often made the statement that he was always paid back. His interest earned was in seeing the fruit of his investment in the success of young people. He was also the owner of a general merchandise store in Dyer. He and Aunt "Rooshie" were active members of the Baptist Church and he was an ordained deacon. In 1904 he was appointed Dyer Postmaster, an office he held until 1918; however, he was reappointed Postmaster in 1921 and served until 1940. He was elected as Dyer's second Mayor in 1908. He and my daddy, Monroe Nelson, built the building that for many years served as Nelson's Barbershop and the Post Office. Had a small selection of general merchandise in the front of the Post Office section which now houses the Dora Moss Library. Their four children were:

14121. Cabol Rhodes (born 1901) who married Evelyn Weaver and they had three daughters:

141211. Jane Rhodes

141212. Sally Rhodes

141213. Martha Rhodes

14122. Fannie Marie Rhodes (born 1903) who married John Holleman and they had two children:

141221. John Holleman

141222. Judy Holleman

14123. Ned Rhodes born 1909, died 1928. He never married.

14124. Wanda Ruth Rhodes born 1915 who married Tom Frank Alexander. In 1945 he was killed in an accident shortly before the birth of their twin sons, who she named,

141241. Tom Alexander and

141242. Frank Alexander.

1413. MARY SAVILLA RHODES born 16 Jun 1876, died 29 Nov 1941. Married Lee M. Meadors (born 09 May 1870, died 1953) on June 14, 1893. He taught school at Cane Hill and was an old-fashioned singing teacher for the Red Hill Church at the time they met. Despite his being an epileptic, he was a multi-talented man. During the time they lived in Dyer, he was a produce broker, blacksmith and builder. To my knowledge, the only house that still stands in Dyer that he built with his son, Claude, Sr, is the one on the north side of the east end of Line Street, just up the hill from where the gin used to be. He was elected Alderman and served as the town marshal in 1919. He was a member of the Oddfellows Lodge #250. He had a deep affection for wood. In his son's saw mill he worked with it from the stage of the tree to finished lumber. He built tables, foot stools, and a cedar chest for each of their daughters. I have seen him construct a "fiddle" then, put it to his chin and play. They were members of the Christian Church. An avid reader, he stated that he had read the Bible through many times. He enjoyed singing and reciting old folk songs and poems. During the Depression, he worked in the Crawford County Court House as an abstractor. They had eight children:

14131. Claude M Meadors, Sr, (born 23 Sep 1894, died 13 mar 1980). He married Jean McGowan (born 20 Jul 1901) and they had six children, all who are living and near Alma:

141311. Claude M Meadors, Jr, (born 01 Oct 1922, died 12 Apr 1977) who married Gwendolyn Carey.

141312. Jack Meadors (born 18 Jan 1924) who married Betty Jane Bowlin

141313. Don Gene Meadors (born 25 Sep 1927, died 08 Dec 1980) who married Ila Mae Hickey;

141314. Johnny Mack Meadors (born 01 Dec 1933) who married Shirley Tracy

141315. Thomas Rhodes Meadors (born 02 Jul 1935) who married Betty Brown

141316. Marilyn Meadors (born 05 Jul 1939) who married Steve Smith.

14132. Myra Tennessee Meadors (born 26 Jan 1897) who **1st** married Frank Berna (born 04 May 1881, died 28 May 1942. On August 14, 1943, she **2nd** married Carl Patrick (born 23 Aug 1904). They live in Fort Smith and there are no children.

14133. Ethel Meadors (born 11 Dec 1899, died 21 Dec 1965), married David Carl Reavis (born 04 Feb 1895, died 1933). They had three children:

141331. Vera Louise Reavis (born 24 Oct 1920) who married Harold Robert Buckner (born 01 Jan 1915) on July 2 1938.

141332. David Carl Reavis, Jr, who died in infancy

141333. Clint Dyer Reavis born May 1923, who married Beverly G. Hansen on October 15, 1949.

14134. Sylvbia Caroline Meadors (born 25 May 1902, died 24 Oct 1942) married Monroe Layton Nelson (born 01 Jul 1887, died 16 Dec 1947) on January 3, 1921. They had one daughter:

141341. Myra Yvonne Nelson (born 31 Oct 1921) who married James William Darling (born 04 Jul 1915) on September 8, 1945.

14135. Dyer Meadors (born 07 Jul 1904, died 01 Mar 1969) who married Mayru Johnson. They had three sons:

141351. Joe Bayne Meadors (born 15 Apr 1927) who married June xxx

141352. Jim Ed Meadors (born 19 Jun 1930) who married Beverly xxx

141353. Danny Dyer Meadors.

14136. Velma Meadors born 1907 and died in 1919, age 12

14137. Mary Lee (Chester) Meadors (born 25 May 1911) who married Roland Kenneth Riddle (born 14 Apr 1907) on April 15, 1929. They have two daughters:

141371. Myra Lane Riddle (born 28 May 1939) who **1st** married John Nicholas Rogers, Jr, on 07 Sep 1949, then **2nd** married Scott Ransick in 1984

141372. Marsha Frances Riddle (born 07 Sep 1945) who married Dennis Wilkins

14138. Ted Vilus Meadors (born 19 Feb 1913, died 07 Nov 1972) who married Ruth Lewis on November 22, 1931. They had one son:

141381. Dale Vilus Meadors who married Alene Schoppe.

1414. GRISSOM RHODES (born 09 Jan 1878, died 1954) married Myrtle Wright on November 11, 1900, and they moved to Ames, Story County, Iowa, where he was a farmer. The Bible records "They have five children." The only names that we know of are:

14141. Gracie Rhodes and

14142. Donna Rhodes

1415. SAPHRONIA RHODES (born 26 Mar 1880, died 15 Jan 1965) married Richard Wylie Chitwood (born 04 Mar 1879, died 15 Apr 1968) on September 30, 1900, in Dyer, Crawford County, Arkansas, by J. A. Peters. He farmed "city" acres in Dyer, their family home being down a road which was the extension of the west end of Line Street. He sang in the Methodist choir as a youth and was a member of the Oddfellows Lodge #250. He was elected as Mayor of Dyer in 1920 and as an Alderman in 1916, 1922, 1923, and 1928. Except for a short time when they lived in Binger, Caddo County, Oklahoma, they spent their entire married life in Dyer. Their children were:

14151. Dorothy Chitwood (born 04 Sep 1901, died 1978) who married Cloyce Rickey. They have two children:

141511. Caroline Rickey who married Junior Mullen; and

141512. John Wiley Rickey who married Joy Wasson.

14152. Reginald Gather Chitwood (born 09 Aug 1903, died 26 Jul 1983) who married Wanda Jackson ( born 15 Sep 1906) on February 16, 1924, and they had one son:

141521. Sidney Chitwood, who married Dolores xxx

14153. Carl Chitwood (born 05 Feb 1906, died 24 Oct 1885) who married Eva Cash (born 16 Dec 1907) on December 27, 1924. They had three children:

141531. Marjorie Chitwood born 02 Apr 1926

141532. Kenneth A. Chitwood born 24 Aug 1930

141533. Dennis C. Chitwood born 1946

14154. Suedella Chitwood (born 22 Feb 1919, died 22 Feb 1922). She died as the results of a dog bite.

1416. CHESTER RHODES (born 16 Jun 1884, died 1940) was a school teacher in Dyer for many years, as seen in many old class pictures. He married Myrtle Renfroe on July 1, 1906. He was pastor of the Dyer Baptist Church in 1920. After this time he had several churches; then, became an evangelist, listing Fort Smith as their home. They had three children:

14161. Raymond Rhodes born 1907, died 1944, killed in World War II

14162. Para Mae Rhodes who married Dr. C. W. Esert and lived in Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas

14163. Doris Marie Rhodes born 1921.

1417. SAVANNAH RHODES (born 11 Jun 1888, died 1959) married Walter Berna on August 3, 1909. They had two children:

14171. Marion Berna who was killed in World War II; and

14172. Treva Berna, who married Hal Brashiers. Both Marion and Treva's families lived in Texas; we know they had children but we don't know their names.

1418. OREL H. RHODES (born 02 Mar 1894, died 01 Jan 1966), married Elizabeth James and they lived their entire married life in Dyer. He was a Veteran of World War I. A merchant for a short period of time; but most of his life he farmed his acreage. He was elected as a Alderman to the town of Dyer in 1927, 1929, and 1930. In 1932 and 1933 he was elected as Mayor of Dyer. He was a member of the Church of Christ and Elizabeth was a Baptist. He and Elizabeth had one daughter:

14181. Mildred Imogene Rhodes (born 01 Jun 1922) whose **first** husband, Edlin Harbour, was killed in a plane crash during World War II.

14181. Mildred Imogene Rhodes (born 01 Jun 1922) later **2nd** married Dr. Douglas Ferraro, and they had two children:

143811. Elizabeth Ferraro

143812. Tom Ferraro

14181. Mildred Imogene Rhodes (born 01 Jun 1922). She is presently **3rd** married to Gerald Duree and they live in Topeka, Kansas.

1419. NETTIE AUTHENIA RHODES (born 1896, died 1983) **1st** married Dave Morgan on May 31, 1914, and they moved to Bixby, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties, Oklahoma.

1419. NETTIE AUTHENIA RHODES (born 1896, died 1983). Some time after Mr. Morgan's death, she moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and **2nd** married C. A. Taylor who died in 1969. No descendants.

141A. ELISHA J. RHODES (born 04 Oct 1891), married Lara M. Owen on April 4, 1923. Their farm was close to the Rhodes homeplace, rural Mountainburg.

Most of the information given here was hand-written by Uncle "Lish" who said, "I'm copying most of this from an old Bible. Sorry my writing is so bad. I can't do as well since I had that stroke. We love you. May God bless you always."

141A1. They had one daughter, Irene Rhodes (born 30 Apr 1926) who married Olin Oxford (born 19 Nov 1924) on August 5, 1942.

Caroline Lucinda and Ransom Riley Rhodes spent their married years in their home atop the mountain, rural Mountainburg, and three of their children never lived in Dyer. However, the other seven were Dyerites at one period of their lives and contributed to the history of Dyer. Their descendants must feel a closeness to Dyer; although descendants of only one Rhodes family still live here. Strangely enough, another Benjamin, Benjamin Franklin Rhodes, "Frankie" his wife, Virginia Kamm Rhodes, and mother, Bonnie Bourland Rhodes.

If I were to dedicate my efforts in recording this information, it would have to be to my grandmother, Mary Savilla Rhodes Meadors, who often referred to me as her ninth child. Due to the divorce of my parents, I spent most of my time with her. I always knew that she was close by, even when we were apart. Words do not come that are great enough to describe what she meant to me. By example she taught me how to love those who don't love you as well as those who do, how to turn the other cheek, how to live each day to its fullest, how to appreciate what you have, how to dream...but not for material nor impossible things, how to enjoy family, how to respect yourself, and, above all, how to love the Lord your God with all your heart. In my autograph book she wrote, "Always remember that I love you very, very much; not altogether because you are my granddaughter but mostly because you are YOU: a good, sweet girl and deserving of everyone's love."

I could easily turn that around and write: "Always know that I loved her very, very much, not altogether because she is my grandmother but mostly because she was an exceptionally wonderful lady, certainly deserving of everyone's love. Truly…she was a GRAND mother."

Myra Yvonne Nelson Darling

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