GOODSPEED HISTORY OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

JOHN SHARP, a cotton planter of Riverside Township in Crawford County, was born near Little Rock in Pulaski County, Arkansas, in 1851. He is a son of James M. and Nancy Temple Sharp, natives of Tennessee and Mississippi respectively. They were married in Mississippi and moved from there to Pulaski County, Arkansas. When Mr. Sharp was but an infant they moved to Tipton County, Tennessee, where the father died in 1856. The mother afterwards returned to Arkansas, married, and is now living at Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

The grandfather, JOHN SHARP, was born in North Carolina and died in Tipton County, Tennessee in 1868. Our subject was the second child of the family of four and was educated at the Tabernacle in Tipton County, Tennessee. He began for himself by farming when 14 in Pulaski County and in 1880 came to Crawford County and took charge of the farm he now owns which was then the property of D. E. Jones of Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

Four years later he purchased the Plantation which contains 873 acres of the finest "bottom" land and is one the best known and finest plantation in this section of the country, as well as the oldest. Although Mr. Sharp came to the County a poor man, he is now one of it rising citizens, his success being due to his business sagacity and industry. He has 600 acres of land under cultivation and has 26 families on the plantation. He raises on an average 300 bales of cotton annually, does his own ginning and shipping, and also raises on an average 200 acres of corn.

In 1886 he married Ella R. Wright, daughter of G. W. and Martha Wright of Rome, Floyd County, Georgia, by whom he has one son. Mr. Sharp is a Democrat, cast his first Presidential vote for Greeley in 1872 and since 1886 has been Justice of the Peace of Riverside Township. He is a member of the K of P Lodge, and he and his wife are Methodists.

FAMILY TREES

Family Trees are funny. Time was when they were tended and pruned, all dead timber being carefully cut out; but now bare limbs are a common sight on even some of our oldest and best.

Some of them produce a lot of peaches and some on the same branch may also bear nuts. Many blossoms are found nestling in the leafy branches and perchance a few withered wall-flowers are found tucked away in sundry nooks.

Lemons are common on some of the trees; prunes and quinces also abound. Some of the fruit is easy picking and some of it has to be pretty well shaken before it falls.

You will find many little love nests tucked away in the branches of the old family tree and also some pretty queer birds. But everything considered, the family tree is a pretty good tree and it is quite a calamity to fall out of it.

Anonymous

**DAILY RECORD OF CLEAR CREEK PLANTATION**

**John Sharp, Superintendent**

First legible date for workers or laborers - Tuesday, March 10, 1885.

Alex Fears, 1/2 time at gin, daily wages 50 cents.

H. Weese, Bud Weese, Jno. Weese, Alex Fears, and Wm. Hughes worked on March 11 for $1 to $1.25 per day.

W. Powell added to list on March 12.

Sam Fears, Sam and Jim Green, Jim Rozer, Wm. Prater, Shields, Rany, Geo. Prettyjohn, Sikes, added to list on March 13th. Most worked for 80 cents a day.

Albert Davis and H. Weese added on March 16th.

A. Scott added on March 17th.

D. J. Jackson and Wm. Neal added on March 20th.

S. G. Bruce, Carpentering, added on March 28th.

Wm. Tate, Geo. Fears and D. Clark added on April 10th.

Morandy on April 17th.

Abe James on April 21st.

S. Dunn, Robert Dunn, and P. Smith on April 27th.

Pink Bruce worked for Geo. Fears and Sam Fears on June 10th.

Carpenter Smith worked on new room for $1 a day on June 11th.

Geo. Scantling on June 18th.

Bruce, Sam Fears, W. Cook, Jno. Sharp Paid $1 a day for work on schoolhouse.

J. N. Scott, Arthur Scott, Queen Scott, Jenny Scott, Pheby Scott all worked for 50 cents a day on July 1st.

Freeman and Will Smith on July 16th.

Will Smith, Cindy Smith, P. Smith, and Ed Smith on July 16th.

Negro 1 and Negro 2 on July 20th.

Frank Shafer and Shoofman on Sept. 14th.

J. S. Thompson, Jno. Tunnah, Clay, Whitney, N. J. Stephens, Wm. Lefler, Jones, Sr. and Jr., Jno. Henley, J. M. Patty, A. McCall, J. J. Curry, Myers Team, all mentioned at one time or other. Rich Young and Add Collins, Jack Frost, McCoots, Bradshaw.

Joe Wright came back from Texas, October 15, 1885, began work October 16. Top of the list on November 11, 1885.

Joe Wright commenced per month on Jan. 1, 1886.

P. J. Fears left after a long stay. March 1, 1886.

Jno. Fears listed as laborer on April 14, 1886. About 12 years old.

Pete Degauf, Chas. and Wm. Robinson, Wm. Combs.

Mrs. Hughes & Wm. Hughes, Crazy Dutton, Pink Beechum, June 7th.

John Votauh (Votaw) and Andy Votaugh sold ferry to Wm. Hughes on August 7, 1886.

Mention of Gum Grove.

**Letter from Mrs. Sharp written on April 3, 1953 to J.M. Hopper:**

Dear Matt and Rose,

We certainly are receiving mental telepathy. You have been in my thoughts for a week every day. I said to myself I will write to them today, but some days I feel so weak and nervous, I can't do anything. I am not much better today, but your letter came yesterday and I was so agreeably surprised, I determined to try to hold this pen.

I just can't tell you how much I appreciated your letter and the pages from my husband's old book. He kept these records of the Plantation every year he was on the place. I am sure if you look in that book for June 25, 1887, you will find the birth of Claude recorded. And for November 12, 1888, you will find John Sharp's birth recorded. If the pages have not been taken out, they are in that book.

Each book served for 4 years. I think I noticed the year 1885 and 1888 were on the pages you sent me. If those pages are still in the book, please send them to me.

I thank you so very much for sending the pages. I know Joe Wright wrote the notice about our return home after we were married. We had spent a week in Little Rock with Mr. Sharpe's mother and sisters, Rebecca and Sudie. We were married in Lavaca, my home, September 12, 1886.

I am glad to hear your children are doing well. I hope if you come out here again, you will plan to spend at least a day or so with us.

Remember me kindly to all your family. I am glad you are pleased with your new business. I wish you every success.

Gabriel and Betty join me in love. They enjoyed your letter.

Much Love,

Ella Wright Sharpe

**Ella Wright Sharpe's Parents:**

Gabriel Norman Wright, born March 20, 1835, married Martha Ramouth Woodruff, born March 8, 1836, on June 5, 1860.

They lived on the plantation in Rome, Floyd County, Georgia, until the Civil War caught up with them. Mrs. Sharpe's hometown was Lavaca, Sebastian County, Arkansas. She went to school in Fayetteville, Washington County, Arkansas, and taught school. She went down on the Clear Creek Plantation below Alma, Crawford County, Arkansas, to take a position as a school teacher. That was on the old home place and she married Mr. Sharpe there. The original place was down on the river.

Mrs. Sharpe's grandparents were: Samuel Woodruff, born January 24, 1793, and Keziah Burch, born October 7, 1802. They were married December 16, 1819, in Surry County, North Carolina. The first three of their nine children were born in North Carolina. The rest were born in Georgia.

***Filename: WeRememberDyer post-1986 Book 03, 164-166 ~ John & Ella Sharp***