

Mrs. C. E. Weeks, Sr.
Interview 025a
1976
Interviewer, Marge Shepherd
Retyped by Elaine Lawrence

Abstract: In this interview with Marge Shepherd, Mrs. C.E. Weeks, Sr. briefly recalls the Ryan family history. She also talks about growing up on a farm and raising her children near Burke, Texas, in Ryan's chapel. She and her husband lived on the same land for 72 years.

Geneva Florence Ryan Weeks – born in Ryan Chapel, Ryan Addition, Burke, Texas, on August 14, 1884. Married at Methodist Parsonage, Burke, Texas, February 23, 1904. Father's name, John Wesley Ryan born in Hazelhurst, Mississippi (4-8-1851). Wife: Rebecca Ann Squyres, possibly came from Louisiana (Born 9-10-1853 at Ryan Chapel). Grandfather: John Ira Ryan, died in 1887. Married Mary Ann Otis. Two Brothers: Isaac Ryan and ...(John Ira Ryan).

Marge Shepherd (hereafter MS): And your grandfather?

Mrs. C. E. Weeks (hereafter CW): And came to Texas from Mississippi. They married sisters, came in an ox wagon crossing the Mississippi River at Lake Charles, Louisiana, and coming up to Burke, Texas.

MS: All right, would you like to tell me, Mrs. Weeks, now first that you remember about your settlement of your family in Texas.

CW: (Laughing) They settled on four hundred acres of land and they lived, my grandfather, lived in a log house. The house was already built when he moved there, and then his brother, Isaac, built him a new home, a log house. And they started... that's where they started their revival meetings and that's where the chapel was named for Ryan Chapel. He told his wife he thought that would be a good thing to start their new home off with, was a revival.

MS: And that's how Ryan's Chapel got its name.

CW: That's how Ryan's Chapel got its name.

MS: Okay. Now can you tell me a little more then about the family how it...

CW: My grandmother planted a pepper tree down there and they tell me that that pepper tree is still down there.

MS: Down at the church?

CW: No, down there at the old Ryan field.

MS: On the old Ryan field, it's still there, my goodness. That's a long time for a tree to last, isn't it?

CW: It sure is.

MS: Okay. Then that was your grandparents that did that. Can you remember anything now about your father and mother, what they did?

CW: Well, (Laugh) they farmed and made a living farming. They had a place for cattle, and they had horses, and anything anybody had on a farm. They made their living farming.

MS: And then when you said that you were born in 1884 all right, can you remember, first recollect about things that happened when you were a child?

CW: There's so many things. (laughs)

MS: Well, just tell us a few of them, then. How about it?

CW: Anything come up missing from someone doing wrong, you know, my mother would say, "Well, Neva did that."

MS: My, you had a real reputation didn't you? Did you have any sisters and brothers?

CW: I had four brothers.

MS: But no sisters?

CW: Well, she died before I knew her.

MS: Okay, and then would you like to tell me when you met your husband? (Charles Emory Weeks)

CW: Oh, I couldn't tell you. We went together about two years.

MS: And he lived here in the same area?

CW: And then when we married, we came down here. We married on Tuesday night, we came down here and he had everything ready.

MS: Down where you are living now?

CW: Right, now.

MS: Right now. And how long have you lived here in this house, Mrs. Weeks?

CW: The house that we came to burned down.

MS: But you rebuilt?

CW: Yes, I've lived here, let's see, when he passed away we had been married 58 years and he has been buried eighteen years.

MS: Let's see, you married on February 23, 1904, so that means that 72 years that you have lived in this house, right here!

CW: Not in this house.

MS: Yes, but in this spot.

CW: Yes, right in this place.

MS: Yes, you have had several houses. Okay, now could you tell us a little about your family? How many children do you have?

CW: I have two boys and a girl and one son is dead.

MS: And Mrs....and your daughter, who is the Post Mistress is Mrs....

CW: That's my daughter-in-law.

MS: Daughter-in-law, right. Mrs.....

CW: Mrs. Charles E. Weeks, Jr.

MS: Charles Weeks. Okay, all right, and do you have any grandchildren?

CW: I have five or six or eight. I don't know.

MS: No, she's got at least five you know.

CW: I've got six grandchildren and two....

MS: Great-grandchildren?

CW: Yes.

MS: Oh, that's nice.

CW: That's the fifth generation.

MS: Right...How about that. You have two of those, okay.

CW: Two little boys.

MS: Yes, okay. And you are still active and do a lot of things and you visit in your community?

CW: Oh, yes. I go when I have a way to go. I feel like I go.

MS: That's great. That's wonderful. I'm glad to hear that.

CW: And I get up and go to the doctor. My doctor told me in the spring, I had inner ear trouble. I had it bad and I had begun to feel better. I asked him...I have got a grandson that lives in Thibodeaux, LA. Well, they had been just wanting me to death to go down there. Well, I don't like it down there. That is Cajun country and I can't understand them. And he (the doctor) told me, he had me in a wheelchair. And I said, "How about me going somewhere? No more trips," he said.

MS: Oh, dear.

CW: And I said no more trips. Well, let's see, I went down, and lived in Vidor. Her husband is a preacher, a Methodist preacher. I went down there. She wrote me and told me that if I wanted to come down there, why let her know and they would come after me. SO I wrote and told her. I said, "I sure do want to come. I want to get away some – new faces and new surroundings. And I went down there. Oh, I just felt so bad. I couldn't eat nothing. Went down there and people were so nice to me down there. They would come after me, you know, and take me places.

MS: And you had a real nice visit.

CW: Oh, I went out. They would take me out to lunch. I had the best time and came back home just feeling good.

MS: Mrs. Weeks, you told me once when we were talking that your mother had a boarding house.

CW: She kept boarders. It wasn't a boarding house. For the men that worked when they was putting this railroad through.

MS: The railroad that goes from Houston to....

CW: To Shreveport?

MS: And you can remember that?

CW: No, I can't. I've heard her talk though.

MS: You have heard her tell about it though. Did she have a big house? Did she have many boarders?

CW: I couldn't tell you about that. She just said that she cooked for them.

MS: Okay....let's stop.

(The dialogue stops here)

END OF INTERVIEW