

THE DOCK C.--ELLA F. LORD FAMILY

Dock C. Lord and Ella Eva Fogleman had married February 6, 1890, at the Fogleman home, with the Rev. A. J. Smart, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, officiating. The groom was nearly twenty-one and the bride a little over eighteen.¹

The land given to Dock--jointly with his sister Lorena and brother Henry--was across Patroon Bayou south of the Lord home place. Dock might have had his allotment in the fertile Bayou Boeuf land near Cheneyville, Louisiana, but it was subject to overflow (above, page 16)² and anyway, perhaps both Ella and Dock preferred to make their home in the area where they had grown up. They first lived in a small house near Patroon Bayou and two children were born to them at this place: Leroy Edwin (Roy), November 15, 1890; and Clyde Willis, February 22, 1893.

In September, 1893, Henry Lord deeded his one-third interest in the joint allotment across the bayou to Dock Lord and Mack Bragg, Lorena's husband, and Dock and Mack at the same time exchanged this tract of land with their Uncle Nathan (Nath) Chambers for 200 acres adjacent to and west-northwest of the old Lord (now Miller) home place. This land was divided by agreement between Dock Lord and Mack Bragg, but they continued to own it jointly until December, 1900, when they executed a partition deed apportioning to each 100 acres.³ It was hill land with a little bottom along a branch that flowed through it. On the crest of a hill Dock Lord built a frame house about three-quarters of a mile northwest of his parents' old home. Before moving to the place the family lived for perhaps as much as a year in Alonzo ("Cousin Lonsey") Wright's house on the road between the old Lord (Miller) place and the upper Patroon bridge. They moved into the new house probably in 1894 (see map, page 7).⁴

The well dug there was not very satisfactory, and water was carried in buckets from a good spring down on the branch three or four hundred yards away. The washing was done at the spring, where the wash-pot was used to boil the clothes in water with home-made lye soap and the battling-block (a smoothly-sawed stump) and paddle were used to loosen the dirt on the clothes before washing them by hand in tubs. A fine peach orchard was soon producing, and more land was cleared and put into cultivation. Two mules, Tom and Beck, were used in the plowing and wagoning. There was a prolonged drought in 1896. The crops almost failed and this was for a long time thereafter called "that dry year." A twenty-acre tract of the northern part of the land was allotted to Ella's parents and the Fogleman house was built on it (above, page 30). The Dock Lord place

1 List of births, deaths and marriages.

2 Conveyance Records, Sabine County, Texas, Vol. G, p. 129; Land Survey Map of Sabine County, Texas; Statements of D. C. Lord; Irene Lord to the author, June 9, 1972.

3 Statements of Ella F. and D. C. Lord; Conveyance Records, Vol. 23, p. 93, Vol. 10, p. 533, Vol 19, p. 543, Vol. Q, pp. 484, 487; Land Survey Map.

4 Recollections of the author; Statements of Ella F. Lord. Alonzo Wright's wife, Mary Jane Bennett, was a first cousin of G. W. and Martha Lord's children (Affidavit of Heirship of Allen Chambers and Wife, Conveyance Records, Vol. 11, p. 361, Vol. 20, pp. 102,103).

was thus reduced to about eighty acres.⁵

Some hired labor was occasionally employed. An old ex-slave Negro couple, "Uncle Ike and Aunt Sylvie," helped a little, Sylvie in the house work and Ike in the field. Members of the Fogleman family worked as hired hands in hoeing and cotton-picking. For a year or two, probably 1898 and 1899, Louis Fogleman lived with and worked for his brother-in-law and sister for \$10 per month. He said Dock and Ella fed him twice at night (supper and breakfast) and once in the daytime! While he was there they decided to smoke cob pipes, and bought a pound of tobacco. Very little of it was ever used.⁶

The post office, Time, was in Emmett Bennett's store about a mile and a quarter to the northwest and Bennett was the postmaster. Another store, Ernest Alford's, was at least twice as far away southeast, and the village of Milam about eight miles distant south-southeast. The nearest railroad town to which they might take their cotton and shop was Robeline, Louisiana, forty miles away on the Texas and Pacific, until 1898 when the Kansas City Southern Railroad was built through, bringing Zwolle on that line within about fifteen miles.⁷

Dock Lord was not a member of the church when he married. Within the year he was converted under the preaching of the Rev. Smart, and himself soon felt the call to preach. Brother Smart encouraged and counseled and did much to get him started in the ministry.⁸ Dock was ordained about 1896, and he pastored some churches. Dock and Ella apparently were members of Friendship Baptist Church beyond the village of Sexton for some years following March, 1894.⁹

Meantime, more children were born into the family: Martha Irene (named after her grandmothers, but called Sister), August 11, 1895; Anna Corene (later changed to Corinne, called Cora), December 26, 1897; and Leonard Doyle (nicknamed Rube), September 18, 1900. By this time Roy and Clyde were large enough to help some in the field. In play they, and the others as they became large enough, were often at their Fogleman grandparents' home with the uncles and aunts and cousin, Will. The Lord children also played with their Bragg and Miller cousins. Clyde caused his mother much uneasiness by his tree-climbing, and once fell from a tree.¹⁰

By sometime in 1901 Dock and Ella Lord were planning to move to Louisiana. Dock's father and mother, his sister Lizzie and brother Henry had moved to South Louisiana several years earlier (above, pages 16, 17). and the connections that Ella's brothers, John and Louis, were making with kindred in that state (above, page 33) perhaps stimulated even more Ella's and Dock's interest in moving. The desirability of more fertile land also

⁵ Statements of D. C. and Ella F. Lord; Recollections of the author; Conveyance Records, Vol. 19, p. 541, Vol. P, p. 607. The battling-block was discontinued a few years later when rub-boards came into use.

⁶ Statements of D. C. Lord and Louis Fogleman; Recollections of the author.

⁷ Statements of D. C. Lord; Recollections of the author. As a boy Dock Lord wagoned a great deal, hauling cotton from his father's gin to Robeline and merchandise on the return trip to his father's store (Statements of D. C. Lord).

⁸ Statements of D. C. and Ella F. Lord.

⁹ Statements of John Fogleman; Recollections of the author; Bethel (New Hope) Church Record.

¹⁰ List of births and deaths; Recollections of the author.

probably played a part in their decision.

Either in person or by correspondence they arranged with Lige Fogleman's cousin, the Rev. John F. Shaw of Ville Platte, St. Landry Parish, to rent land and live in his home. The Lord family was to occupy one side of the spacious house, the Shaw family the other side, and they would both use the kitchen and dining space. The barn space was also to be apportioned between them. Louis Fogleman, recently married, also rented part of the Shaw land and he and Lula were to live in a tenant house on the place.¹¹

The Lord family moved about the first of 1902, having sold their place in Texas to E. H. (Ide) Russell. The mother and all the children except Clyde went by train from Robeline to Cheneyville, and the father and Clyde, having gone on by wagon, were to meet them there. The trip by wagon was, however, slower than anticipated, and Ella with four children, one of them (Leonard) a baby, waited in the Cheneyville depot about two days, through at least one night. The weather was very cold and she finally arranged to go to a nearby home. The whole family traveled the remainder of the way to Ville Platte in the covered wagon.¹²

Sharing the living quarters did not work satisfactorily. John Shaw and his wife, Sarah Doucet Shaw, were elderly, and with them lived Mrs. Shaw's old maid sister, Theresa (Therese), and part of the time their brother, Pierre Doucet. Two families in one kitchen and dining room was inconvenient for both and the children especially got on the nerves of the old people. When the Shaw family wanted to conceal what they were saying, they spoke in French. The Lords could not resort to an unknown tongue. Louis Fogleman also found his situation unsatisfactory, and sometime in the summer sold his crop to his brother-in-law Dock and moved away.

One compensating feature of the year at Ville Platte was the school. Although Roy and Clyde had gone to school a little in east Texas, the short school session, inefficient teaching and molestation of older boys had combined to hardly give them a start. At Ville Platte under the principalship of Ernest E. Ortego and the efficient teaching of Miss Betty Tatman, Roy at age eleven, Clyde nine, and Irene between six and seven, began to learn and play on the school ground with the French children.

The people were predominantly Catholic, but the few Baptists in the area held services in a meeting house on the Shaw place. There were not many opportunities for Dock Lord to preach.

In the summer of 1902 after the crop was laid by, the Lord family went by wagon back to east Texas to get their cattle and visit the Fogleman kin. John and Louis Fogleman also made the trip, by buggy, about the same time to visit their family. While at the Fogleman home together, a photograph was taken of the Fogleman and Dock Lord families. The cattle were rounded up, probably a dozen or more, and with the help of neighbors, started and driven onto the ferry boat at nearby Chambers' Ferry to cross the Sabine River. After reaching Blue Lake, a mile or so on the Louisiana side, Dock Lord and his son Clyde, on horses, drove the cattle and Roy drove the wagon team that carried the other members of the family. They were on the road ten days, camping out at night in places where water could be found.¹³

¹¹ Recollections of the author. John Shaw's mother was a sister of Elijah Fogleman's father (Ella F. Lord to the author, March 22, 1950).

¹² Recollections of Irene Lord, and of the author; Account related by Ella F. Lord. The 80-acre place was sold to Ide Russell for \$360 (Conveyance Records, Vol. 19, p. 541).

¹³ Recollections of the author. Several of the Fogleman and Lord families have copies of the photograph taken in 1902.

