

## “Off the Beaten Path”

by Carl Langford

Author, Howard Bryan, a veteran newspaper and author of the old West history. He went to Albuquerque, NM. in 1948, and interviewed about 100 pioneers of the age of 85+ each with a story about all walks of life in the early days. This trip to Albuquerque turned his life around, the old west got in his blood. In Ohio, he was writing about frontier history, about dead people. He wrote a history column “Know Your Ohio”. He would go on to write books on Western History. He died in 2011 at age of 91 from terminal cancer. Compiled from his interview with Pioneer Casey and Casey family History.

In his early interviews with old pioneers he was told about a cattle rancher around Los Lunas, NM. his name “**Shepard S Casey**”. a brother to my wife’s grandfather William Cap Casey, a long time resident of Coleman County. Their father, **William John Casey** born 3 Dec 1839 TN. In 1863 married Lucy T. Holt of Virginia born seven sons and two daughters. The family came to Texas by wagon in 1870 settling near Arlington, Tarrant Co., Tx. Lucy died 12 Mar 1884, 4 days later the baby died, both buried at Johnson Station Cemetery, which is now in Arlington. (Unmarked Grave). John brought 189 acres of land on Old Coleman-Comanche road two miles from Brown Co., Tx. in 1888 and continued to raise all his children to adulthood. With ailing health, he went to live with daughter in Duncan Okla. He was buried there in 1932. The land is still in the Casey Family to this day.

“Shep” being the first born and son, on 23 Jun 1865. He recalls Texas was pretty sparsely settled. There were no railroads or fences to speak of “Just plenty of open plains with lots of wild game.” His Dad (John) traveled around Texas, several years before settling in

Forth Worth, when it was just a small village. Shep remembered when cowboys drove cattle herds right down main street.

After his mother died in 1884, he went to Big Bend country in 1885 where he spent 20 yrs. He married Alice Dawson, 9 Feb 1896 of Pecos, Tx. her father James Dawson from Ireland and mother Mary James Burns of Texas. Their family consisted of 4 boys and 2 girls. He was cattle ranching and most of his time, as foreman for the RUD out fit, owned by Ed Rudd & Sons. Things were pretty quiet and peaceful then. He said, "Just weren't enough people there to cause much trouble". In one instance two cowboys were killed over the ownership of an unbranded calf. Some other cowboys branded "Murder" on the calf in remembrances of the occasion. Even after it grown to a steer, he would see it out on the range carrying the brand.

"Shep" often would visit Langtry, Tex. in the early days seeing the Judge Roy Bean saloon and where he held court. He also, sometimes trailed cattle up along the Pecos River into SW New Mexico.

In 1915, he went to New Mexico to start a ranch near Nations, NM. He went on to be general manger for Nations Meat and Supply Co. of El Paso and served until 1918. While manger, he ran more than 20 to 40 thousand head of cattle and 30 to 40 thousand head of sheep on the ranch. The grass was so high in those days you could barely see the backs of the cattle bobbing along.

While in Catron County New Mexico he had little trouble with outlaws, except Henry Coleman (Dalton) and a few others, in those days. He recalled being shot, in the hip, by a rustler at Quemado, who was hiding in a house behind a door. I got off a shot, but didn't hit him, "Just scared him to death". Catron County formed from Socorro County NM. in 1921, before that point the county had a history indicative of many places in the Wild West, replete with gunfights, shootouts, massacres, and gold mines.

After, Shepard Samuel Casey left the Nations Ranch he went to Gallup, NM where he served 25 years as a guard for the Gallup-American Cattlemen Assoc. He died 29 Dec 1956 Los Lunas, NM. Linked to family Members through William John Casey FindAGrave #10144210.

Casey Children: James Roy "Jim", John Leo "Lee", Alice, Cathryn Mary, Harold Martin "Mock", Robert Shepard "Robin" Casey. In some records a Business Card was found, "This Certifies that ROBIN CASEY Is A COLONEL AIDE-DE-CAMP, On the Staff of The Governor of New Mexico". Descendants of Casey still remain in Coleman & Brown County, Tx.