

# Chanie Maxwell-Rivers

by David L. Collins, Sr.

Chanie Maxwell was born in March 1867 in Fayette County, Texas. On December 21, 1882 she married Thomas Rivers, son of Matthew Rivers, Sr. and Sabry Daws. Thomas Rivers was born in 1860 in La Grange (Fayette County), Texas. Thomas and Chanie had a total of 15 children between 1883 and 1910.



Chanie Rivers was a very busy woman raising her children over a period of 44 years until her death in Sweet Home (Lee County), Texas. After her marriage in 1882, she had a child in 1883, 1884, 1887, 1889, 1891, 1892, 1894, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1905, 1908 and 1910. Her youngest child Almeda Rivers was 17 years old when she died.

Based on a Birth Certificate reported by Dr. Robert H. Seymour, M.D. of Warrenton, Texas her, next to last child Lula was born November 13, 1908 (Book 2, Page 218, Certificate No. 3329) of Fayette County Records was born on the Wagner Farm. The farm is located along Cummings Creek between Round Top, and Ledbetter, Texas; which today is in the area of Round Top Road and Weyand Road just west of Round Top, Texas (Justice Precinct 3, Fayette County, Texas).

Based on the 1920 U. S. Census the Thomas and Chanie Maxwell-Rivers family were living in Justice Precinct 5, Lee County, Texas with seven (7) of their children still living at home. They were a part of the great migration of African American Pioneers from Fayette County, Texas to Lee County to buy cheap land to build a new home and continue raising their family.

All of the Thomas and Chanie Maxwell-Rivers family moved away from Fayette County, with the exception of David Rivers, born March 9, 1891 in Fayette County, Texas. He married Malissa Hobson in 1920 in La Grange, Texas, the daughter of John Hobson and Anna Anderson. She was born on May 21, 1895 in Fayette County and died on May 24, 1998, in Kendleton (Fort Bend County), Texas.

I was fortunate enough to meet Malissa Hobson-Rivers in 1997 and interviewed her. She indicated that her husband David Rivers was a very resourceful person. She told me that David owned a 127.5 acres of land along Highway 159 between La Grange, Texas and Rutersville, Texas (about 4 miles from La Grange). He developed a chicken farm in the mid 1950's with about 2500 to 3000 head of chickens. He also owned 100 acres of land in Lee County near Sweet Home Baptist Church. David River's wife and two twin son were still living on May 18, 1998.

When I interviewed Malissa Hobson-Rivers the daughter-in-law of Chanie Maxwell-Rivers in Kendleton, Texas she was 102 years old.