

Del Norte

Colorado

Aug. 5 1887

Believing from my own sufferings that my time is near at hand, when the dread fiat shall go forth, "This night Broyles thy soul shall be required of thee", and also that while it is true although I have lived 12 years in the San Luis Valley and must therefore be known to most people in the San Juan Country. Still that there is much of work undone and I am proud to say and feel not at my own instance or volition for of a truth I may say, while like all boys and men I have committed the minor grades of vice fun and wickedness yet I never in all my life wronged a man, out of one cent or told one a deliberate lie, I suppose I have enemies all men have them, but no one lives or has lived, who can blacken my record.

I am proud to recite that I was raised when honesty was based on religion and social standings derived all its lustre from the theory that "Worth made the man".

My father Dr. O. R. Broyles of South Carolina was a poor young man, but studied medicine, greatly to his chagrin in after life for being ambitious and high spirited.

That the more one learns the more he sees the broad field of ignorance spread out before him.

He was naturally fluent in conversation which later benefitted for the sake of convenience, his regret at his mistake in the choice of his profession naturally made him abhor his choice all the more. And so to avoid his sons falling into the same error, he spent hours at a time extolling to his boys the glories of victories won upon the arena of public life. As compared with the filth and stench of a physicians life. To say nothing of the labors of a physician ever ready to be called from his bed by patients whether responsible or not. With this view from a fathers stand-point and to which we would listen with delight would fill our breasts with joy.

I commenced the study of law. I procured a good English Education prepared my self for college and the law I was now eighteen years old having been born at Anderson Co. South Carolina on the twenty sixth day of March 1826. My father Dr. O. R. Broyles was born raised married and died in Anderson Co. South Carolina. My mother was a Toliaferro called Toliver was a Virginian and now at this writing is alive and well in her 85 year. My first schooling was on the Beaver Dam S. C. old field style, I then went to Pendleton S. C. and entered the S. C. college. At this place I completed a course of studies and left it in the fall of 1845. I was cut off one year by sickness. A spell of Typhoid fever that so crippled my limbs that I did not walk for years and I fell steadily the effects to this day. I left College in 1845 and in 1846 commenced the study of Blackston. With this abstruse work the greatest of all books, I wrestled for two years dilligently. Only to find out by time that it would be laid on the shelf as a spark would be seen from the mighty volume of the days Luminary. So many books have been written on the law, that I even I would not attempt to, but rather incline to the opinion that if hundreds were destroyed and the old laws left in force and the rulings of good sense made our guide the world would be better off than we are not. Suffice it to say. The heart leaped with joy as I gazed upon the beauties of legal planes wealth and character that stood before me. I entered the study with more than ordinary zeal. The fact is if I was ever a student it was of law. From boyhood I took in a large field of fun and frolic, and while not the meanest boy in school was by no means the best. I was full of fun,

and always kept the little ones crying and the girls sighing. At the end of two more studies I was admitted at Columbia S.S. and my professional rstrum was higher that day to look from than it has ever been since. This accords with the theory that the more one learns, the more he sees, the broad path of ignorance lies spread out before him. I soon fell in with the belief that I was a made up man, only wanted a wife. In this my secection was incomparable good as I got one if not the best woman of her day. And beloved by every one. I married Miss Lucy A. Johnson of Barnwell, S. C. and lived together some thirty years and was finally divorced by Gods inerorable law. This occurred in 1861 while I was in Colorado and had been since March 1875. Then we parted as others with fond hope of meeting. But not so we never met again. And now four boys and two girls are left in Georgia as the fruit of our marriage. I am ashamed of none of them, yet might have been made to feel prouder.

Sep. 11, 1887

In 1849 I settled at the instance of my father on Hollichucy River in East Tennessee to farm very much against my will. For I felt it was a surrender of all my life long hopes and asperations. I had but little experience in farming and for fear of a failure, I worked hard and faithful. The result was I made a big crop, and had all the comforts of life around me. I have often thought and believe now if I had been content to farm, and remained on the place, I would have done much better in life in a worldly sense, But not so, Such was not the bent of my mind. Bright hopes of fame and fortune, Shown forth upon my rison in the field of my ambition. And not satisfied, on the 18th day of December 1849 I pulled up stakes and moved to Spring Place Murray Co. Georgia. Most of my effects was beated down the river in tide water to Chattanooga Tenn. This Before a Rail Road ever reached that now flourishing city. In 1850 I commenced the practice of law. But unfortunately I had a few negros and a farm which made me careless of my profession. And independent of it for support. I stayed in Murry Co. Georgia three years and was elected County Judge over a good man John Bell. I resigned the office and moved twelve miles west to Dalton Georgia, Here I practiced my profession with success but impeded by the same causes that injured me at Spring Place. I continued the practice until the war. But in 1858 I was appointed on the staff of Governor Brown one of his aids with the rank of Colonel. And the same fall was elected to the Legislature from Whitfield Co. Ga. I served on the judiciary and other important committees and was one of five from the House with three from the Senate to revise and report the present Code of laws for the State of Georgia. I was a member in the stormy days of Secession and opposed seperate State action. In 1861 I went to Virginia a private in the 11th Ga. regiment commanded by Col. G. T. Anderson. And was with the army of General Joseph E. Johnson at Winchester Va. that made the great march to reinforce Beauregard at Bull Run. I was a foot and not being accustomed to walking I suffered much while my feet bled freely. We did not get to the Bull Run fight. As being new troops the older was shipped from Piedmont Franquier Co. Va. in advance of us. We got there after the battle was over, but in time to witness the destruction of life and property with the horrors of war. In the fall I returned home and commenced to help raise a regiment with Col. J. A. Glenn. We succeeded and I was commissioned Major of it in 1862. I served under Kirby Smith in Kentucky in that year and in the winter came out Braggs Army. We were then soon sent to Middle Tenn. and remained there until the day before Christmas 1863 when our regiment with Stepenson's division was ordered to Vicksburg Miss. We garrisoned this place until the Federal fleet passed Vicksburg and we then

moved out on Big Black. And fought the battle of Champion Hill or Bakers Creek. This was a hard battle, I was holding my horse in the thickest of it when he was shot. I let him go to die and suppose he did. We fell back to Vicksburg and the siege commenced. It was not in my front Grant made his attack but in the Brigade to my left. I stood and witnessed the whole battle and the destruction of human life. We surrendered after 48 days and nights. During which time we suffered for food and ate mule meat. And anything we could get. We surrendered on the 4th of July 1863. Was paroled on the 9th and left on the 12th. The troops all went home. And in October of was exchanged and rendezvous at Chichamauga. We followed General Burnside to London and after the battle of Chickamauga we were relieved by Longstreet and occupied Missionary Ridge, while Sherman was in Chattanooga. I was commissioned Colonel of my regiment in Spring of 1864. I was in front of Sherman to Atlanta in the battles of Resacca., New Hope Church, Luss Mountain, Kennesaw, Powder Springs, Chattahoochee, and many skirmishes, and all around Atlanta I turned back with hood and was in the _____ and Nashville Tennessee, in the two days fighting there and returned on his retreat with him to Augusta Ga. At this place I was furloughed by General Beauregard on the 5th day of February 1865, on account of rheumatism. This ended my service of the Confederacy as I was disabled and had neither horse or money to regain my command. Then on its way to North Carolina I was paroled at Anderson Court House S. C. and in the fall of 1865 returned with my family to Dalton Ga. poor moneyless and I may say, half clothed. We worked hard and our troubles were great and many. But bourn as best we could. In 1868 I borrowed money to go as a delegate to the reconstruction convention in Atlanta I made the 2nd ratification speech in favor of R. B. Bullock for Governor and he came up to me at the time and promised me, that if he was elected Governor "he would remember me". That fall the Republican Convention to nominate a candidate for Congress was unanimously for me. I had the nomination but declined it because I was too poor to make the convas. I was then appointed Solicitor General of the Circuit. I preferred it to the Judgeship. And with this office which I filled four years, I relieved my family of much of their want and suffering. My term ended in 1872. And I assumed my profession. But was induced by my wife to buy a stock of goods and put the boys to merchantizing as rail roading was more trying and hazardous. I did so. They neglected the business and went back to railroading. So I gave my attention to this until in March 1875 I sold out, and on the 22nd day of March 1875, I left Georgia for the Territory of Colorado, I arrived in Denver Colo. about 28th of March, and about April 1st left for Del Norte Colo. reaching that place on the 9th of April after a nine days journey by wagon and team. In November 1881 my wife died at her home in Georgia. I had not seen her for years as I was anxious to make a property before going back that would make her and children comfortable and happy. I was thus deprived of that hope and as noble a woman as ever lived on this earth. My first year in Colo. was spent in mining and like thousands I did no good. I went to Lake City and helped build the sixth log cabin in that place. When it was a willow brush patch. In the fall of 1875 I came back to Del Norte. The next spring I opened a law office and had good success. I made money and put it in prospect holes from New Mexico to the Gunnison Country. In 1876 I went to Ouray, made money but could not collect my fees. In the fall I came back to the then Garland City. And here I had good success at law and when the railroad got to Alamosa I went on there with it and made money also. In October 1882 while at San Luis Court I met Miss Nellie Armstrong a highly respectable young woman and fell in love with her. My love increased as I knew her the more and it was reciprocated and in April 1884 we were married at San Acacio Costilla Co. Colorado. She was from

Indiana and an intelligent highly esteemed lady. And at this writing the fruits the marriage are two smart promising boys. The foregoing synopsis of my life was written when I fully believed I was going to die from the effects of medicine administered by one so called Dr. J. R. Grubb. At least 1/8 negro and I am satisfied at the instance of some three or four land sharks and thieves who hung around the Land Office to rob and prey upon settlers and honest men. For the reason that as Register of U. S. Land Office they knew full well they could not carry out their schemes of rascality and plunder. I was to be got out of the way or their financial schemes of plunder were ended. Dr. Grubb was the tool or instrument of hell to carry out the nefarious schemes of these devils. I have outlived them all, God choked the Dr. Grubb to death. And his instigators are a disgraced disreputable impoverished set of outlaws and responsible class.

C. E. Broyles.