

Cleveland County Genealogical Society

Volume 34, Number 4, December 2013

My Journey and the Opening of Oklahoma

BY BURKHART DIEHM (1857-1935)

EDITOR'S NOTE: CCGS Library Volunteers, as they work with our library materials, sometimes find historical gems in the library collection. Such a gem is *The Self-Biography of Burkhart Diehm*.

Mr. Diehm, a German immigrant, was lured by stories of free land opening in Oklahoma. Portions of his first-person account (written in 1914) of the 1889 Land Run, and of securing land for himself, are reproduced here.

On Thursday April the [18th] [my friend Henry Gross and I] rode from San Antonio to Purcell Oklahoma, or at that time Indian Territory. On Friday noon we came to Gainsville, Texas which lies near the line of Indian Territory. Here we had to wait until Saturday morning before we were allowed to go further. ...

About noon Saturday we arrived at Purcell, Oklahoma, and we were not permitted to go farther at that time. There were many people there and all the hotels and boarding houses were overcrowded. We stayed with a German by the name of Schaefer who had a boarding house near the depot. Here we got acquainted with a German Jew from New Orleans. He also wanted land.

I was invited to join a meeting the first evening, they wanted to have me with them the next evening and said they would bring me on a good 160 acres of land. Two others did not want that. This matter did not agree with me as I wanted it said that I had gotten my land honestly. The majority who had sneaked through were caught the next day and that meant that they had lost their homestead rights according to law at that time.

On Easter Sunday we had to find out where we could enter and get to good land and where we had the best chance. ... I have forgotten the name of the German Jew, but he had looked around better than we had and that Sunday he said to me, "Here we have little chance and when the train passes here tomorrow we will have little chance to get on, furthermore if we were on the east side of the river, we could reach good land quickly." He also knew where we could get a good team to take us to the place.

We soon agreed and then we searched for the drivers. They agreed to take each of us on a good piece of land for which each of us were to pay them \$15.00. ... I said to Gross, "You know that we both have money and they know it also." I asked him if he had a revolver and he had none so I gave him my small one and I kept the large one. The Jew said that he would be alright.

About six o'clock in the afternoon we started out and before dark we crossed a creek. In that neighborhood there was a oak tree which was

burning on one side. This was our camping ground. Soon our two drivers retired for the night in the old wagon. They did not make the best impression on me. One was half Indian and the other one posed as though he owned the wagon yard. We tried to sleep in the open air and only sleep alternately. ... It did not take long until Gross slept and then after midnight I fell to sleep also. I had only one woolen blanket but I slept as well as in bed. When I awoke I was astonished when I awoke and found that the Jew had covered me with his woolen blanket. I asked him if he had not

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slept and he said, "No, I did not trust them fellows." He had his weapon ready at all times. ...

The next morning we drove several miles to the south where we came to an old wagon track which led us to the Canadian river. The water was still muddy but it was not so broad any more. The man came back and said that the bottom was alright but that there was a little too much water. Now we all went on the wagon. ... When we reached the other side we had to jump off of the wagon as the water reached in the bed and then we had to help the driver out. On the other side we again found the wagon tracks and we followed them further. By and by we came to a hill where we saw a well kept farm. I was surprised when I saw the peach and apple trees. They had a fine smooth bark and several were six and eight inches in diameter. ... This showed me that fruit growing was no risk in Oklahoma.

At about eleven o'clock we came to the Oklahoma line which was about six miles from the Canadian River. Then we were very much surprised when we found so many Oklahoma boomers as they were nicknamed at that time. It looked as though there would be a real battle. Most of them had their belts full of cartridges and their six-shooters at their sides. There were all kinds of vehicles but the majority was on horseback. Even women were in the sport. Everyone's face told that he was not in it for the sport alone.... Several men held their watches and waited for the minute. Our drivers were more

excited than we were at this time as the time had come when they had to earn their money.

When the signal was given ... the noise scared up a bunch of blackbirds that were about a half mile ahead of us in a gulch. This happened so suddenly that one would believe they were called from the ground by magic. These maneuvers showed me that we had to figure on being betrayed unexpectedly. Our wagons left many behind and we came several miles nearer to Purcell when our drivers told us to get off and hoist our flags, which was our hankerchiefs on poles. Henry Gross came first then the Jew and then I. We had our flags on the land and because there were no body or flags to be seen in the neighborhoods they demanded their money. Henry Gross was not satisfied with his place and said that he would go back to Purcell. The Jew and I paid the money. ...

Now we had to search for the line but we could only find a stone. I had to have a compass to go in the right direction from this stone. We put up our tents and hauled grass for our beds and after we had cooked our coffee and satisfied our hunger we sat down at the fire. ... That evening I wrote home and told them that I had a nice piece of land and that it would be the best for the Father-in-Law to come right away. ... The next morning I went to the neighbor west of us who was a Frenchman. He had a compass which we both used. At noon I found out that my partner and I were on the same piece of land and then the fellow south of us had

<p style="text-align: center;">Cleveland County Genealogical Society</p> <p>LIBRARY: 1119 E. Main, Norman OK MAIL: P.O. Box 6176, Norman OK 73070 PHONE: (405)701-2100 WEB: www.rootsweb.com/~okccogs E-MAIL: ccgs@csbi.org</p> <p>LIBRARY HOURS: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday Thursday Saturday</p> <p>MEETINGS: 7:00 p.m. 3rd Tuesday of each month except July and August, in south lobby of CSBI Building, near CCGS Library</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP: Jan. 1 to Dec. 31</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>Individual</td><td>\$20</td></tr> <tr><td>Family</td><td>\$25</td></tr> <tr><td>Institution</td><td>\$40</td></tr> </table>	Individual	\$20	Family	\$25	Institution	\$40	<p style="text-align: center;">OFFICERS 2013-2014</p> <p>President..... Frank Appl First Vice President Nova Hornback Second Vice President Betty Hall Secretary Jean McCracken Treasurer Mike McCurtain Member at Large Marilyn Henry Member at Large Jane Harris Member at Large Sherry Leafgreen Past President Mary Lewis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CORPORATE MEMBERS</p> <p>Primrose Funeral Home Sunset Memorial Park</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DONATIONS</p> <p>Your financial donations help support the operations of the CCGS Library facility.</p> <p>Donations to CCGS are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CLEVELAND COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION (ISSN 1550-7734)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">©2013 Cleveland County Genealogical Society</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please write for permission to reprint articles in this publication</p> <p>Newsletter Editor.....Mary Lewis</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contributors Frank Appl Jean McCracken</p>
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advanced so far north that he had pitched his tent on our quarter. I went to him at once and told him that this would not do. He said to me that three men could swear that he had been there first.

My partner and I had an earnest discussion this night and he asked if it would be alright if each of us had eighty acres. We would certainly defend our rights. ... and we kept our weapons in readiness on account of the wolves.

The next morning we noticed that our neighbor to the west had his tent moved onto our side. This man also said that he could swear by the men who had been with him that he had been there first. This was the [24th] day of April. I had never counted on such probabilities. I then told the men that they could swear all they wanted to and [it] would not govern my life. Also that I would not press any one for perjury on account that I had no money for a law-suit.

I told my partner that we had better go right back to Purcell and maybe that we could acquire something else there. My letter should also be revoked because the story about the beautiful land was no good and that my Father-in-Law should not start out. As I was packing up, my partner gave me a small hatchet for a remembrance. ...

When we came back to the old trail an old Indian took us to Purcell on an old lumber wagon. We passed through Lexington where they were just laying out the streets. ... We visited our old boarding house but now it was nearly empty. I sent a letter home at once telling them that I would return home soon. Later I accompanied my friend to the station. I have not seen him since.

I met Mr. Gross again that night at Purcell. He said that we should not go home so early. ... Several more came from the country that night and wanted to sell their property rights on land. A young man pretended that he had a good piece of land which was about 10 miles from Lexington near Norman, Okla. which he would sell for \$15.00 as he did not have enough money to hold it. I talked about the thing to Gross that night and then we decided to go. The next morning we went to look after the land. We rode to Norman with the first train the next morning. ...

Then I came to Norman for the first time on April 25, 1889. There was not much of a town to be seen. They had a little station house. A little larger one for the workmen and west of the track there stood a hotel. Many tents were on Main Street and a few board houses were being built.

We took our course to the south-east of Norman but the farther we went the more

perplexed the young man became. Soon It was evident that if the man had a claim that we had to find it by accident. We went hither and thither and at last we came to the Blue Bottom. Every where we came I asked about a chance for land but they all did not want to know anything about it. Henry Gross laid down and did not want to go farther. The young man wanted to be paid in this manner but I would not permit him to do it.

Then I came to another man. ... [who] told me to go to Captain Cook as he knew more about that country than all of the others together. I soon found Cap. Cook. Looking over the land, I told him what we were looking for and he told me that he would help us, outright. Go right on with the others down the creek and you will come to a tent and to tell the woman to cook us something to eat, that Captain Cook had sent us. This was a good idea of the old man for he knew that we were getting pretty hungry. Now it was about five o'clock in the afternoon and my provisions had been eaten before noon. The woman was ... the Daughter-in-Law of Captain Cook. Soon she had a dinner before us and was very friendly. We had never had a better meal. ...

When we were ready Mr. Cook came and he said I should take a horse from the corral and ride with him. The others could stay there until we would come back. ... Cook and I rode up the creek and came to the place where I have lived ever since. He showed me the boundary lines and then he said "Here is your claim, if you want it pay me \$5.00 and if you don't you owe me nothing. He showed me the place southeast of me and said that my partner could have it if he wanted it.

Henry Gross and I staid at Cooks that night. ... The next morning we went to look over the land carefully. The piece of land was not one of the best but it had nearly everything. Running water, springs and plenty of wood and also good land. I put up my flag in the bottom and piled some logs on the top of the hill. Gross was satisfied also and so that night he returned to Cook's with pleasure. I paid the \$5.00 and then the old man said "Do not be bluffed, you are the first one." In the afternoon we went back to dig a well for which purpose Cook gave us a spade and shovel. When I returned I found some other men there. They said to me that I could not have the place as it belonged to the young man and they could swear to it. ... I soon found out that these fellows had kept more claims...

Mr. Collins [a neighbor] had to get our things from Purcell, also some boards for me and soon I had our house ready. It was half-dugout and half-

loghouse. Now I was at home and no one could have drawn me away alive. Then we built a dugout for Mr. Gross so he could live in it. I told him to care for my place so I could return to San Antonio. ... Now we thought to leave for Guthrie and to file our claims there. I left my tools behind and took my satchel.

We first went to Purcell ... Our boarding-house landlord in Purcell wanted to tear his house down and send it to Oklahoma City. He asked if we could help him.

We went directly to Guthrie. We were there a day when numbers were given out which showed that we would be in line on the third day.

Then we went back to Purcell to help Schaefer the landlord of the hotel and to earn some money. The next day we loaded the wood upon the car; the roof was above the rest. It should go to Oklahoma City that night. I and Gross wanted to have a free ride on the car. ... When we got out of Purcell a little ways we were caught as it was now light and then we were taken to the calaboose and paid our fare.

... Oklahoma City... was laid out well in the beginning and several business houses were erected. Most businesses were conducted in tents which stood in very irregular rows. East of the Santa Fe on the Government hill were long Barracks where the soldiers were stationed. It was as lively as a den of ants. ... My Friend Schaefer had bought himself a building ground further northwest on a hill. I think it was in the neighborhood of the Rock Island Depot. There we put the former boarding house from Purcell. On Friday the third day set for the filing we were in Guthrie very early and this time we could proceed with the matter at once. We then had to give \$2.50 for other filing papers, for those we had had made by Captain Cook were not quite right. We had to have some copies of our first citizens papers made out. The deeds at the land office cost us \$14.00.

John Burkhart Diehm, born 1857 in Germany, immigrated to America in 1882. He filed first naturalization papers in Sandusky, Ohio. By 1884 he had made his way to San Antonio, where he made his living as a truck gardener. Here he married, and started a family.

After he and Henry Gross filed on their land in Oklahoma, Diehm returned to San Antonio to prepare for moving his family to Oklahoma. He soon sent his father-in-law ahead to build a house for them, utilizing lumber harvested from the Cleveland County property.

Mr. Diehm received the land patent in 1894 for the Cleveland County land gained in the Run of 1889, located in section 32, 9 North 1 West. His final citizenship papers were recorded in Cleveland County, Oklahoma, on 11 April 1894. America was indeed his land of opportunity.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS Box Closes, 1889 Fall Term

EDITOR'S NOTE: This item was clipped from an early-day Cleveland County newspaper dated Friday, December 27, 1889.

This was not the Box School in the southern part of Cleveland County, but rather a subscription school in Township 10 North 3 West, opened in the fall of 1889 prior to the development of the three-mile school system in Cleveland County.

The fall term of school at the Box closed December 23, 1889 and D. Jones will open another school there Monday, December 30.

At the close of school Monday, patrons gave the teacher and students a pleasant surprise, by coming en masse early in the day and bringing baskets and boxes well-filled and setting out at noon one the finest dinners we ever saw.

The whole thing had been kept a profound secret from the teacher. After everybody had had their appetites satisfied, the audience of 150 persons were called together by a blast from the organ and singing by the choir, both of which institutions belong to the school.

Then followed a literary repast prepared by the students. We believe Box school is par excellent in this specialty.

Prizes were given to those with the best records in spelling:

Nellie Vance, James Vance, Emma Mowell, Myrtle Vance, Dora Smith, Joda Mayginnis, Maud Smith, Lucy Jackman, Settie Howell, Cora Vance, Cinderella Jackman, Minnie Duckworth, Bert McCourtney and Dora Hicks.

The teacher then distributed 25 pounds of candy. The school dispensed some more music and adjourned.

It's CCGS Dues Time

CCGS Membership Dues

Individual \$20.00

Family \$25.00

Payable January 1, 2014

Membership Form included with this mailing

President's Message

BY FRANKLIN J. APPL

Tell Me

*Tell me, my father, where are you from?
And what of your father, did he belong
to the rich or the poor, the wrong or the right?
Did he die in battle or asleep in the night?
Tell me, my mother, what was your name?
And what was your mother's? Did you both look the
same?
And what of your dreams, and your mother's dreams too?
Did you ever believe that your dreams had come true?
Tell me, my parents, where was your home?
Did you live with your parents or did you both roam?
Did you meet at your birthplace, or in a far land?
Did you speak in a language that I'd understand?
Tell me, my children, will you ensure
that your children's children know what we lived for?
Will you tell them our stories, from the first to the last,
that make life in the future, a gift from the past?*

*(Curtis's Chronicle, September 2013, pg 17;
Originally by Eric Waldram, Grapevines, July, 2013,
South Okanagan Gen. Soc., Penticton, BC, CA)*

How very true this poem is, and how important its teachings are to our proper duties as both children and parents. I was fortunate to live near my grandparents, spent time with them, and knew my aunts, uncles and cousins.

Of my four grandparents, one was born in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, one in Kansas, one in Vermont, and one in Indiana. My grandparents were of Germanic, English, Scotch, and Irish descent. They met, married and lived their lives in the melting pot of Kansas. My parents lived their entire lives in Kansas.

Whether I knew or appreciated it at the time, I was exposed to, learned, and still remember much of what I learned about family values, customs, history and lore from my parents, grandparents, and other close relatives.

I have endeavored to pass these values and family history to my children and grandchild. Occasionally they make comments that indicate that they were apt learners. At least they all know there is a family history and how to do their own genealogical searching.

Nova Hornback has volunteered to assume the Board of Directors position of First Vice President (Program chair), which has been vacant since June, 2013. Thank you, Nova, for assuming this responsibility, in addition to being Library Co-Manager.

We also welcome Jeffrey Wilhite, who volunteered to be Publicity chair. Jeffrey is an Associate Professor at the University of Oklahoma. He was responsible for the recent CCGS display in the Norman Public Library. He also arranged articles in the *Norman Transcript*.

Sunday afternoon, October 20, 2013, CCGS hosted a public Open House in celebration of the 23rd Anniversary of the CCGS Library. Thank you to all who brought artifacts, furnished cake and punch, decorated the library and serving rooms, and cleaned and dusted the Library and Archives rooms to put our library's best face before the public. There were very nice articles in the *Norman Transcript* both before and after the Open House

Two quilts belonging to Linda York, illustrating the "Run of '89" and life in Lexington, OK were displayed and drew laudatory comments from all in attendance. Tours of the archives were provided by Mary Lewis.

Through donations of bookshelves, filing cabinets and a great deal of labor, directed by our Library Volunteers, the CCGS Library and Archives rooms looked "spiffy" and displayed to advantage all of the labors of love that have been expended over the past several years. While the Library and Archives will never be "finished", they certainly gave a fine appearance for the Open House.

I am sorry to report that no one has expressed interest in editing the CCGS Newsletter. Mary Lewis has worked on the newsletter for ten years. She expressed to me almost a year ago her desire to have help with the newsletter and to eventually retire from this responsibility.

As I have said before, someone needs to step up before Mary Lewis retires. So, please, will one or more of you members of CCGS tell me that you would like to start working on the newsletter? We need you.

This newsletter announces the beginning of the CCGS membership drive for 2014. Individual dues are \$20 and family dues are \$25. Please renew your membership when you receive the membership form with this newsletter.

The Cleveland County Genealogical Society is supported primarily by dues and donations. Membership dues will probably total less than \$3,000 for 2014. Our Bakeless Bake Sale fund-raising project raised about \$2,600 this year. Thank you for generously supporting the 2013 Bakeless Bake Sale.

However, the rent for the CCGS library space is \$12,000 per year. So, CCGS depends on your generous donations to "pay the rent." **When you fill out your dues form for 2014, please consider making an additional donation. All donations over and above your dues are tax exempt to the extent allowed by IRS regulations for donations to 501(c)(3) corporations.**

CCGS always needs volunteers. Please offer some of your time and talents to CCGS. We will find an activity at CCGS that interests you and that will further the Mission of the Society. Call or visit the CCGS library on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday between 1:00 and 5:00 pm.

Please note on your calendar the CCGS meetings at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Join us for interesting programs and fellowship. Watch for announcements of workshops in coming months.

We wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

CCGS News

Spring Workshop April 6, 2014

Do you sometimes feel you are drowning in paper? Ever wish you could just get organized?

CCGS is offering an intermediate level genealogy workshop in the spring that may help you solve these problems.

Billie Stone Fogarty, a well-known speaker in Oklahoma, will present *What Do I Do With All This Stuff? Organizing Your Genealogy* on Sunday afternoon, April 6, 2014.

Billie Fogarty, a long-time genealogist, has lectured on genealogy topics in more than a dozen states and in scores of counties in Oklahoma. She belongs to several state and local genealogy societies and lineage groups and works closely with a variety of groups devoted to making genealogy and family history more accessible to others.

She has served on the Board of Directors for both the Oklahoma Genealogical Society and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

This workshop, *What Do I Do With All This Stuff?*, will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the CSBI Conference Room in the Community Services Building, 1185 East Main Street in Norman. This is in the far north end of the building in which the CCGS Library is located.

Registration fee is \$25. Pre-registration, preferably before March 28, is encouraged.

The doors will be open at 12:30 p.m.

Library Wish List

EDITOR'S NOTE: From time to time we note titles we would like to have in the CCGS Library. Please call 701-2100 to notify us if you plan to purchase a book to donate to our Library.

Norman 1889-2013, by Sue Schrems and Vernon Maddux. Published by Arcadia Publishing for the Cleveland County Historical Society.

Board Vacancy is Filled

Nova Hornback has agreed to assume the vacant position of First Vice-President on the Board of Directors. As Program committee chair, Nova will schedule speakers for our monthly Society meetings.

Nova will appreciate suggestions and recommendations from you as she seeks speakers to present topics of interest to our members.

Newsletter Editor Needed Now

Our Newsletter editor gave notice to the CCGS Board of Directors last January that she wished to be relieved of responsibility for the CCGS Newsletter, effective after the December, 2013 Newsletter was distributed.

That time is here. Will YOU step up to the job of producing Volume 35 of the *CCGS Newsletter*?

A *Guidebook for the Editor* has been created to acquaint the new editor with all facets of the newsletter operation. It is expected that style may change, depending on the skills and interests of the new editor.

What will not change is the basic newsletter content, conveyed ten years ago by the previous editors, Joyce Grisham and Sue Wilson, to provide in the CCGS Newsletter:

- information about current CCGS activities
- historical information and data related to Norman and Cleveland County
- information of interest to our readers derived from journal articles, exchange newsletters, and online newsletters

Call 405-701-2100 or e-mail ccgs@csbi.org if you are interested in becoming our next Newsletter editor. Our President will contact you.

Holiday Schedule for CCGS Library

The CCGS Genealogy Library will be closed beginning Tuesday, December 24 and will reopen Tuesday, January 6, 2014.

During this time, out-of-town visitors may call 405-360-0111 or 405-329-4481 to arrange an appointment for library research.

Matthewson Book is Published

CCGS member Richard J. Matthewson has presented to the CCGS Library a copy of his biography of an ancestor, William Matthewson, which was recently published by Tate Publishing.

His book, *William Matthewson: the Original Buffalo Bill*, chronicles the life and works of the Indian fighter, buffalo hunter, trapper and trader who was the first to be called Buffalo Bill. He was modest and humble about his exploits and never achieved the fame of the other Buffalo Bill, William F. Cody.

Family History Month Activities

CCGS kicked off the month of October by mounting an exhibit in the display window in the lobby of the Norman Public Library.

Jeffrey Wilhite set up our exhibit Sunday, September 29. It remained until Saturday, November 2.

Carolyn Deatherage and Mary Lewis provided items for the public library exhibit, in addition to items furnished by the CCGS Library.

During the noon hour on three Tuesdays in October, Mary Lewis led a series of *Tuesday Talks at the Genealogy Library*. Although attendance was light, it was felt that the effort was worth-while, as the materials that were developed lend themselves to informing new Library Volunteers of the scope of our library's collections.

Your Board of Directors hosted a Library Open House on Sunday, October 20, in celebration of the 23rd anniversary of the beginnings of the Cleveland County Genealogical Society's Genealogy Library.

Winners of door prizes at the Open House include Elizabeth Loeffelholz, scanner; Naola Masters, courthouse records book; Dorothy Armstrong, free 2014 CCGS membership; and Cynthia Thorsen, free Beginner Workshop.

About thirty persons attended, viewed exhibits in the library, toured the Archives area, and enjoyed visiting while partaking of punch and cake.

Christmas Social

Don't miss the December CCGS meeting and Christmas social Tuesday night, December 17. We will celebrate the season, mix with members and guests, and share delicious foods. It's a fun time for all.

Meetings

September

Fourteen members shared stories of their genealogy discoveries during the summer, and enjoyed a buffet of many foods.

October

Luann Sewell Waters provided a slide show of interesting and unusual grave markers in many cemeteries. Her topic, *Gravestone Graphics and Cemetery Customs*, produced many questions from the audience.

Calendar

CCGS Board Meetings - 1:30 p.m. second Monday, CCGS Library

November 11, 2013
December 9, 2013
January 13, 2014
February 10, 2014

CCGS Society Meetings - 7:00 p.m. third Tuesday (except July & August), South Lobby near CCGS Library

November 19, 2013
December 17, 2013
January 21, 2014
February 18, 2014

Family History Writers Group - 10 a.m. second Wednesday, CCGS Library

November 13, 2013
December 11, 2013
January 8, 2014
February 12, 2014

Research Interest Group - 1:30 p.m. third Wednesday, CCGS Library

November 20, 2013
December 18, 2013
January 15, 2014
February 19, 2014

What Do I Do With All This Stuff? Organizing Your Genealogy Workshop

Sunday, April 6, 2014, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
CSBI Conference Room, 1185 East Main St., Norman (North end, Community Services Building)
\$25 Registration fee by March 28.

Intermediate Level Genealogy Workshop

Watch your e-mail and local newspapers for announcements in February or March.

Deaths

Darlene Shawn's daughter, Vicki Dawn Shawn, died September 6, 2013, in Houston, Texas.

Condolences to CCGS member and past president Ralph Wilson, whose wife, Lillie Augusta Herman Wilson, died September 20, 2013 in Norman. Some in our membership may own a piece of china hand-painted by Lillie.

Gwen Crumpley, a CCGS past president, died Saturday, October 5, 2013, in Norman. Gwen worked to organize our Library in its beginning years.

CCGS member Edwin A. Thompson died in Norman October 17, 2013.

James L. "Jim" Mohon, who served as CCGS treasurer in the early years of our Society, died November 10, 2013 in Norman.

SEE more CCGS News on back page

In the Library

New Books

The Atlantic Bridge to Germany: Baden-Wuerttemberg
The Atlantic Bridge to Germany: Hessen, Rheinland-Pfalz
Commemorative Biographical Record of Dutchess County, New York (2 vols.)
Research Guide to German-American Genealogy
The Texas Marriage Collections of FWGS The University of Oklahoma, 1892-1942
Vital Statistics, Copied from Town Records, Penobscot, Maine, 1787 to 1875
Williamson County, Texas, Marriage Records, 1848-1888
Window on the Past (©1974)

New Journals

Searcy County [AR]Ancestor Information Exchange
The Stockton Links

In Recent Journals

The telephone hanging on Grandma's wall can be compared to today's Facebook. *GRIVA News & Notes*. Genealogy Research Institute of Virginia. Vol. 33, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2013.

Read this recollection of Union 77, a demonstration and teacher-training school of Southwestern State Teachers' College (1895-1954). *The Western Plainsman*. Western Plains Genealogical Society. Vol. 28, No. 4, Summer 2013.

Create a heritage album as you weave photos, documents and traditions into keepsakes your relatives will treasure. *Kiowa County Genealogical Society Newsletter*. Vol. 20, No. 3, August 2013.

German town anniversary books—if you can find them—will include stories about the town and its people, dating back to its earliest years. *NGS Magazine*. National Genealogical Society. Vol. 39, No. 3, July-September 2013.

In the German-language regions of central Europe, church records excel above all others for the years before the introduction of vital records. *NGS Magazine*. National Genealogical Society. Vol. 39, No. 3, July-September 2013.

Since You Asked ...

Q: *Some of my ancestors were in Cleveland County before statehood and into the 1920s. Do you have information that might help me learn more about them?*

A: You are in luck! During the early years of the Cleveland County Genealogical Society, our members worked diligently to create indexes to many early county records, now available in the CCGS Library and Archives.

Cleveland County marriage records are indexed, beginning in 1890. We can print copies of the actual marriage record, 1890 to 2001.

The index to divorces, 1890-1950, allows you to view the original divorce files from the CCGS Archives.

Early census indexes include the 1890 Oklahoma Territorial census for Moore Little River and Noble townships, and a Lexington enumeration of inhabitants in 1896.

Three of the earliest tax year records, 1891, 1893, and 1895, have been indexed.

The CCGS Archives hold the original Cleveland County probate case files 1890-1950. Probate indexes allow quick access to the original records.

Forty-one Cleveland County cemeteries have been canvassed and indexed.

We also have indexes to Norman funeral home records, beginning in 1918, for Meyer & Meyer, Primrose, and Mayes Funeral Homes. The funeral home records, available in the CCGS Library, provide information about the deceased.

Other original records held in the CCGS Archives include land patents, 1891-1909, and naturalization records 1890-1930.

The Surname Files contain research materials that have been gathered about families who lived in Cleveland County.

Our Archives hold records of the rural schools of Cleveland County, including district, teacher, and student records.

We can almost guarantee that, among this wide variety of records, you will find valuable information about your Cleveland County family in the CCGS Genealogy Library and Archives.

Bits & Pieces

You've tried *Ancestry.com* and *Heritage Quest* for genealogy research. Have you tried the Norman Public Library's *Fold3* online database yet?

You can try it now by calling up <http://bit.ly/1fVykFV> and logging in with your library card number and pin.

Or you can Google the Norman Public Library web site. Scroll down the menu on the right margin to *Research*. Click on *Homework & Research Resources*. On the next screen, find and click on *A to Z List of Databases*.

Scroll down this list to find *Fold3 History and Genealogy Archives*. Then explore to see what you can find.

Other genealogy-related databases on Norman's Public Library website, available for research from home, include:

Chronicles of Oklahoma
Dawes Final Rolls Online
Gateway to Oklahoma History
Heritage Quest
Newsbank Newspapers
WorldCat (on OCLC)
Oklahoman Archives

Workshops

Oklahoma Genealogical Society

Spring Seminar

Dan Poffenberger from FamilySearch

April 5, 2014

<http://www.okgensoc.org/>

Northwest Arkansas Family History Conference

Gather Your Family

April 19, 2014

Springdale AR

<https://sites.google.com/site/arkfamilyhistory/>

Missouri State Genealogical Association

2014 Annual Conference: *In the Center*

D. Joshua Taylor

August 1-2, 2014

Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia MO

<http://mosga.org/events.php>

Federation of Genealogical Societies

FGS Conference 2014

August 27-30, 2014

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center

San Antonio TX

www.fgsconference.org

O Family Tree

to the tune of "O Tannenbaum"

O Family Tree, O Family Tree
How sturdy are your branches.
O Family Tree, O Family Tree,
How sturdy are your branches.
Through many years in ages past
You have shown the strength to last.
O Family Tree, O Family Tree,
How sturdy are your branches.

O Family Tree, O Family Tree,
There is so much for you to tell.
O Family Tree, O Family Tree,
There is so much for you to tell.
Reveal to me your mystery
As I research my ancestry.
O Family Tree, O Family Tree,
There is so much for you to tell.

O Family Tree, O Family Tree,
Show to me my heritage.
O Family Tree, O Family Tree,
Show to me my heritage.
I learn from you so I can see
A part of you lives on in me.
O Family Tree, O Family Tree,
Show to me my heritage.

Author unknown.

Courtesy of Alice Freese Molitor

EDITOR'S NOTE: Find more genealogy poetry at
<http://genealogyfix.tripod.com/poems.html>

100 Years Ago

Cleveland County Enterprise
Thursday, December 4, 1913

EDITOR'S NOTE: All newspaper abstracts are typed as originally printed. Occasionally ellipsis (...) is used to indicate omission of content.

Red Oak Items

H. Hudgepath had a sale last week. Their old friends and neighbors gathered for a house warming last Monday night. Mr. and Mrs. Hudgepath will be missed for they have lived here for over twenty years. The well wishes of their friends go with them.

Mrs. Lura E. Hunter resigned her position as primary teacher last Friday in order to be at her home in Oklahoma City. Never has a teacher endeared herself to the patrons and pupils as Mrs. Hunter has and her leaving is regretted by all. Miss Maggie Ashford, who taught the primary very successfully last year will take Mrs. Hunter's place.

Eldridge - Hacker

Mr. Clarence Eldridge and Mrs. Ella Hacker were happily united in marriage in this city Friday afternoon.

The groom is a prominent and industrious young farmer, living five miles east of Noble, while the bride was a resident of the Dripping Springs community and is an accomplished and lovable woman.

They are now at home to their friends on the "farm." We wish them all the pleasure and prosperity of a successful wedded career.

Thanksgiving Turkey

C.H. Bessent had quite an experience with his Thanksgiving turkey. When he went out to kill the turkey the bird showed resistance of as strenuous a character as to cause Mr. Bessent to turn loose his grip and a chase was inaugurated resulting in the turkey retreating under the house.

Mr. Bessent tried to follow but gave same up as a bad job, concluding that Sunday would be a good day for the gobbler dinner, but again the turkey eluded capture, but the first of this week a neighbor boy captured the bird and it was duly slaughtered.

Society and Personal

Mr. Alfred Glantz who has been visiting his old home in Nebraska for the past three weeks is expected home today.

The Bide-a-wee club which was booked to meet with Mrs. Henry Meyer tomorrow, will meet with Mrs. Floyd McFarland instead.

Mr. and Mrs. Key Boyd whose pretty wedding was celebrated last Wednesday evening, are now at home in a cozy little cottage on E. Frank street.

Today Mrs. Dr. Clifton entertains the Needle and Thimble club. No program has been arranged; the meeting will be spent socially with current events as roll call.

A pretty dinner party was given Wednesday evening at seven by Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Rucker. The dinner was served in courses and flowers were the decorations.

During the Thanksgiving holidays the young folks celebrated in various ways. Private dances, parties, line parties, etc., were in vogue. On Friday afternoon an old fashion candy making party was given by Miss Margaret Pendleton at her home 116 East Daws, in honor of her house guests from Oklahoma City, Miss Dorothy Stone and Miss Loretta Hullum. Others participating in the popping corn and candy making were Misses Sammy McCall, Hattie Points Moomau, Glo Dorsey, Katherine Herrington, and Jewell Risinger. That night a line party was given by Miss Pendleton at the Orpheum including other friends in honor of her house guests. On Sunday Mrs. Ben Williams entertained the visitors and Miss Pendleton at a course dinner. They departed on the five o'clock car for the city.

Two of the biggest affairs of Thanksgiving week was the family reunion at noon and the surprise party in the evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Short on Thursday. Early in the day the guests began to arrive for the turkey dinner, this list included Mr. and Mesdames I.G. Short, J.C. Rather, and Mrs. J.O. Drake and children, all of Oklahoma City, and from Norman Mr. and Mesdames J.T. Hodges, and family, F. Lacy and family, M. McCullough, Mrs. Chas. Herrington and three daughters, Misses Alpha and Bess Berry.

After a sumptuous dinner and a general good time afternoon, the ladies began to prepare for the surprise party that evening in honor of the host's birthday. Close to fifty more guests came and remained until eleven-thirty. Music, lawn games were played. Mrs. Short served turkey sandwiches, coffee and cake.

**The Norman Democrat-Topic
Friday, December 12, 1913**

Road Makers Busy

Tom F. Carey, president of the Cleveland County Interstate Highway organization, returned from Sherman, Texas, last week, where he attended a meeting of the board of directors. Much interest was manifested and every effort will be made to push the road to completion. Nearly every county where the proposed highway is to be built was represented at the meeting and every delegate told of the splendid interest taken by their respective counties.

...Mr. W.G. Blanchard, president of the McClain County Association said that the stores of Purcell had already expended \$1,500 on one mile of road north of their community and that they had constructed one of the longest wagon bridges in the United States across the Canadian river. ...

School Teacher Dies

County Superintendent Kate Barbour received the news this week of the death of Mrs. Daisy Williams, a resident of Case township and who taught the summer term in district 17. She died of appendicitis in an Oklahoma City hospital on November 28th.

The deceased is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G.V. Hummell and was married last year.

Second Annual Poultry Show

The second annual poultry show will be held in the Belknap building on East Main Street next door to I.M. Jackson's furniture store on December 17 to 20. ... This promises to be the largest and best show ever given in Cleveland County.

Local News

S. Irick left Wednesday for Pilot Point, Texas.

Mrs. Fred Cain departed Tuesday for Pauls Valley to reside.

F.J. McGinley visited his sister at Chetopa, Kansas, last week.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Pitts last Friday.

L.J. Edwards was looking after his farm in McClain County Tuesday.

Fred Tarman, city editor of the Daily Oklahoman, was a Norman visitor last Friday.

Noble

Mr. Fred Steakley and family have moved to five miles east of Lexington.

Roy Austin who is teaching school at Banner spent Sunday with home folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie of Moore came down Sunday to visit her sister, the Misses Oliphant.

Mrs. Keenhen and son came back from Texas last week and they will again live in Noble.

Rev. Price came back from Arkansas last week bringing with him a wife. Congratulations.

Mr. Flitner, from Montana, came in Sunday to see his wife. He will probably stay a few weeks.

Marriage Licenses

H. Edgar Major, 25, Norman, and Rose Grimmett, 19, Norman.

F.L. Graves, 21, Oklahoma City, and Evelyn J. Green, 19, Oklahoma City.

R.W. Gragg, 22, Oklahoma City, and Fern Davidson, 21, Oklahoma City.

Red Oak

Mr. E.F. Attaway is moving from the Etowah district onto the W.F. Croft farm.

Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Croft gave a dance Monday night in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Stanley and as a farewell to their friends as they will move soon.

Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Fowler served a sumptuous dinner Sunday to about fifty friends at their hospitable home in honor of the marriage of their daughter, Miss Lou Deal who was married to Arthur Stanley at 11 o'clock Sunday morning. The bride is an excellent housekeeper and the groom is an industrious and capable young man. They will begin housekeeping near Henderson.

Society

Mrs. Bert Baggett was hostess to the South M.E. Ladies Tuesday afternoon. A good attendance was reported.

Mrs. J.B. Cheadle met with the other members of the Oklahoma-Panama committee in Oklahoma City Monday.

Miss Clover Gorton entertained nine young ladies at a slumber party last Thursday night. A sumptuous spread was enjoyed at midnight.

The Daughters of the Confederacy will be entertained from three to six by the Misses Websters at their home, 600 North Peters avenue.

Cleveland County Probates, 1929-1950

FILE NO.	NAME	PROBATE FILED		DEATH DATE	PLACE OF DEATH
1641	CAIN, Mary F. D.	12 Apr 1940	--	07 Apr 1940	
1858	CALDWELL, Mary G.	14 Jul 1943	--	08 Jun 1943	Norman, OK
1770	CALDWELL, Thomas Overton	24 Apr 1942	--	07 Apr 1942	Cleveland Co., OK
2385	CALVERT, James S.	20 Dec 1949	--	09 Dec 1949	Norman, OK
1737	CALVERT, L. M.	17 Oct 1941	--	12 Oct 1941	Cleveland Co., OK
2124	CAMPBELL, E. B.	09 Oct 1946	w	05 Oct 1946	Cleveland Co., OK
1560	CANADA, Elizabeth	26 Nov 1938	w	24 Sep 1938	Cleveland Co., OK
2017	CANADA, Marshall Lafayette	18 May 1945	w	11 Mar 1945	Benton, Scott Co., MO
2002	CANFIELD, Charley	21 Mar 1945	--	1941	Cleveland Co., OK
2001	CANFIELD, Della	21 Mar 1945	--	14 Dec 1944	Cleveland Co., OK
2068	CAPSHAW, Elmer jr.	29 Jan 1946	w	04 Jun 1945	Verdun, France
1649	CAREY, Lizzie	15 Jul 1940	w	29 Jun 1940	Norman, OK
1192	CARPENTER, Edwin L.	25 Nov 1932	w	12 Oct 1932	Norman, OK
2344	CARPENTER, Paul S.	13 May 1949	--	04 Jan 1949	Cleveland Co., OK
1271	CARR, M. C.	09 Jun 1934	--	23 May 1934	Norman, OK
1528	CARROLL, Elizabeth	28 May 1938	--	12 Apr 1901	St. Louis, MO
1499	CARROLL, Rachel	11 Oct 1937	--	16 Sep 1937	Cleveland Co., OK
1994	CARSON, A. W.	23 Feb 1945	--	09 Dec 1944	Norman, OK
1501	CARTER, Helen	02 Nov 1937	--	25 Apr 1937	
2365	CARTER, Pearl STANFORD	19 Sep 1949	--	20 May 1948	San Bernardino Co., CA
1242	CARTER, W. H.	19 Dec 1933	--	10 Dec 1933	Cleveland Co., OK
1311	CARTER, W. X.	13 Feb 1935	--	02 Feb 1935	Sulphur, Murray Co., OK
1787	CASKEY, J. R.	27 Jul 1942	--	22 Oct 1941	Lexington, OK
1179	CATON, Ethelyn J.	08 Aug 1932	--	19 Jul 1932	Portland, Multnomah, OR
1297	CAVENEY, Wilson	27 Dec 1934	--	20 May 1934	Cleveland Co., OK
1166	CHAMPEAU, A. M.	27 Apr 1932	w	22 Apr 1932	Norman, OK

Cleveland County Probates, 1929-1950

FILE NO.	NAME	PROBATE FILED		DEATH DATE	PLACE OF DEATH
1983	CHAMPEAU, Melissa Jane	26 Jan 1945	--	09 Jan 1945	Norman, OK
1246	CHAMPEAU, Roy J.	20 Jan 1934	--	01 Mar 1933	Cleveland Co., OK
1911	CHAPMAN, Jane	04 Apr 1944	--	25 Nov 1943	State of Ohio
2156	CHAPMAN, William Edgar	22 Mar 1947	w	12 Mar 1947	Norman, OK
2278	CHAUSSEE, W. L.	13 Jul 1948	--	06 Jul 1948	Moore, OK
2105	CHENOWETH, J. E.	24 Jul 1946	--	07 Feb 1946	Norman, OK
1312	CHILCOTE, Minnie S. (Scott)	20 Feb 1935	w	18 Feb 1935	Noble, OK
2166	CHILDERS, Esker Newton	06 May 1947	w	30 Apr 1947	Norman, OK
1294	CHILDS, Winifred	07 Dec 1934	--	05 Dec 1934	Cleveland Co., OK
1854	CHILLESS, William H.	17 Jun 1943	--	14 Jun 1940	Norman, OK
2047	CHINNIS, Annie May	13 Nov 1945	--	30 Apr 1945	Cleveland Co., OK
1984	CHURCH, George F.	26 Jan 1945	--	22 Jan 1945	Moore, OK
1957	CLAPHAM, Jasper Cornelius	10 Nov 1944	--	18 Sep 1944	Norman, OK
1823	CLARK, Clara Josephine	25 Jan 1943	--	28 Jan 1939	Cleveland Co., OK
2146	CLARK, Edward Dean	26 Dec 1946	--	31 Mar 1944	Oklahoma City, OK
1231	CLARK, Roy C.	05 Oct 1933	--	26 Sep 1933	Cleveland Co., OK
980	CLARK, W. H.		--		Attorney search for Clark probate
1927	CLAXTON, S. L.	02 Jun 1944	--	13 Sep 1943	Norman, OK
1021	CLAY, B. F.	04 Sep 1929	--	26 Aug 1929	Cleveland Co., OK
1021	CLAY, Martha F.	04 Sep 1929	--	17 Oct 1924	Cleveland Co., OK
2056	CLEVELAND, Cleo Floyd	26 Dec 1945	--	12 Dec 1945	Cleveland Co., OK
1410	CLIFORD, Josie	28 Aug 1936	--		BOND ONLY
1931	CLIFTON, Everett E.	12 Jul 1944	--		Seven year absence.
1478	CLIFTON, G. M.	28 Jun 1937	--	22 Jun 1937	Oklahoma City, OK
1127	COBBLE, W. W.	12 Jun 1931	w	08 Jun 1931	Norman, OK
2326	COCKERILL, H. J.	03 Mar 1949	--	07 Jan 1949	

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**Mission
of the
Cleveland County
Genealogical Society**

**To collect local, historical,
and genealogical
materials**

**To preserve selected local
public records**

**To share our library and
archival holdings
with the public**

**To promote the
development of research
skills**

More CCGS News

Library Activities

Our Library Volunteers have begun work on case files listed in the second volume of our Civil Court index. These case files will ultimately be interfiled in file cabinets with the Civil Court files we worked last spring and summer.

A group of Rivermont residents visited the CCGS Genealogy Library November 9 for a research experience.

Ink Cartridge Recycling Project

We thank our members who bring their used printer cartridges in for recycling.

We participate in the Office Max *MaxPerks* recycling program. From the rewards offered in this program, we purchase most of the CCGS Library's office supplies. Your recycling donations have enabled us to obtain more than 1,000 file folders used in the Civil Court files project, at no cost to the Society.

CSBI Chili Cook-off Contest

CCGS President Frank Appl prepared a pot of chili for this year's CCGS entry in the annual CSBI Chili Contest. Although Frank did not place in the contest, visitors to the event consumed most of his chili.

Cleveland County Genealogical Society
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Norman, Oklahoma 73070

ISSN 1550-7734

Moving? Please let us
know your new address.
It helps us keep the
mailing list current.