
Cleveland County Genealogical Society

Volume 42 Number 3

September 2021

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President's Message

BY SARAH MYERS POOL

The Cleveland County Genealogical Society has good intentions of getting back to work on a regular schedule. Whether that will be possible remains to be seen. The CCGS Board of Directors considered making August's board meeting an in-person meeting at the Community Services Building, until we learned that some in the building had been diagnosed as having Covid while they were working there. We changed immediately to a ZOOM meeting, wanting to avoid any exposure we could, given the fact that having had the vaccine was no guarantee that one wouldn't acquire a variant of the virus.

Given in this issue of the newsletter is a listing of some of the records we might make available for further use on the internet. We are asking that members and the general public let us know what your priorities are from the list. The article gives contact information for your use.

In addition to the projects available in the files in the office of CCGS, there are other projects that are in different stages of digitization that we have not been able to access as yet. This is something that falls under the heading that we don't always get to do what we want to do and sometimes have to postpone expectations. We expect to have access to those files within the next month and to be able to list them in the next newsletter. We shall see.

Currently, we are planning to have the September Cleveland County Genealogical Society meeting on September 21, the third Tuesday of September. We do not have the name of speaker ready to make public at this time, but we will send out information about the program with a reminder notification about the meeting. The board meeting in September will be the second Monday, September 13. If you or someone you know would be a great speaker for a program, let us know their name(s) and topic(s).

**Cleveland County
Genealogical Society**

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Find us on Facebook.

NOTICE: The following dates represent our regular hours in normal times. We are sheltering in place during the Pandemic, and canceling all in-person meetings. Watch your email for further announcements from CCGS.

OFFICE HOURS: 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday
Thursday

SOCIETY MEETINGS: 6:30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday of each month except January, February, July and August, Meeting place to be determined later.

MEMBERSHIP: Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2020

Individual	\$25
Family	\$30
Institution	\$45

OFFICERS -2021-2022

PresidentSarah Pool
Vice President..... Mae Cox
SecretaryJane Harris
TreasurerMike McCurtain
Member at LargeBetty Hall
Member at Large Jeffrey Wilhite
Member at Large Diane Lewis
Past President..... Frank Appl

DONATIONS

Your financial donations help support the projects of the Cleveland County Genealogical Society.

Donations to CCGS are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

**CLEVELAND COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Newsletter Editor.....Mary Lewis

Contributors:

Carolyn Nelson Burgett Diane Lewis
Jane McPhail Harris

My Search for My Republic of Texas Ancestor

by Carolyn Nelson Burgett

I've always considered myself a true blue Texan. I was born and raised here and have never lived in another state. When my mother in law told me about the Daughters of Texas Republic speaking at her DAR meeting, my curiosity led me to wonder when my ancestors had moved to this great state. Perhaps I might qualify for membership.

In researching my family, my cousin, an expert genealogist, lent a hand and we soon found someone in my background that indeed had come to Texas as a colonist before the establishment of the state as an independent country. This ancestor was Berry Lewis Ham.

Berry Ham was born in 1812 in Giles County Tennessee to Susannah Clark and Davis Ham. He had 6 younger siblings and Davis is recorded as being a farmer there. I feel that Berry looked at his situation, farming with 6 other heirs, and felt that his prospects were not that promising in Tennessee. So I think it would not come as any surprise that when he met Sterling C. Robertson and heard his tales of the beautiful new land called Texas, that Berry was convinced it was the opportunity for him. Mr. Robertson had come to Tennessee to recruit settlers for his colony that is located in present day Milam, Robertson, and Navarro counties. It ran along the Brazos River and adjoined Stephen Austin's settlement. It became known as the Nashville Company Colony. Stephen Austin and Sterling Robertson had a fractious feud about the ownership of these lands that was later settled in Mr. Robertson's favor.

Berry came to Texas as a 17 year old in 1829. The area was fraught with danger due to the growing unhappiness of the Indians with settler encroachment. He was recruited to serve in Mr. Robertson's ranger company to protect the settlers against Indian attacks. In addition, Berry found himself in the midst of a growing conflict with Mexico. War was looming and Berry favored independence. He began his service to the Republic of Texas in 1836 with the Robertson group. This company served under Calvin Boales who then joined Deaf Smith's Company A 1st Regiment Calvary. Berry served as a private and was at the Battle of San Jacinto. He is recorded as serving "on post" at the battle. I discovered this means he was keeping guard. I'm not sure if he saw actual combat but he was considered

an official member of the Republic of Texas army. His military service ended in 1837. Records indicate that he filed for and was granted back pay and a replacement horse for his duty.

In 1838, Berry was living in Milam County when he met a beautiful young woman named Dorcas Matilda Bowen. Matilda, as she was called, was the daughter of Abner Bowen and Jeanette Thompson. She was born in Knox County Tennessee in 1823 and had moved to Texas with her parents in 1836. Berry was smitten with this young lady and they were married on June 26, 1838. She was 15 and he was 26.

In July of 1838 Berry received a conditional 2nd headright grant from Republic of Texas of 640 acres in Milam County. This grant was for proving to be resident before the Republic was established and remaining in the area 3 years.

In 1840, he received an unconditional 3rd headright grant of 640 acres for his service in the Republic of Texas military. It was in Collin County at the east fork of the Trinity River and 10 mile creek (later renamed Wilson Creek).

Berry and Matilda had children quickly, the first arriving in 1839. They went on to have 11 children; 9 grew to adulthood. Eight of the children were born in the Milam, Navarro, Robertson county areas and 3 were born in Jack County. I am descended from their 6th child, Virginia, born in 1850 in Navarro County. Berry was recorded as being a farmer in this time period in the Milam county area.

In 1854 the Homestead Act was passed that opened lands previously declared to be Indian held. It declared all unsettled land to be a part of the public domain and open to preemption settlement. This opened a wide expanse of land north and west of Berry's homestead in the area of present day Jack County.

Berry saw another opportunity here to better himself and his family. He went to Jack County in 1854 to investigate. He must have been impressed because he moved his family there in 1855. They first settled about 8 miles

west of present-day Jacksboro in the Keechi Valley but moved closer to Jacksboro later and established a home that was called Ham Springs. This was a wild unsettled land and Berry and his family were some of the first settlers. The Indians were becoming increasingly unhappy with the intruding white man and it was a dangerous time to be there.

Berry saw another opportunity upon moving to the area. The Butterfield Stage Line was planning an overland mail route through the area. There was a decision to be made about the actual route as either being through Jacksboro or slightly north. It is a famous story in Jack County about the night Berry and a friend went night hunting but in reality, they piled rocks in the northern route. The stagecoach had to turn around and go through Jacksboro. The permanent route was established and Berry found himself the manager of a stagecoach stop at Ham Springs. He also managed a stop called Fishpond Station.

Berry figures prominently in Jack County history. In 1857 he was voted one of the first county commissioners. He helped establish the first courthouse, which was just a crude building with a buffalo hide for a door. He was recorded as voting in the first Jack County election. His descendants described him as a strong vital man who "walked the world like a King." He was distinguished for his coonskin cap, famous for his fine hunting dogs, horses, and known for his love of gambling. Berry accumulated large landholdings in Jack and Wise counties. At one time he was one of the largest land owners in the area.

His daughters related stories of growing up in an idyllic time. They waded in the springs and had servants. Berry was a slave owner. He is recorded in the census as having 4 slaves. I would think all would be working at the stagecoach station to serve those coming through. However, Indian threat remained and one of the daughters told of a time when the family heard an approaching war party. They collected every object in their house that could look like a gun barrel

and put them in all the openings so the house looked fortified. The war party rode up and turned and rode away.

Despite Berry's contribution to the county and his accomplishments, he had a dark ominous side. He had a bad temper and was insanely jealous of his wife. In 1859, he was arrested for killing a stage coach driver for flirting with his wife. Albert Richardson, a newspaper reporter who was touring the area commented when he stopped in Jacksboro that the proprietor of the station was under bond for three thousand dollars for killing somebody. He went on to claim the area as wild and untamed and that you only gained notoriety by killing someone. This proprietor he mentioned was Berry Ham.

I am unsure what happened to this charge. I cannot find that it came to trial and can only assume the charges were dropped. When I was researching Berry Ham, I went to the Jack County History Museum. When I told the volunteer who I was researching, he told me this story. I'm not sure if they could not prove his guilt, did not have a body, or considered it justified if you killed someone for flirting with your wife. It was a wild somewhat lawless land.

At this point, Matilda and Berry's lives began to unravel. He filed for divorce in 1859, but they must have reconciled. It did not come to court and they had 2 more children.

In 1860, Berry was recruited to be a minute man with the Texas Rangers. He had served a few times in the past but only for limited days when a posse was needed or there was an imminent threat. However in 1860 he served for a year. This was the time the federal government was recalling their troops, preparing for potential conflict between the North and South. This left the settlers in the frontier unprotected from Indian attacks. The Indians took advantage of the soldiers' absence and there were several skirmishes. I read that the population of Jack County was 1,000 in 1860 but dropped to 650 in two years. It was a very dangerous time for these settlers.

In 1863, Berry filed for divorce again. This time it came to court. Matilda testified that in 1861 Berry threatened to beat her. She shot him with a shotgun that caused him recovery time. The divorce was granted and Matilda was awarded some property, cattle, and horses. Berry retained the majority of the land holdings. However, despite Berry's tendency for violence he was given custody of the five minority children. It was a different time. Berry lived up to his reputation and during the trial was fined \$10 for gambling in the upper floors of the courthouse during his divorce proceedings.

At some point, Berry moved back to Ellis County. I cannot determine when that happened. I do find him recorded as being a member of the Ennis Lodge No 369 of Masons from 1871-1873. It was said that he suffered emotionally and financially as a result of the Civil War. He was estranged from one of his daughters who married a Northern sympathizer. While still in Jack County he was one of only fourteen who voted for secession. He died in 1879 at the age of 67 and was buried in the Ellis County cemetery. Some members of Ancestry had noted that he married again while living in the Ellis county area. I can find no record of that. However, one side of his memorial marker says "Beloved Husband". I don't believe Matilda would do that so I think it is likely that he had a second marriage.

Matilda continued to live in Jack County. I really feel that although Berry was given custody of the five minority children that they continued to live with their mother. All are buried in the Jack county area.

Matilda was recorded as being a seamstress and living with her daughter in 1870. Let's consider Matilda for a moment. She was 12 or 13 when her parents moved her to wild new land. She was only 15 when she married and had 11 children. She defended herself against an abusive husband by shooting him. I can't imagine that would be too well accepted. She divorced her husband, another unconventional point for that time. And in 1868 at the age of 44, she had her twelfth and final child, a daughter she

named Alice Williams. Matilda did not marry Mr. Williams until 1871. Again having a child out of wedlock was unusual for that time. Mr. Williams was a judge and I imagine she gained instant respectability when they married. In 1876 she is recorded as being a founding member of the Presbyterian Church.

Six of Matilda's children lived to age 70 or beyond, with 4 living to their 80's and one to her 90's. Matilda lived to age 90 and died in 1914. Her obituary stated she had had 12 children and at the time of her death had 78 grandchildren, 98 great grandchildren, and 5 great great grandchildren. She and Berry and Mr. Williams left quite a legacy.

Morning: Ute Park, New Mexico

By Jane Hurst McPhail Harris

From observations of July 2021 in Ute Park, New Mexico.
11 Aug 2021

A full moon sits high in a light blue-gray sky watching over the meadow full of flowers of all colors. The valleys of the moon match the shades of the early morning sky. The sun is getting ready to begin the day. Low light hides the mule deer, elk, turkeys, and other wildlife. The night creatures still scurry around. Morning is coming to the mountains.

Gentle breezes flutter the leaves on the tall cottonwood trees that follow the river. Ponderosa pine needles hold onto the drops of rain, like liquid diamonds, that fell during the night. Sunrays begin to highlight the glistening drops clinging to the pine needles. Birds begin to chitter in the trees. A light haze settles in the valley as the sun warms the wet foliage of the mountain grasses. Water rumbles down the river, flowing over small piles of rock.

Movement begins. A robin sits on a fencepost watching to see if there is danger. Suddenly she flies into a nearby chokecherry bush and there hidden begins a breakfast of juicy red berries. Yellow flower stalks of woolly mullen contain the next part of the meal.

Muleys begin to tip-toe softly across the meadow. Posing like statues, ears held high,

turning to catch sounds that may indicate danger. As they move, it's like they are playing Follow the Leader.

Hawks and other raptors glide through the sky looping in intricate patterns.

Hummingbirds zip by, beginning their search for life sustaining nectar from the abundant wildflowers. Daisies. Wild Geranium. Chamisa or Rabbitbrush as it's sometimes called. Tall yellow sunflowers. Fireweed. Mexican hats. Asters. The hummers begin to congregate at the feeders, divebombing each other to chase them away from "their" feeder. A Black-Chinned Hummingbird with dull green feathers and a gorget that appears black when not in the sunlight "tchew tchews" as he flies by. The silvery trill of a male Broad-tailed Hummingbird sounds like the ringing of bells. How beautiful is the tail of this bird when it's spread wide and the sun catches the plumes!

The moon is gone. The sun has come once again to the mountains. The walkers begin their treks through the mountains.

Newsletter Content Changes in this Issue

Readers will note some changes in the remainder of this issue. We are currently unable to complete the remainder of the 1890 Census following the Oklahoma Land Run in 1889. Jean McCracken's family will provide us with these materials as they are discovered.

In the meantime, we offer in this issue other materials which will be of interest to our members. What do you do when you sent a search to the courthouse, and it comes back, "Not found?" Or have you lost touch with a relative who is also interested in genealogy?

Other materials on these pages will offer information on searching the catalog of Family Search. Every genealogist should learn about this, as Family Search is an online entity, mostly without cost.

There is more. Maybe you would like to write a memoir of some part of your life. And finally, we offer several bits of writing from members of our Family History Writers Group. Read on, and enjoy!

CCGS News

Board Moving Forward with Providing New Local Materials to Researchers

The CCGS Board met on Monday, August 8, 2021, to discuss potential new projects to make new local materials available to researchers, which could be undertaken by individual members at home while Covid-19 is still circulating.

Two different types of records in the possession of CCGS, which have not yet been made available to researchers, were discussed.

Early taxpayer records. Several odd years of the taxpayer records, starting with 1891, have been made available previously. Publishing the even years would complete the series.

Early school district board members.

There was agreement that CCGS has some important information about early schools that need to be provided to researchers.

Making materials already published on paper available on the internet in an easily searchable format was also a topic of discussion.

A list was provided of masters of previous publications that might be used to make that previously published data available on the internet. Discussion included offering the data to the Norman Public Library Central for publication on their web site as desired.

Members and the general public are encouraged to contact CCGS at (405) 701-2100 (leave a message) or (email address) to recommend priorities from the list below for publication on the internet.

Materials previously published:

Funeral Home listings:

- Primrose Funeral Home, 1933-1999
- Meyer & Meyer Funeral Home, 1918-1958
- Mayes Funeral Home, 1956 - 1992

- Guardian Mayes Funeral Home, 1993 - 2007

Cemetery surname index books for Cleveland County cemeteries (generally through year 2000 or so)

Marriage information:

- Marriage Books, 1891-1897, Cleveland County O.T. (including at least one marriage from 1872)
- Cleveland County Index to Marriage books, 1891-1942
- Lexington Marriages, 1909 - 1932

Censuses:

- Census of Taxpayers by Township 1891
- Census of Taxpayers by Township 1895
- 1st Territorial Census of Oklahoma: Moore, Little River Township
- Census, Town of Lexington, Oklahoma Territory – Application for separate township organization, Filed 7 July 1898 (handwritten)
- City of Lexington, Cleveland County, Oklahoma: Enumeration of Inhabitants, 1 Feb 1898
- Noble, First Territorial Census 1890
- Alphabetical List of Norman, Oklahoma Residents transcribed from the June, 1890 Territorial Census (by John Womack)

Land Records:

- Cleveland County Land Patents 1891 – 1909
- Trustee deeds to Norman Townsite Lots 1890-1893 (Womack booklet)

Remembrance books of specific cities/towns

- A Symposium of Noble, Oklahoma by Noble Future Homemakers of America: Local Resident Histories of Noble, including school attendees, staff information
- Shiloh Remembered: Church Registers, Family Recollections and Pictures, Community News, various newspaper articles
- Oklahoma Bugher: A collection of articles regarding the descendants of Lewis Bugher and Annie Rhinehart Bugher

- Reflections on our past: Norman Transcript articles/column during centennial

Miscellaneous:

- Widows Pensions - July 1915 – April 1940
- Civil Court Records, 1890 – 1909
- Index to Probate Cases 1890 – 1928
- Naturalization Records – Petition for Naturalization, Declaration of intent and/or final papers

Zoom meetings to continue until further notice

Due to the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic as a result of new variants coming into existence, we expect to continue all meetings in the Zoom app until further notice.

If you need help using the Zoom app

Contact CCGS at (405) 701-2100 (leave a message) or email at ccgs@csbi.org giving your contact information, at least 9 days before the meeting. Someone will get back to you before the meeting. You may refer to page 22 of the June 2021 newsletter for more information on How to Attend A Meeting by Zoom.

Office remains closed until further notice

The CCGS office will remain closed until further notice, as the pandemic seems to be extending itself with the development of new variants due to mutations occurring as large numbers of people get sick.

If you need assistance from CCGS, please call (405) 701-2100 or email ccgs.org and we will get back to you. Please give us some time, as we do not go into the office and check either the phone messages or email more about than once a week.

Would Your Family Enjoy Reading About Your Life?

This issue has information about writing your own memoirs, and some examples of memoirs written by members of CCGS Writers Group. CCGS Writers Group can help you get your stories down on paper.

Calendar

CCGS Board Meetings: 1:30 p.m. second Monday, via Zoom until further notice
 September 13, 2021
 October 11, 2021
 November 8, 2021
 December 13, 2021

CCGS Society Meetings: 6:30 p.m. third Tuesday (except January, February, July & August) via Zoom until further notice
 September 21, 2021
 October 19, 2021
 November 16, 2021
 December 21, 2021

Family History Writers Group: 10 a.m. second Wednesday, via ZOOM until further notice
 September 8, 2020
 October 13, 2021
 November 10, 2021
 December 8, 2021

NOTICE:

Please check the CCGS facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CCGSOK/>) for timely changes regarding any of CCGS's meetings.

Deaths

Dorothy Amelia (Roberts) Brinker, a charter member of CCGS, died on December 24, 2019 in Albuquerque, NM. A celebration of her life was to be held August 16, 2021. Born near Beggs, Oklahoma, Dorothy attended school in Arizona and Oklahoma. In 2016, she published a book based on her childhood entitled *Stolen Children*.

Norma Louise Cummings, a former member, died on August 5, 2021. Norma was born in Missouri and attended school there before moving to Oklahoma to begin teaching.

100 Years Ago

The Daily Transcript

Sunday, September 4, 1921

Editor's Note: All newspaper abstracts are typed as originally printed. Occasionally ellipsis (...) is used to indicate omission of content.

[At this time, the Transcript was printing three issues weekly.]

New Dormitory Sets Precedent States Following Example of Oklahoma Masons

With the completion of the \$250,000 Masonic Boys' dormitory at the University of Oklahoma, which will be occupied for the first time when the fall semester opens, September 15, members of the Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection No. 2, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, of the Valley of South McAlester, McAlester, Okla, feel that they have taken a new step forward in educational work by Masons in universities and colleges in the United States. ...

In the fall of 1919 members of the McAlester Consistory were informed that there were self-supporting students, both men and women, at the University of Oklahoma, who needed assistance while securing their education. It was pointed out that if those students could be provided with home-like rooming facilities at actual cost, many of them would be able to remain in the university and complete their education. Within twenty-four hours plans had been perfected for the erection of dormitories by the McAlester Scottish Rite Masons.

The building sites were purchased and work started on the boys' dormitory in March, 1920 ... and was completed in June, 1920. ... Enough applications have already been received to fill it this fall.

The Scottish Rite Masons are already considering plans for the girls' dormitory. ... Tentative plans for the girls' dormitory include a cafeteria where both girls and boys will be fed at cost.

University Student Enrollment Large

Concensus of opinion among registration officials ... indicates that the total enrollment will exceed 3000 students this year when the class rooms open for the university's thirty-ninth year.

The registry office is handling a greater number of early arrivals than at any previous time in its history, and the rush has not yet commenced. ...

Work, room and board are in demand as never before. ... Boarding places are numerous and the usual price this year will not exceed \$6.50. Many students are coming in now to engage both room and board and also secure work for the coming year. The "Y" office has been receiving letters since last May containing requests for jobs and several students, both men and women, are helping prepare the boarding and fraternity houses for occupancy when school "takes up."

School Opens the 12th

School will be officially opened on the 12th of September. ... There are a few vacancies in the list of teachers of the high school staff, unless they have been filled by Supt. Faulkner, who has been in Missouri for about ten days, and is thought he has probably found some acceptable applicants by this time.

Mrs. Langford will be at the head of the English department this year taking the place of Mis Black who resigned. Vacancies now officially unfilled in the high school are in the commercial department and one half time place in the physics department.

Board of Education

C.W. Shannon, President
Fred Reed, vice-president
J.M. Mooman, E.J. Simpson and M.B. Shives,
members

Chas. S. Standley, clerk
Oscar T. McCall, Treasurer

Superintendent

A.S. Faulkner, Superintendent

High School Faculty

Paul N. Campbell, principal
Kate C. Barbour, mathematics
Miss Minnie E. Rutledge, assistant in
mathematics
Anna M. Butler, science
Assistant in science not filled
Mrs. Pearl W. Johnson, Norman training &
agriculture

Mrs. Janet Langford, head of English department
Miss Louise McComb, English
Mrs. Leroy Elmore, history
Malinda Gibson, assistnat in history
Mrs. Francis Ballew Hicks, modern languages and English
Gretta M Mitchell, Latin
Commercial (not filled)
W.M. Watson, manual training
Vera W. Maple, home economics
George Abbott, athletics
Mr. J.A. Howser will be principal of the Jefferson school and Miss Olander is principal of the Washington school. ...

All indications point to a very interesting and profitable school year. Norman has a reputation for being one of the best school systems in the state, and every effort will be made this year to keep the standard up, and surpass any record made in the past for efficiency and results.

Will Teach at Morrison

Miss Madine Runyan, daughter of M.C. Runyon, 112 South Porter, left Friday for Morrison, where she goes to teach in the public schools. Her sister, Miss Foy Runyon, accompanied her, returning Friday night. Miss Madine was graduated from the university at the summer session this year This is her first school, but she is exceptionally qualified for the position and goes at a salary of \$140 per month. This is the first time she has been away from home, but a visit to home folks on week-ends will keep her in good spirits.

Dr. Brooks Returns Home

Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, president of the university, returned Thursday from Bella Vista, Mo., where he spent the summer with his family in the Ozarks. He returns today to bring them home. Dr. Brooks confesses that he is a very poor fisherman, or at least had very poor luck, for his catches were few and far between.

Mrs. L.N. Kidd of Sedalia, Mo., is visiting her son, M.P.Kidd, and family, at 615 North Peters Avenue. Mrs. Kidd is returning from an extended tour of California.

Mrs. J.F. Westervelt and little son, returned first of the week from six weeks' visit with friends and relatives in Roswell, N.M.

PERSONAL MENTION

Mrs. Julian Monnett has returned home from a visit to her mother at Princeton, Mo.

G.B. Ray, who has been visiting relatives at Tahlequa, returned home the latter part of last week.

Miss Anna Mable Weir has returned from attending a series of house parties in Claremore and Muskogee.

Mrs. Chas. Lee, wife of Sgt. Lee of the university R.O.T.C. has returned from a visit to her mother in Colorado.

Boss Lindsay left Thursday for St. Louis, where he goes to buy a stock of furniture for the Meyer & Meyer furniture store.

Mrs. Richard Cloyd has had as her guest for a week, her mother, Mrs. Chase, of Wynnewood. Mrs. Chase formerly resided in Norman.

R.A. Brigham, editor of the Transcript, will speak before the Brotherhood class at the Liberty theatre this morning at 10 o'clock.

Miss Belle Vickery of the voice department of the university is visiting at the home of Mrs. T.H. Asznan's parents in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Ladies Auxiliary club will meet Monday afternoon, with Mrs. S. Ambrister, at 201 E. Tonhawa. All members are requested to come and bring a new member.

Thos. Rowe, acting scout executive, who has been visiting home folks at Mustang, came in last week and is getting things lined up for scout work during the coming year.

Mr. Victor Bracht left last week for Ft. Smith, Ark., for a week's visit with friends and relatives. His cousin, Fred Hammer, will return to Norman with him and enter the law school of the university.

Mrs. Cora Hull, who is visiting her son at Lehigh, is ill of appendicitis.

Mr. and Mrs. A. McDaniel returned Monday from Sulphur, where they spent several days as a substitute for a vacation.

Mrs. C.B. Creager, who has been visiting friends and relatives at Wynnewood, returned to her home here Wednesday.

Mrs. Ben McCreary and daughter, Bineta May, of Kansas City, are here visiting Mrs. McCreary's mother, Mrs. E. Levy.

Mrs. J.A. Brown, of Foss, and Mrs. W.W. Darnell, of Castana, Iowa and two daughters, Doris and

Clariss, came in Wednesday for a visit of a few weeks at the home of Mrs. W.M. Baldwin.

Mrs. E.A. Denison, editor of the Lexington Leader, was here Wednesday on business and incidentally attending the Dodson trial. Mrs. Denison is publishing a rattling good paper for which she seems to be peculiarly qualified.

Miss Neva Stogner, who has been taking treatment in Rochester, returned home Friday night, where she will spend several months before returning to the hospital for further treatment. Miss Stogner has been ill for several months, but is improving now nicely.

Bert Burch, of the McCall company, who has been on the sick list for several days, is back on the job, feeling fresh and fine.

Miss Gertrude Sidner left Friday for Lawton, where she will teach English in the Lawton high school.

John Butler, of Spiro, has returned and will take work in the law department of the university, and at odd times will be employed at the F. and J. Cash store.

Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Koons, who have been spending the summer with their daughter, Mrs. Pat McKinney, returned to their home in Ft. Worth Thursday accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. R.J. Stewart.

Harold Vanderpool is reported very ill with typhoid fever at his home on North Findlay.

Mrs. Louzanie Ona Delany, who has been serving in the post office at Haynesville, Louisiana, is expected to return to Norman Monday. Her son, Henry Erman, will remain there with his grandmother and attend school under the supervision of his aunt. The young man lost a year in school here while laid up with diphtheria.

Miss Maud Mahoney, Caldwell, and Wichita Falls, has taken charge of the ready-to-wear department of the Rucker store here. Miss Mahoney has had many years' experience in the ready-to-wear department, and thoroughly understands the fitting and adjustment of suits and dresses, and customers may feel well assured that her advice and suggestions as to what is proper in style and materials is founded on good judgment. Mr. Rucker is to be complimented upon securing the services of Miss Mahoney in this department of his store.

R.S. Kimberlin, of Santa Anna, California, who has been visiting his sister, Mrs. M.S. Westervelt, and brother, R.K. Kimberlin, left first of last week for Kansas City, to visit another sister, Mrs. Burrus.

Mr. Fred Reed, who has been visiting at Orlando, where his mother is quite ill, returned to Norman Wednesday for a short time, going back to Orlando Thursday. Mr. Reed's friends sincerely hope that his mother may soon recover.

Falling off in Marriage Contracts Records Show

There has been a falling off in the marriage contracts during the last week, only three applications at the county's office. These include the following:

Warren L. Felton, 24, Bartlesville and Miss Elizabeth Keller, 23, Lexington.

J.P. Pugh, 32, Norman, and Stella Neal, 24, Henton.

Lawrence B. Bryant, 26, and Anna Coffee, 23, both of Oklahoma City.

WANT ADS

WANTED --- experienced, middle aged woman for general house work. Small family. Phone 756

FURNISHED ROOM for rent ... Modern with kitchen privilege. 523 W. Comanche. phone 259

CHILDREN'S INN

Private boarding institution for children, school opens September 12. Enroll your children for the winter. Mother's love and care, proper food, good environment. Call or write for reservation, 1014 W. 23rd. W.4899 Oklahoma City.

FOR SALE --- My 9-room residence at 317 West Main street. Modern except heat. On pavement almost paid out. Ideally located for home or boarding or rooming house. Price \$7000. Can be handled with part cash balance payments. See owner, Ed H. Burke, Norman, Oklahoma

FOR SALE --- Two violins in perfect condition. 404 University Blvd.

FOR RENT ... Almost new 10 room house within two blocks of university campus. Phone 363.

WANTED ... Position as stenographer-bookkeeper. Experienced, best of reference. Call Miss Stewart, 695.

GENEALOGY REFRESHERS

I Sent Off a Search to the Courthouse — It Came Back “Not found.” Now What?

You’ve sent a request to the courthouse where you know an event took place. You’ve included the correct time frame and names, even though you don’t know the exact Volume and page number.

Shockingly, the courthouse returned the request with a notation “not found!”

What do you do next?

It is possible that the information you submitted was incorrect or incomplete, that the record was misfiled or filed elsewhere, or that it no longer exists. Try the following steps.

1. Double-check your information. Were the names spelled correctly? Was a woman’s maiden name provided when the record was most likely under her married name, or vice versa? Were any numbers in the date or other data transposed?

2. Find the volume and page number where the record was located. Some local genealogical societies have published indexes to court records. You can also check online sources such as FamilySearch, by searching the catalog for microfilmed indexes. Once you find an index, you may have to search it manually (i.e., page by page) to find the index entry for the record you are interested in. These indexes created by the court itself are usually handwritten, and entries are alphabetized by the first character of the last name, but may be random after that first letter, so you may have to search all of the entries for that letter.

3. Once you have a volume and page number, you can resubmit your request to the courthouse. Or you could check FamilySearch.org or the Family History Library in Salt Lake City for microfilmed court records.

4. Was there a courthouse disaster? Local research guides and genealogical societies can tell you if there was some disaster which

destroyed records. Find out exactly which records were involved, as some may have survived. You can also look for reconstructed records and other substitute sources.

5. Were the records misplaced or filed somewhere else? Local research guides and societies may be able to tell you this. Newspaper articles about the event might guide you in the right direction to finding the right location for the records.

6. Consider going to the courthouse yourself to search for the record. You are much more invested in obtaining the information than a clerk, so might be able to find it when the clerk does not. However, contact the courthouse before traveling to make sure that they will allow researchers access to the original records.

Paraphrased from “Quick Tips for Finding Your Ancestor’s Missing Courthouse Record” by Diane Haddad, on FamilyTreeMagazine.com

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/records/courthouse/genealogy-research-at-the-courthouse-when-your-ancestors-old-record-is-missing>, accessed 13 Aug 2021).

Have you lost touch with a relative who is also interested in genealogy?

Here’s one way to try to find them.

We had lost touch with an older relative, and wanted to reconnect with them.

Having taken a DNA test for Ancestry, 23 and Me, AND Family Tree, we had quite a few DNA relatives in the various tests.

Ancestry has a feature called “DNA Matches” which shows your projected relationship with others who have had DNA tests done through Ancestry, and who agreed to participate in the feature. You can send messages to those relations, if they have agreed to receive messages.

We were able to find a child of that relative by looking through the DNA relatives.

If you’re not sure of the names of children, you can build down on the family tree from the older relative using 1940 and earlier censuses, marriage indexes, birth indexes, public records, obituaries, etc.

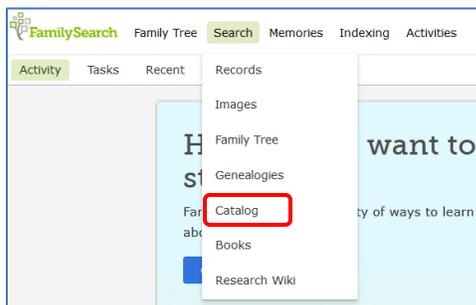
We haven’t heard back from the relative yet, but at least we have some way of contact!

How To Search the Catalog on FamilySearch

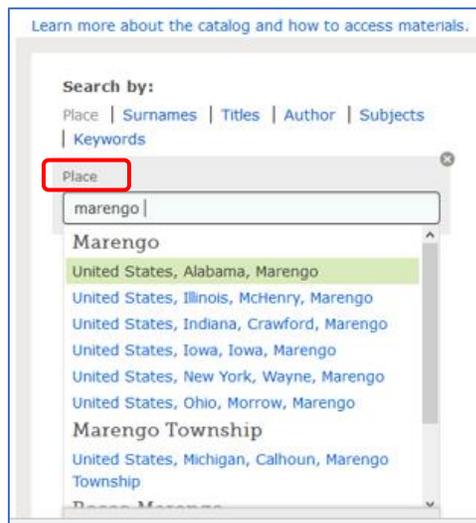
If you can't find what you're looking for in FamilySearch by using the search features, it might have been filmed, but not indexed yet, thus not findable through the search feature.

You may be able to find the record you need using the Catalog feature, then looking through the film like you would have looked through books in the county courthouse in the past.

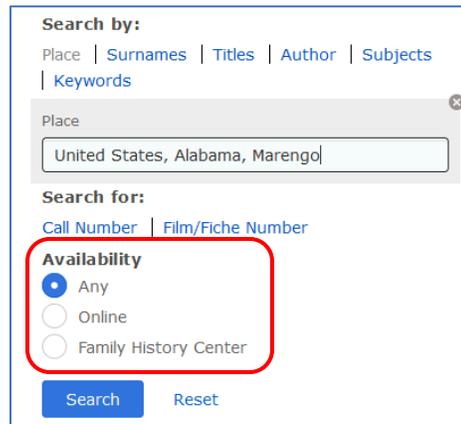
To search the Catalog, from the home page, click "Search" then click on "Catalog."



You can choose to search by Place, Surnames, Titles, Author, Subjects, or Keywords. Generally, searching by Place is best. To search by Place, make sure the search field shows "Place" above it, then start typing the location you want to search within. Suggestions will automatically be listed below the search field; click on the suggestion you want.



You can choose to search for only items available online, at a Family History Center, or any availability.



Click "Search."

You will see a list of types of records, all for the location you selected. Clicking the gray arrow next to each type will open a list of records of that type.



Clicking on the hyperlink for the record type will bring up a page showing information about that type of record. This page sometimes has helpful information about searching for information in the films, so be sure to read it. Generally, the entry will also tell you when the record set is available. A camera icon means it is available online. A camera icon with a key above it means the record set is available with restrictions – sometimes only at Family History Centers, sometimes at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
ORPHANS COURT					
Orphans' court, v. A-B 1820-1839	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1673471 Item 1	7737708	
Orphans' court, v. C-D 1840-1846	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1673471 Items 2-3	7737708	
Orphans' Court, v. E 1846-1850	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1673472 Item 1	7736045	
PROBATE COURT					
Probate court, v. F 1850-1855	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1673472 Item 2	7736045	
Probate court, v. G-H 1856-1864	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1673473 Items 1-2	7737709	
Probate court, v. J-K 1864-1867	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1673474 Items 1-2	7737710	
Probate court, v. L (p. 1-300) 1867-1868	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1673474 Item 3	7737710	
Probate court, v. L (p. 1-300) 1867-1868	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1673475		

Now that you've found the film, you still have to find the record! Remember that many records in courthouses had indexes at the front of the book. There were also index books that indexed multiple books.

Writing Memoir

by Dan Baxter

3 May 2012

A memoir is just what the name implies, a memory. It is not necessarily the only version of the truth or even the whole truth. It is your unique memory of events which you choose to share.

Memoirs usually are written for members of the family with the addition of a few close friends. Yes, memoirs are published, but they fall into a unique category, either written by a person who attracts great attention and curiosity or a participant in a significant historic event. A writer searching for that unique voice which conveys personality often finds that writing to a specific person shapes the telling of the narrative into its most interesting form. I knew from the first that I was writing for my grandchildren. (Curiosity about relatives seems to skip a generation. There often is very little interest by a son or daughter, but the grandchildren have many questions about the lives of their grandparents and beyond. One sage said, "Grandparents and grandchildren get along with each other because they have the same enemies.")

Anyone who is a part of history, such as a war, is urged not to let that memory die; but preserving everyday life is every bit as important. Things change, and the recording of that change can be as compelling a memoir

as the recounting of military experience. Write about the routine of your daily life, especially if that chore no longer is a part of life today. The record of how you did something as simple as washing clothes will help the reader to understand a little more about the times in which you lived. That understanding leads to appreciation.

The blank page is intimidating. One famous newspaper columnist said his method of writing was to stare at the page until blood began to appear. It should not be that difficult to write about your own life. Think of it as writing a letter to the future from the past. Consider writing as a bedtime story to your grandchildren. Include the parts that are entertaining and make the tale unique, but don't feel that you need to make it "high-sounding" or formal. That effort would force your memoir to be dry and boring. Breathe life into it by including the details of people involved or small peripheral events to the main thrust of the narrative.

From the first time members of my family read my own recounting of family memories, I was amazed to learn how poor my memory actually was. I wondered if I had early-onset Alzheimer's or I had been drinking for years and had begun to confabulate. I was told that events did not occur the way I told them, that my recollection was wrong, and that I didn't understand how or why a particular event occurred. Remember that your memories are just that—your memories. Our perception of the whole is affected by our unique perspective, just as the blind man's description of the elephant varied according to which part of the beast he touched. Write to preserve your own memory. You are not responsible for the memories and interpretation of any other person. If they want their memories preserved, they should write them down themselves.

As you approach the retelling of an event which involves information which could be privileged or embarrassing to someone else, consider how the others affected would feel if the tale is told. Books have been written on dealing with such dilemmas, and I would recommend that you avoid such areas unless

you seek their approval. You can tiptoe much closer to the edge of the cliff, however, if you use phrases such as, “my recollection is” or “I always thought” or “other people said” just as a reporter uses “alleged” or “police charged” when talking about a suspect in a crime. When in doubt, leave it out.

Write with a pen on legal pads, type on an old-fashioned typewriter, pound a computer keyboard, or even record your voice. If a large pencil and a Big Chief tablet get you going, do it that way. The method depends on how your brain connects to the recording medium and at what speed.

Writing memories involves truth-telling. It picks some scabs, but it also can soften old scars. It is an exercise in self-examination. It forces you to re-examine the events in your life and reach conclusions about your actions and feelings. It is a form of therapy and involves many of the same introspective demands. I have compared it to skinny-dipping with friends. You can choose how far you want to go. What you take from the experience depends on your attitude and how you participate.

Come on in. The water’s fine.

CCGS Family History Writer’s Group Memoirs

My Grandmother’s Cup

by Jane McPhail Harris

Tiny teacup

Looks like a tulip

Butterfly handle

Sits on the flower

Wide petaled saucer

Deep pink and white

My grandmother’s cup.

My Granddad McPhail was always the first one up in the mornings. He’d go to the kitchen, light the gas stove, and fix hot milk and coffee for my Grandmother.

Their bedroom was full of beds. Two full-sized beds pressed next to each other. When we visited, my sisters and I, he would move to the back bedroom and all the extra space would be filled with girls.

When the coffee was done, he would bring it in, enough for us all. How grownup we felt

getting to drink hot honeyed café au lait out of the tiny teacups of my Grandmother’s collection. I realize now that mostly we had hot milk flavored with honey and a touch of coffee. What fun we had deciding which cup to use! Shall I pick the tiny yellow one or its matching green sister? Or the Oriental Lady in the cup with the dragon handle? She was fun to drink out of because when you finished your drink, she looked up from the bottom of the cup — magic, we thought.

When my Grandmother died, we all got to choose a cup and saucer. I chose the tulip cup with the butterfly handle. It makes me think of those mornings with my Grandparents McPhail and how good the hot honeyed café au lait tasted while we pretended we were elegant French ladies who drank from their cups with crook’d little fingers.

Several years ago, I found an Oriental Lady cup, no saucer, at an estate sale near campus. Who needs the saucer? I like the Oriental Lady. Even though she wasn’t my Grandmother’s, she reminds me of her.

I don’t have many cups and saucers so can’t really say I collect them. If I see one that reminds me of my Grandmother, I get it, which is how I came to own the red cabbage rose teacup and saucer.

I don’t use them; maybe I should. I wonder if I can make hot honeyed café au lait that tastes as good as Grandad’s?

September 1989

I have a granddaughter now. Every Christmas since Parker was born, I have given her a beautiful teacup. She just turned three years old so she isn’t really big enough to handle glass items very well. I include a note to her telling her how special she is to me. Christmas 2020 when she opened her teacup present, she promptly went over to my china cabinet and insisted that her teacup be placed alongside mine. She and her big brother, Sawyer, love to look through the windows of the hutch at my collection of teacups. Yes, now you can say that I collect teacups and saucers. Some from estate sales. Some I purchased on trips to England and Scotland. One even from Harrod’s Department Store.

August 2021

First Date with Bill

by Mary Lewis

Sometime in the last half of April or the first part of May in 1954, Bill Lewis called and asked me to go out with him to a movie on the coming Friday or Saturday night, and I accepted.

At the appointed time, Bill showed up at my dorm on the back side of the Quadrangle housing for girls at OU. I came down to the lobby wearing a dressy dress, heels and hose—typical movie-date garb for that day. Bill escorted me out to his car, put the car in gear and began driving us to the movie. Whether it was in Norman or Oklahoma City, I do not remember. I only remember that we did not attend a movie that night.

Once on our way, Bill asked a get-acquainted question. I replied that I grew up in Fletcher. “Oh,” he said, “you might have known Harley Littlefield.”

“Did I ever know Harley!” I recalled. “He sat behind me in fifth grade and spent all his time pulling my hair and otherwise annoying me, trying to get me in trouble with the teacher!” Harley’s dad, George Littlefield, had been a banker at Fletcher. They moved after that fifth grade year, to Cement, and then quickly to Maysville. Mr. Littlefield later spent many years in the bank at Eldorado.

“You couldn’t have been in the same class as Harley. He was my age and in my class at Maysville,” Bill observed.

“Oh, but I was!” I verified, and told him of the three years I spent home in bed battling tuberculosis. He, Harley and I were all of the same age.

Now, that story was not one I usually threw at fellows on the very first date; it would scare most of them off. Not Bill. His dad had experienced similar illness and had part of a lung removed while Bill was in the service during the Korean conflict.

Before we even pulled out onto Lindsay Street, Bill had decided we should do something that would help us get acquainted, suggesting we play miniature golf instead.

Looking at my high heels, I said, “Fine. But first let’s go back to the dorm and let me change into some more appropriate clothing.” Bill wheeled the car around to the front door of my dorm.

I came downstairs again, this time wearing jeans, ankle socks and sneakers. And we went miniature golfing. I don’t recall our conversations that night, only that it was easy-going and I felt comfortable with Bill. He did learn that I am not very coordinated and made a poor golfer, even of the miniature variety.

It was toward the end of the school year. I was practice teaching, and I suppose I had extra pressure in that area. Bill was ending his very first year of teaching, and I can well imagine the extent of tasks he faced. To make a long story short, the school year ended and he had not asked me for another date.

Oh, well, I’ll be going to summer school. And that is another story.

My Introduction to Gardening

by Mary Lewis

I was a little girl, maybe as much as six years old.

Daddy plowed the garden spot in late winter. Then Mother began planting seeds, according to Nature’s schedule.

The plants came up in their neat little rows. As the plants grew, my parents thinned the rows, allowing the healthiest plants to grow.

Weeds grew, too. My parents hoed out the weeds. I watched it all. I wanted to be part of this adventure of growing something from almost nothing.

I was given a job. “Pull the weeds out of the tomato row,” they said.

I pulled and I pulled, and the weeds were all gone.

Mother looked at my work. “Oh, no!” she said. “You have pulled all the tomatoes and left all the ragweeds in the row.”

It was a long time before I pulled weeds in our garden again.

Cleveland County Genealogical Society

OUR MISSION

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

To preserve... selected local public records

To promote... the development of research skills

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