

CLEVELAND COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER INCLUDING McCLAIN COUNTY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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October-December 2004

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CLEVELAND COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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NORMAN, OK

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NORMAN, OK 73070

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(405) 701-2100

WEB: www.rootsweb.com/~okccogs
Email: ccgs@csbi.org

Hours: Tuesday 1:00-5:00p.m.
Thursday 1:00-5:00p.m.
Saturday 1:00-5:00p.m.

Meetings: 7:00 p.m., 3rd Tuesday of each month in Conference Room C, near CCGS Library, in CSBI Building

Membership: January 1-December 31.	
Individual Dues	\$15 per year
Family	\$18
Library Sponsor	\$30
Corporate Associate	\$40
Corporate Sponsor	\$100

The number of visitors to our library increased from 56 in September to 78 in October. This increase primarily reflects our new practice of including volunteers in the count.

We are always glad to see new and old friends in our new facility. We are improving the signage and the directions for finding us as we learn how. We will soon have one handicapped parking space and one space reserved for CCGS Library in the lot nearest to our door.

In this issue, you will see a variety of ways in which we all can help to further the cause of our Society.

In the last quarter, we received a record number of books and materials for our library by donation. We are making a greater effort to keep track of donated hours. We are also learning about the value of donations in kind (goods, materials, and skills) by Board and committee members to support a variety of projects for the Society.

This is the time of year we think about income of all kinds for the Society. It is time to contribute our dues for 2005. CCGS Membership dues will remain the same for 2005 and are listed in the box at left.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Jo Mustoe

Plans for our Garage Sale fundraiser are also underway. It's time to begin to identify no-longer-needed items at your house that would make good garage sale items.

We want to encourage any member to solicit support from a friend or a business which might be interested in the advertising value of a Corporate membership. Our Corporate supporters are mentioned in each newsletter and seminar handout, as well as in our Society Brochure, which we supply to area libraries. In addition, Corporate members are recognized on a brass plaque in our library.

More importantly, we appreciate the continued support of our membership. You are the people who understand the value of Society membership.

Your contributions — your dues, your donations, your time — mean we can continue our service to the membership and to the community. Thank you.



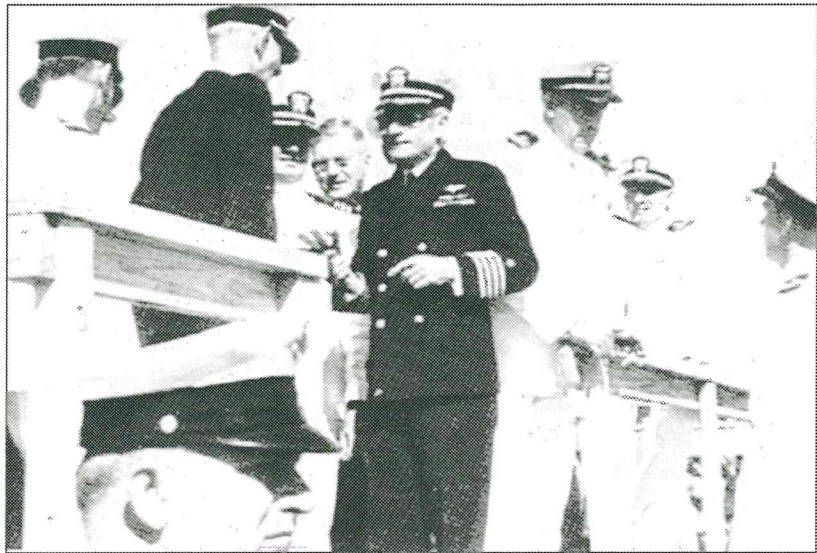
The Navy Comes to Norman

In January, 1942, a University of Oklahoma official, on a routine business trip to New York City, could never have guessed the key role he would play in events that changed Norman and the university forever.

Savoie Lottinville, director of the University of Oklahoma Press, engaged in conversation with his seatmate, a Navy captain, as their flight headed toward New York City. Lottinville boasted of the University's new airport north of town.

The Navy officer asked if the university might consider loaning the airport to the Navy for the duration of the war. Lottinville reported the conversation to University president Joseph Brandt. Talks began between the University and the Navy, and the rest is history.

At Max Westheimer Field, the Navy developed the Navy Flight Training Center (NFTC). Seeing the need for a nearby mechanics training center, the Navy purchased a large tract of land south of Lindsey. Here, barracks, shops, a hospital and an administration building were constructed for training 20,000 at the Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC). The two bases quickly became known as "North Base" and "South Base."



Commissioning Day exercises in September 1942, Norman's Naval Training Center was represented by Capt. (later Adm) A. C. Read. Lt. Cmdr. Norman S. Gallison was the first commanding officer of the station.

Norman's Navy Bases

January 1942 Savoie Lottinville, director of University of Oklahoma Press, learns of Navy interest in leasing OU's new airport for the duration of the war.

Spring 1942 Government purchased additional land adjoining Westheimer to total 1500 acres. Later, a large tract of land was purchased south of the University to house a mechanics training center.

July 1942 Naval Flight Training Center in operation, with 1200 cadets expected by September 1.

November 15, 1942 U.S. Naval Hospital opens on South Base.

November 1944 More than 330 war casualties are brought for treatment at the naval hospital.

March 1, 1946 Navy announces closing of the North Base (NFTC)

May 26, 1946 O.U. begins acquiring title to North Base. Navy retains nominal control of South Base. There are some 200 buildings on 2,200 acres, with a total value of about \$25 million.

January 15, 1952 South Base reactivated at the outbreak of the Korean War.

May 5, 1952 First class of Airman Preparatory School begins with 387 men.

January, 1955 About 3700 men stationed on South Base.

1959 Government declares South Base surplus property.

February 28, 1961 OU receives deed for water supply on North Base.

City of Norman obtains the drill field east of Jenkins Avenue (now Reaves Park).

Government holds remaining land on South Base for later sale for industrial development.

CLEVELAND COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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60 Years Ago . . .***The Bullhorn***

(published for the personnel of Naval Air Technical Training Center, Norman, Okla.)

9 November, 1944

Station Plans Huge Christmas Party For Orphans

Big plans are afoot for Christmas at NATTC. True to the tradition of the Navy, the station will entertain approximately 500 orphans from the Oklahoma City-Norman area.

The kiddies will come aboard for a huge Christmas-tree party, arranged by the Welfare, Public Relations and Chaplain's Departments, in Bldg. 92. There they will receive from Santa Claus himself individual gifts purchased with funds provided by the personnel of the station. Methods for collecting these funds will be announced at a later date.

There is never any obligation attached to this enterprise, but if last year is any indication, Oklahoma's orphans will never need to worry while the Navy's around. The donation bag last year was open for contributions for three days and in that time over \$6000 had been given.

21 December 1944

10¢ Oklahoma Theater 25¢
Fri. And Sat., Dec. 22-23
"Beyond the Blue Horizon"
Dorothy Lamour

Total Pearl Harbor Day Cash

War Bond sales soared far above all previous drives here last week when station personnel went all-out in the anniversary drive, buying \$166,525 in bonds. . . . Sales were higher than anticipated, particularly in the Series 'E' bonds, which form the backbone of these war bond drives. . . .

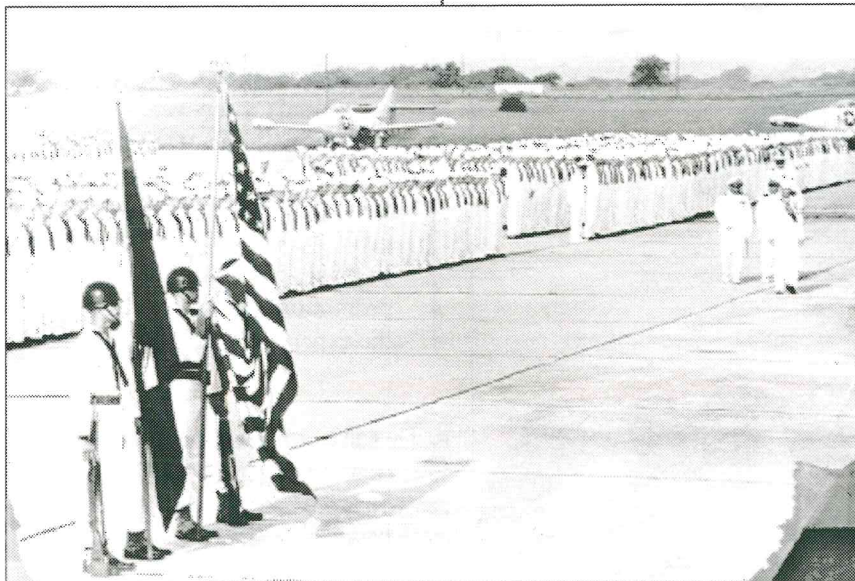
Another surprise of the Pearl Harbor Day sales this year was the number of purchasers of \$1000 bond. Expecting only 25 such purchases at the outside, the total number of members of the "1000 Dollar Club" here reached 29.

....

The Spinning Wheel Tea Room
775 Asp Tel 3070
Cordially welcomes you and your
friends to enjoy good food,
carefully prepared,
hospitably served.
60¢ - \$1.75
Luncheon Served 12-2
Dinner Served 5-8
Mrs. Eula Hollingsworth

....

Apprentice Airmen line up for inspection each Saturday morning at the NATTC. Photo taken 8-16-58, courtesy of the *Norman Transcript*.



Station Adlets

AVAILABLE — One-way furlough train ticket from Oklahoma City to Birmingham, Alabama. Call Martha Yeoman, SK2e, extension 536,

LOST — Gold ID bracelet. Ruth on front, Maurine on back. Believed lost around interurban station. Call Ruth Mitchell, 334. Return to the Chief MAA.

FOUND — A sum of money was found in a locker in Pool 27, 3 November. Owner may claim by reporting to the Chief MAA, Bldg. 4.

21 December 1944

Norman Residents Revive Sailor's Belief in Santa

A little short of funds with which to buy his family Christmas presents, Severino Pallotta, AMM Class 12B, decided it would be an excellent idea if he could get a part-time job to earn the money so desperately needed.

He went to the Norman Post Office and explained to Mrs. Myrtle Lee Autrey, Post Mistress, his desire to work there. He wanted to earn enough money to send his wife and three children, Marie, Letty, and Sol, who live in Brooklyn, some Christmas gifts to cheer them up, as he would be unable to be home with them this year.

Mrs. Autrey listened to Severino's story, but informed him that Navy regulations prohibit Navy personnel from working off the station, except in special cases. Severino had counted on getting this job; it would have taken care of everything. Now his hopes had been dashed.

Pallotta's story had left quite an impression with Mrs. Autrey. A few days later she phoned Severino to come down to the post office. When he arrived, a whole armful of packages was waiting for him with the best wishes of the entire staff. Laden with Christmas gifts for his family, Pallotta could scarcely express his thanks. Don't ever tell him there's no Santa Claus.

Navy Personnel are Reminded of Ceiling Prices

Naval personnel of this station are advised that there are certain OPA regulations covering the sale of such articles as used cars and refrigerators among private parties. The following announcement comes from the Cleveland County Price Panel and is directed to the Personnel of this activity:

"The War Price and Rationing Board would like to call your attention to the fact that there is a ceiling at which individuals can sell used cars or refrigerators. If sale is made above this ceiling, both the seller and the buyer are liable to the penalties provided by the law. Information as to ceiling prices may be obtained from the Price Clerk at the Rationing Office: phone number 185."

Tulsa Paper Covers Norman Rent Story

[Editors Note: This article has been cut as it was quite lengthy.]

Joe Howell, capital correspondent for the Tulsa Tribune, last week visited Norman and spent his time interviewing local people. A few days later, his paper carried a front page story on the rent situation here. The article is reproduced . . . in the *Bullhorn* . . .

Norman, Dec. 21.

A war time drama is being enacted in this Navy personnel-congested community like nothing of which General Sherman ever dreamed.

Goaded by repeated and insistent demands from tough, blunt spoken Capt. V. C. Griffin, commanding officer at the Naval Air Technical Training Center south of town ... OPA has begun wholesale filing of rent violation suits against landlords of Captain Griffin's navy men and their families. Civic leaders, ministers, college professors, church workers, and naval officers have been among the defendants who may ultimately total 1,600 or more if OPA agrees with Captain Griffin's understanding of the rent control law.

Location of ... the naval base .. brought to Norman, a peace-time city of 10,000, two or three times as many sailors, and thousands of wives, many either pregnant or with one or more small children. To accommodate the war families, Norman has become a city of one and two room apartments ... many of the rooms rented have never been registered with the OPA.

Norman householders have long made a business of renting rooms to university students, and these rooms, too, have been filled with Navy wives. . . .The navy surveys showed sailors paying \$45 to \$60 a month

Captain V. C. Griffin, USN, Commanding Officer at the NATTC



for rooms college students rented for from \$7 to \$10 in March, 1942, the rent freeze date. . . .

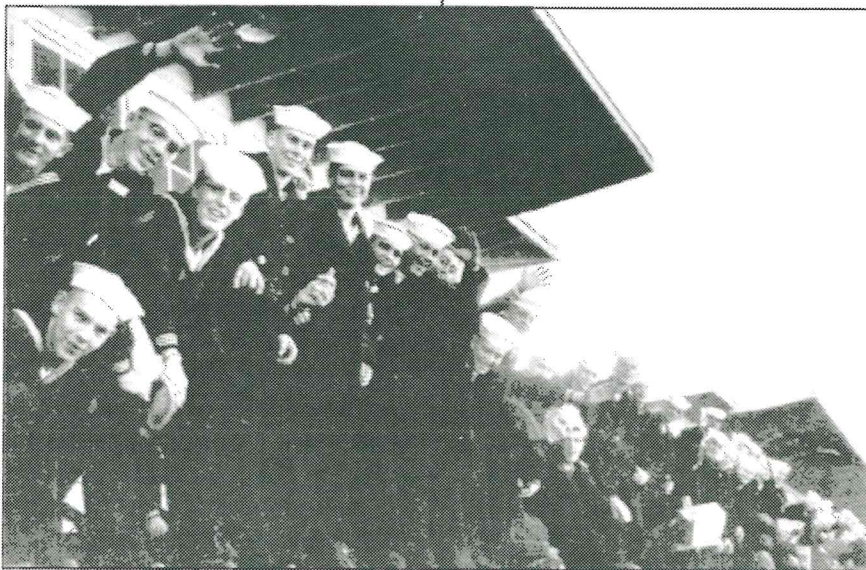
Navy reports told of wives working specified hours in addition to paying ceiling rents, and of charges of 15 cents an hour for ironing and 50 cents an hour for washing. One man said it cost him 50 cents extra each night he spent with his wife.

The rates are serious business to Griffin because the average sailor at the base is a seaman, second class, whose pay before deductions is \$54 a month—and after deductions is \$31.25 a month out of which he must pay for cleaning and laundry.

The sailor's wife draws \$50 a month if childless, \$80 if she has one child, \$100 if she has two. Rents of \$45 to \$60 a month leave little for food and other necessities out of such incomes, Griffin points out.

Foster opened the old Masonic dormitory as a hotel in June ... Navy rent investigators felt daily rates of \$2 for one, \$2.50 for two, \$3 for three and \$4 for four and a monthly rate of \$45 was too much for rooms students rented for \$7.50 to \$10 a month only a few years back. . . .

Griffin . . . [also] tangled with city officials over the water supply and transportation, finally quit attending civic clubs whose members' interest in him, he felt, was limited to promotions for their own benefit at the expense of the U.S. government.



Part of 500 who greeted the *Santa Special*, a 12-car train arriving at the NATTC north base. They are headed home for Christmas, many having completed training. Photo courtesy of the *Norman Transcript*.

Around & About

Washington State Archives

Known as the Washington State Digital Archives, the government project is online at:

<http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/>

Visitors to the site can see returns from the first election in Washington Territory in 1854 and census records from 1847 to 1892. Also available are some historical prison records and a list of the bodies moved from McNeil Island and buried in other cemeteries in 1937 and 1938.

The only modern data on the site currently are recent marriage records from Chelan, Snohomish and Spokane counties. Other county records, including property information, will be added later, according to officials.

The archives' digital storage system, which could eventually grow to 800 terabytes — the equivalent of 200 billion pages of text — was developed by Microsoft and EDS (Electronic Data Systems).

Restricting Our Access to Records

The U.S. House of Representatives is considering a bill, House Resolution 10 (H.R. 10), which seeks to restrict access to birth certificates.

David Rencher, chairman of the Record Access and Preservation Committee, a joint committee of the National Genealogical Society and Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), has sent a letter to the bill's sponsor, Congressman J. Dennis Hastert, recommending an amendment to the bill that make a distinction between certified and non-certified copies and excludes records more than 100 years old. A copy of the letter is available on the FGS site at: <http://www.fgs.org/rpa/formalactions.htm>. To view this bill, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov/> Enter HR10 in the search box for "Bill Number."

Concerned U.S. family historians who wish to contact their congressional representative can go to: <http://www.house.gov/> and enter their zip code. Follow the link to the representative's website to

obtain his/her contact information (Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 13 October 2004, Vol. 7, No. 41.)

Digital Images of English Wills Online

The National Archives in London has now made over 1 million wills available online at

www.DocumentsOnline.pro.gov.uk.

DocumentsOnline contains digital images of the probate copies of wills spanning the years 1384 to 1858. Putting these wills online is part of an ongoing drive by The National Archives in London to give worldwide access to its vast collection of records. With DocumentsOnline, Internet users can search and download digital images of the wills and other original documents for a small fee.

DocumentsOnline is a growing project and new records are being added all the time. It will be interesting to see what becomes available in the future.

In the Library

Tips on preserving the old letters that provide historical insight into our past. *The Western Plainsman*. (Weatherford Oklahoma) Vol. 19, No. 4, Summer 2004.

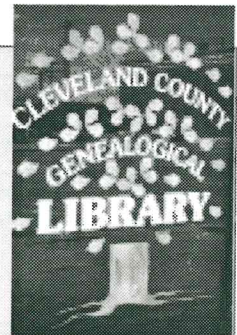
Leaving a legacy—what will become of your family history collection? Here's a suggested codicil to one's will. *Footsteps*. (Stephens County Genealogical Society) Vol. 19, No. 2, April-June 2004.

If your ancestor served in a State Militia and was not mustered in to the service of the Continental, Federal, or Confederate governments, their service records, if available, are in STATE custody. Here's a list of State Archives that have militia records. *Tree-Searchers Quarterly* (Mayes County, Oklahoma) Vol XVI, No. 2, Summer 2004.

Holdings of the Oklahoma Civil War Veterans Archives have been donated to the Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, Genealogical Society. The publications will soon be available for research. For more information, contact Broken Arrow Genealogical Society. *Green County Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. 1, Spring 2004.

The Ghost County of Swanson, Oklahoma's short-lived 77th county. *Kiowa County Genealogical Society Newsletter*, Vol. 11, No. 2, May 2004.

Detailed instructions for finding and retrieving World War II enlistment records online. *GRIVA News and Notes*, Vol. XXV, No. 1, September 2004



**CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
INDEX TO PROBATES
1890 - 1928**

PACKET No.	NAME	FILING DATE	DATE OF DEATH	WILL	HEIRS AND OTHER INFORMATION
124	Kelly, James S.	21 Feb 1905	19 Feb 1905		Widow: Mary E. Kelly Chn: Catherine, Tressa, James, Joseph, John, Gertrude & Edward Kelly
35	Kelton, T. W.	23 Jun 1894	16 Oct 1892		Son & Adm: H. C. Kelton Mother: C. M. Kelton
111	Kenady, Elgin E.	19 Aug 1904	08 Jul 1904		Widow: Sarah J. Kenady
UN-G	Kendall, Lewis C.	05 Apr 1895			Minors: Anna L. & Clyde R. Kendall
354	Kennedy, Cornelius	07 Jun 1913	27 Dec 1912		Widow & Adm: Julia Kennedy
172	Kennedy, John	14 Feb 1907	08 Feb 1907		Parents: Cornelius & Julia Kennedy
864	Kennedy, Oliver J.	22 Mar 1927	17 Aug 1926		Widow: Arlesa Kennedy Sons: Dennis F., Thomas O., Fred, Oliver J., Emory, Eugene & Jack Kennedy Daus: Ruth Cox, Ollie Valentine, Miriam & June Kennedy
367	Kent, Edwin B.	28 May 1914	23 May 1914		Sons: Edwin M. (Adm) & Robert E. Kent
217	Kent, William J.	01 Oct 1908	24 Sep 1908	Y	Bro & Adm: Edwin Burgess Kent
99-L 99	Kershaw, E. L.	14 Aug 1920			File Missing
101-G-L 101	Kershaw, E. L.	02 Oct 1920			Related to Packets #99 & #100 Minors: Robert Henry, Leroy & Maudie Kershaw
100-L 100	Kershaw, Loisa	02 Oct 1920			File Missing
123	Kidd, Edgar	25 Jan 1905	23 Jan 1905	Y	Widow: Della Kidd Son: Bruce M. Kidd
71-L 71	Kienlen, John F.	16 Oct 1915	02 Oct 1915	Y	Widow: Margaret A. Kienlen
861	Kimball, John M.	21 Jul 1936			File Incomplete
180-1/2	Kinsey, William	11 Aug 1906			File Incomplete
655	Kitchen, George D. Kitchen, Matilda A.	12 Mar 1923	15 Feb 1904 08 Feb 1921	(H) (W)	Adm: William A. Kitchen Sons: R. G., L. R., William Claud & George D. Kitchen Daus: Scharlotte McLennan & Maud E. Kitchen
765	Klugas, Fred W.	29 Oct 1925	07 Aug 1925	Y	Heir & Adm: Augusta Klugas
279	Knapke, Henry	12 Jan 1911	Prior to 06 Oct 1906	Y	Died in Mercer County, OH Widow: Mary Knapke
301	Koepke, F. J.	02 Oct 1911	23 Sep 1911		Widow: Alvina Koepke Minors: Boyd & Edna Koepka
166	Kramer, Clemens	28 Nov 1906	06 Nov 1906	Y	Widow: Elizabeth Kramer Schuetz Sons: John L., Herman, Henry & Frank Kramer Daus: Rosa, Katie & Annie Kramer
8	Krohmer, Samuel	18 Dec 1900	13 Dec 1900		Dau: Lena Krohmer Hulse (17) Minors: William (8) & Johnie Krohmer (5)
325	Kuhlman, Frederick	12 Jun 1912	07 Jun 1912		Widow: Caroline Kuhlman

PACKET No.	NAME	FILING DATE	DATE OF DEATH	WILL	HEIRS AND OTHER INFORMATION
478	Kutter, Elizabeth	12 Sep 1918		Y	Widower: Charles Kutter Daus: Maugereite Marie & Patricia Ruth Kutter Son: Carl Gustave Kutter Bro & Exec: William Moroney
820	Kysela, Frank	16 Oct 1926	07 Oct 1926	Y	Son & Adm: Joy Kysela Written in Bohemian Language
54	Langford, Benjamin C.	03 Apr 1902	11 Feb 1902		Widow: Martha E. Langford
665	Langford, William Mathew	19 Apr 1923	14 Apr 1923	Y	Widow: Lois M. Langford Cecil T. Langford, Dorothea Badger & Earl A. Langford
339	Lankford, J. L.	20 Nov 1912	17 Nov 1912		No Heirs Noted
72-L 72	Lappin, James	23 Oct 1915	20 Oct 1915	Y	Dau: Fannie Carman
449	Larason, Charles	06 Aug 1917	16 May 1917		Son & Adm: M. H. Larason
275	Larsh, Nellie	09 Nov 1910	01 Nov 1910	Y	Son: H. S. Singleton Former Husband: D. L. Larsh
67-G-L 67	Lasiter, Ina Lawson	10 Jul 1915			Minors: Sidney Murle, Irean & Pauline Lasiter
408	Lassiter, William R.	10 Jan 1916	27 Aug 1914	Lost Will	Widow: Mary W. Lassiter 3 Minor & 7 Adult Chn
UN	Latridge, James	10 Jan 1899	07 Jan 1899		Adm: S. M. Rosenbaun
651	Lawrence, Ruth B.	16 Feb 1923	15 Oct 1920		Widower: Layerwood Lawrence Sons: Elmer & Walter C. Lawrence Daus: Ruth Sanders, Myrtle Petty Dow, Ray L. Lawrence, Minnie A. Watson & Ethel G. Waldon
76-L 76	Lawson, L. O.	24 Feb 1917	21 Feb 1917	Y	Daus: Willie Mallow (decd) & Oragon Lawson
20-L 41	Lawson, William	22 Mar 1913	08 Jun 1908		See also Packet #20-L 77 Widow: L. O. Lawson
20-L 41-77	Lawson, William	22 Mar 1913	08 Jun 1908		Also Numbered 41 - Same Estate Widow: L. O. Lawson
152	Leach, Bettie B.	05 Apr 1906	19 Oct 1905		Chn: Leonard (24) & Paul Simms (22), Eunice P. (12) & Lula M. Leach (6)
150	Leach, Lewis E.	16 Mar 1906	12 Mar 1906		Bro & Adm: Joseph E. Leach Minors: Eunice P., Lulu M. & Lewis E. Leach, Jr. (decd)
265	Leach, Robert E.	04 May 1910	22 Apr 1910		Widow: Mary E. Leach
790	Lee, J. G.	26 Feb 1926	28 Jun 1921		Widow & Adm: S. A. Lee
56	Lee, Minerva A.	18 Apr 1902	05 Dec 1901		Heir: Emma Downing
613	Lee, Sam E.	11 Feb 1922	27 Oct 1921		Father: John E. Lee
666	Lefer, Celeste	25 Apr 1923	19 Mar 1923	Y	Heir & Adm: Gaston P. Lefer
341	Leffler, Mary P.	05 Dec 1912	10 Nov 1912		Son & Co-Exec: Benjamin C. Leffler Dau & Co-Exec: Ida C. Leffler Cook
95-L 95	LeGrand, James H.	04 Jun 1920	08 Apr 1920	Y	
760	Leslie, W. A.	21 Sep 1925	13 Sep 1925	Y	Widow: Louisa Leslie Son: John Leslie Daus: Mary LaDeau, Luella Childs

Editor's Note: Information given on each record includes the packet number, name, filing date, date of death, will heirs, and other information. Many of these cases contain a great deal of information concerning relationships of heirs, guardianships, property descriptions, assets, liabilities, and debts due. Copies of each probate packet are available from CCGS.

CCGS News

News From The Board

Our treasurer, Ray Mills, reports the total cost of moving the CCGS library in July was \$980.98. The board is positioning our society to be able to qualify for grants.

Granting organizations, we discover, look more favorably on organizations whose leaders give generous financial support to their organization. For groups like ours, whose members are not wealthy, we have learned that grant-makers see donations of time as an acceptable substitute for cash.

Therefore, CCGS board members are documenting time they spend on society activities. A total of 991 volunteer hours were reported by five board members during July, August, September, and October. (Almost half of those hours were put in during our move this past summer.)

These cumulative hours of service to CCGS will be cited when we submit grant applications.

We know that several society members, who do not serve on the board, also contribute many hours to further the mission of our Society. We recognize your effort and thank you.

Deaths

William "Bill" Rockwood Grant, the son of Delfar and Marion Grant, died October 16.

Martha Sneed's mother, Frankie Lucille Mann Corn, died October 31, 2004.

Garage Sale

It's not too soon to begin collecting the toys, household items, electric appliances, and tools you want to donate to our Garage Sale. The event will be held Saturday, April 2nd from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the east end of the Fairgrounds Arena. This building is behind the Fairgrounds Building on Robinson Street; at the back of the parking lot.

In the past, the Cleveland County Historical Society managed this event, but they decided not to continue it this year. We have taken responsibility for this project, which benefits Norman non-profit organizations such as ours.

We are currently making an effort to contact any non-profit agency which might be interested in raising funds in this manner. We can use your ideas and your connections to invite as many organizations as possible to participate. Call the CCGS Library during library hours: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. or leave a message on voice mail.

Most of us look forward to this fund-raiser each year as a way to clear out a little space in our homes, garages, and sheds. We also count on this event to raise a good part of our Society's funds for the year. By serving as the managing agency, we can generate a substantial increase to our annual income.

April is also the beginning of the Farm Market season, which should add to the number of shoppers for our event.

Let us know if you'd like to offer a helping hand for any part of our project.

Finance Committee

The CCGS Finance Committee was recently reorganized as an oversight Committee for three areas of the Society's financial activities.

Members from this Committee will focus separately on improving our financial reporting, developing and organizing our fund raising activities, and seeking as well as preparing grant applications. A chairman and sub-committee chairs have not yet been named.

This committee would welcome new members to help in these areas. To volunteer, talk to Jo Mustoe, Sharron Owens, or Ann Jacobs about your interest.

Our improvement in each of these areas will make us a stronger and more effective organization.

Society Meetings

September

We met in Conference Room A at the north end of the Community Service Building for our fall social, with 19 members and three guests attending. Everyone shared a recent genealogical adventure.

October

Again we met in Conference Room A. Molly Jameson outlined the useful land records we will find in court houses. We had a full house, with 25 members and eight guests.

November

Sixteen members and six guests braved a rainy evening to hear O.T. McCall reminisce about growing up in Norman.

Library Receives Private Genealogical Collection

The family of Chris and Margaret McLaughlin recently donated 93 genealogical books to the CCGS Library.

Some of the subjects include Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New York, and Ireland. Our volunteer cataloger, Dana Tuley-Williams, will be processing the books as quickly as she has time.

The McLaughlins are long-time CCGS members. Chris died some time ago, and Margaret is now in a nursing home.

We thank the McLaughlin family for this significant addition to our genealogy collection.

For Sale

Index to *A Pictorial History of Norman and Cleveland County* (published 1995 by the Norman Transcript) has been created by a member of our society. Available for \$1.50 at the CCGS Library.

Things We Need

More Library Volunteers

People to enter Marriage data into a spreadsheet file (Microsoft Works or Excel)

Someone to create a simple database for indexing records

Please let Jo know where you can help!

Open House

As part of the events scheduled in October in recognition of Family History Month, we held an Open House at our new Library location.

Four special displays focused on early Norman families. Nova Hornback, Mary Lewis, Jo Mustoe, and Julia Mills created exhibits on Abner Norman, John Frank of the Frankoma Pottery Company, John Deihm, and Vince Gill.

A small but enthusiastic crowd enjoyed punch and goodies on Sunday, October 17, and toured the library and the archives

Library Acquisitions

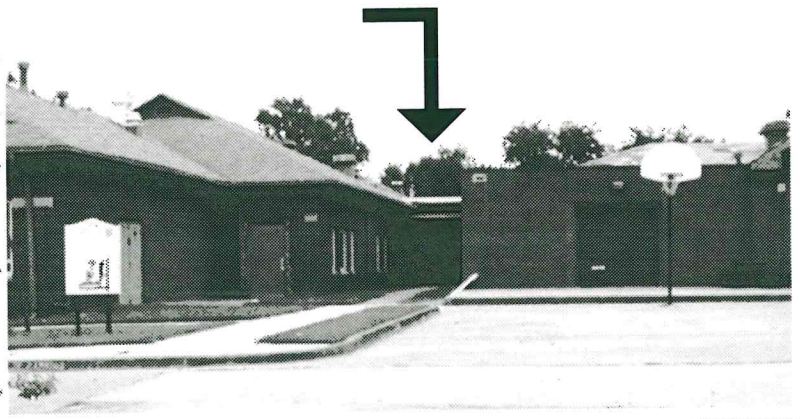
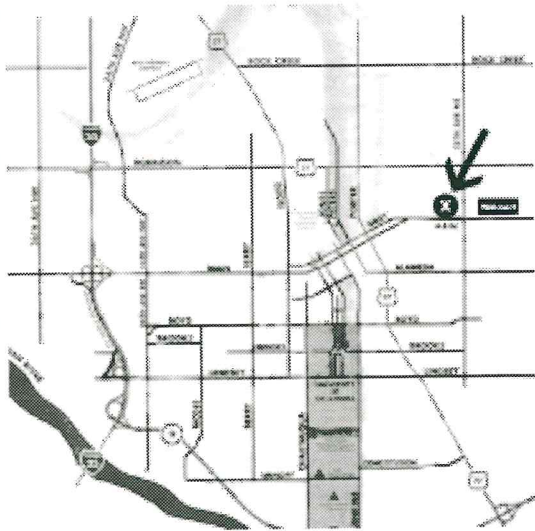
The Cleveland County Court Clerk recently allowed us to create CDs of marriage license books in Cleveland county from 1889 through 2001.

We want to create a master index from the index pages for each volume. Volunteers are needed to implement this project. The first phase will involve printing the index pages from each CD, at our library. Later phases can be done on the computer at home, using a spreadsheet program.

Let us know if you would like to help.

We've Moved! The CCGS Library now has new quarters in the CSBI Building, formerly the old Veterans Center in Norman: 1119 East Main.

How to get there? Follow the map to the turn off (parking lot) on north side of Main Street as shown in map. Immediately turn left towards the building on the west end. You'll see a basketball goal and a sign — the entry to CCGS is between these two..



Norman's Pioneer Families: The Shears Family

Our late friend, Mildred Shears Schuster, was a third-generation link to a pioneer Norman family. Her grandfather, George Newman Shears, brought his family to Norman in August 1889. At this date, town lots were still available almost anywhere between Daws and the present Acers Streets. He filed on two lots at 109 East Daws for 75 cents.

George Shears quickly built a one-room house, which now comprises the dining room of the house Mildred lived in for most of her life. By winter he added another room. This was the first house built north of Main Street.

George Shears was born January 2, 1832. He married Charlotte Fidelia Storrs, who was born August 29, 1843, in Wilson, New York

Mr. Shears fought in the Civil War. He mustered in October 14, 1861 to Battery M, First Regiment, New York Light Artillery. He was in a number of engagements, including Antietam, Maryland; Chancellorsville, Pennsylvania; and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He was discharged October 13, 1864.

George Shears was a boat builder and a cabinet maker. After the war, he moved with his family to Nebraska, where they lived seven years. Later, he went to Hot Springs, Arkansas, for treatment of his war wounds. The family travelled in a

covered wagon, spending a year and a half on the road between Marquette, Nebraska and Norman. They are said to have stopped at Springfield, Missouri for several months. They lived out of the wagon during this time, then out of a tent.

In Norman, George Shears worked as a carpenter and cabinet builder for a dollar a day. He also worked on building the Seawell Opera House at 109 E. Main for \$1.50 per day. He was a member of the G.A.R. and I.O.O.F.

George Newman Shears died in Norman September 29, 1903, and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Wilson, New York, October 4, 1903. His widow continued living in Norman until her death January 5, 1930. She also was buried in Wilson, New York.

Mildred Schuster's father, Charles Irving Shears, was the fifth child of George and Charlotte Shears. He was born September 8, 1878, in Wilson, New York, and married Norma Keswater January 2, 1908, in Norman.

It is reported that, about the time of statehood, Charles Shears had a jitney lunch place on Main Street. Here one could get a sandwich, drink, or pastry for a nickel. Ham and eggs was twenty cents, while a roast beef, pork or ham hot lunch could be had for fifteen cents.

Charles Irving Shears was for many years desk sergeant for the

Bits & Pieces

A list of early Tennessee county records that can be borrowed on interlibrary loan from Tennessee State Library and Archives. <www.state.tn.us/sos/statelib/pubsvs/ill-list>

World War II enlistment records for 9 million soldiers and 130,000 WAAC members. Officers or members of other military branches are not included in this National Archives database .

<www.archives.gov/aad>

Nationwide Gravesite Locator is a database of more than 3 million burial records from 120 national cemeteries administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. <www.cem.va.gov>

Explore this genealogical information directory by surname and U.S. localities. Currently features more than 1,045,631 links to web sites. <<http://www.linkpendium.com/>>

Norman Police Department. He died July 23, 1942, at the age of 64.

An older son of George and Charlotte Shears was James Henry Shears. For many years, James Shears was advance agent for traveling tent shows throughout the West. Later he promoted other entertainment shows. Mildred Schuster has written a book about his adventures.

The Shears house, starting with one room in 1889 and with additions over the years, still stands at 109 E. Daws, a testament to the vitality and endurance of Norman's pioneers.



The house George Shears built at 109 East Daws, as it looks today. Photo by Mae D. Cox.

Genealogical & Historical Society News

To research, preserve and perpetuate the history of McClain Co. OK and its people.



McClain County Museum

203 West Washington
Purcell, Oklahoma
(405)-527-5894

Hours of Operation

Weekdays
Noon to 4:00 P.M

Special group tours may be arranged by calling the above number in advance. We do NOT return long distance calls.

The collections of the Museum include eleven rooms of pioneer furnishings, clothes, artifacts and tools.

Our record room includes periodicals, research publications, over 1000 photographs and individual family histories, in addition to our published books.

Our microfilm collection, with two readers, is located at the Purcell Public Library, 919 N. 9th. 405-527-5546. Hours of operation are daily (except Sundays) 9-5.



President's Page

BY: WAYNE TOOMOTH

Time to start thinking about the holidays. This year we will have our Christmas dinner at the Rivermont in Norman on Wednesday, December 15th at 12 noon. Please make your reservations with Carolyn Breeden 573-0644, or Bonita at the Museum 527-5894 by December 10th. If you haven't attended one at this venue I highly recommend it. Bring an interested friend and hope to see everyone.

I would like to see better organization at our meetings, and to that goal, if you have an E-mail address, please contact me at wtoomoth@nts-online.net. I will use this to keep you informed and in turn I would like to have any topics you would like to discuss at our meetings. In any case I would like to have an agenda for our meetings. So please feel free to call me at 527-3864 or e-mail me with your topics or suggestions.

Also in the future I would like to have some ideas from members as to how we can take advantage of the numerous Main Street functions in Purcell for fund-raising, like a booth to sell books, bags or whatever, to use the opportunity that these functions provide. Also some ideas to promote the Historical Society in other communities in the County would be extremely beneficial in our expansion.

Hope to see everyone at the Masonic Hut on Tuesday, November 16th meeting, even if it gets into your shopping time—unless you are like my wife, who had her Christmas shopping done about August, or me who puts it off until about December 23rd.

Wayne

McClain County Genealogical & Historical Society Meetings

December 15 at noon
Christmas dinner at Rivermont
800 Canadian Trails Drive, Norman.

Naval Gunnery School, Mental Hospital, and State Prison: 1942-1946

The Naval Air Gunners School, or NAGS, as it was commonly known, was commissioned on October 15, 1942. The site contained 8553 acres, along with buildings, which had been obtained from local residents in extreme southern Cleveland County, east of Lexington, by the War Department for the sum of \$140,000, or about \$8 per acre for the land and \$70,000 for the buildings.



CONTINUED >>

McClain County Oklahoma Genealogical & Historical Society

NAGS was to be a part of the Norman Navy Base, joining the North Base, now Max Westheimer Field, and the South Base, now part of the University of Oklahoma's south campus, already in operation.

Construction began in early 1942 under the supervision of Mr. E.B. Nicholas, civilian contractor construction foreman, and Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) R.W. Meade of Norman for the Navy, and continued in one form or another throughout the war. By the end of the war, the Navy had spent another \$2,000,000 on buildings and improvements.

As facilities were completed at the school, more staff moved on base. Throughout the war, however, a number of staff, especially officers, continued to live in Purcell. The small WAVE contingent of officers, for example, lived in town throughout the base's life as an active duty station.

The main problem for the commuters and those taking liberty in Purcell, Norman and Oklahoma City was reportedly the poor condition of Highway 39 between the Base and town. This was solved by establishing an inexpensive bus system for commuters and those on liberty.

Because Purcell was on the railroad line, much equipment and mail was routed through the local post office. Since it was the nearest large town in the area, the Gunnery School was called the "Purcell" Gunnery School!

First students were to arrive by Oct. 15, 1942. The first class consisted of 60 Naval officers, 100 permanent enlisted men and 500 students per class plus civilians.

Twenty-two boys from Purcell and vicinity were in the first class. They were Coy Rolin, Robert Brandshaw, Woodie Grayson, Willard Jenkins, Roy Keith, Earl Oswalt, Herman Watson, Ozie

Weaver, Albertus Smith, Edward Hopper, John Griffith, James Yeary, T. S. Yeary, Lawson Harrison (husband of former member Dorothy Harrison), Elmer Gwin, Calvin Woodrow, Gene Foreman, Odell Wall, Sammy Weatherford, Oscar Colley, Arvin Long and Lester Lane.

Students at NAGS were trained in the science of "free gunnery." The curriculum, which lasted approximately six weeks, included several hundred hours of instruction, ranging from gunnery to gun maintenance.

Students practiced with all types of guns and learned to fire at stationary and moving platforms and targets.

The last class graduated in September 1945, and the facility was maintained by the Navy until it was turned over to the Oklahoma Department of Health in 1946 to be used as an Annex to the Central State Hospital in Norman.

Coming in the next issue: Central State Hospital, Lexington Annex

Eda "Betsy" Nelson Halberstadt

Born in Wayne, November 24, 1912, this granddaughter of C.M. McClain and Tinsy (Paralee) Sparks Forsythe and daughter of Dr. John Alexander Nelson and Kate McClain Nelson. Her mother was one of the early graduates of Purcell High School in 1902. Both taught in the Purcell School System. Betsy taught English and history in 1936, where she was also the Senior Class Sponsor. She also taught in schools in Apache and Wewoka before joining the US Navy in 1943. In 1962 she married Robert LeConte Halberstadt and they made their home in Philadelphia, where she passed away July 8, 2004.

Louise E. Perkinson

Miss Perkinson was born September 7, 1907, the youngest of eight children of Hiram Alexander and Margaret Alice King Perkinson. The family were longtime residents in the Johnson community in McClain County.

She graduated from Purcell High School in 1926 and from O.U. in 1930. Miss Perkinson taught school for a few years in the Altus area and was a long time Home Extension Agent in Lawton and Cleveland County.

She died September 12, 2004 at 97 years of age.

Obituaries

Edna Mae Kerr

Born in Newcastle, Pennsylvania. September 14, 1908, she was the oldest of four children of Charles Harrison Shaffer and Olive Norris Shaffer. She was reared in Pennsylvania and married Edwin S. Kerr there. In 1979 they moved to Dallas, Texas, and three years later to Purcell.

She died October 3, 2004, in Purcell Municipal Hospital. She had been a member of the McClain County Historical Society since 1984.

McClain County Superintendent of Schools

A. J. French	1908-1913
S.M. McCuistion	1913-1917
Beatrice Ward	1917-1921
Myrtle Stephens	1921-1923
E.R. Lancaster	1923-1933
John R. Sheets	1933-1935
C.O. Hunt	1935-1937
R. J. Duty	1937-1941 (Appointed in Sept.)
Eddie Higgins	1941-1947 (Appointed in July)
Bonnie Pybus	1947 (Served 2-3-1947 to 7-14-1947)
Angie Hester	1947-1955 (Appointed in August 1947)
Grace E. Love	1955-1963
Loyd Moore	1963-1966 (Vacated office September 1966)
Dorothy Harris	1966-1967 (September - July)
F.C. Lewis	1967-1968 (Appointed July 1967-March 1968)
J.W. Duncan	1968-1981 (Appointed March 1968)
Dennis J. Yoakum	1981-1985 (July)
Joe McKinney	1984-Death
Lue Blackwell	(Part time; may not have been Superintendent)

McClain County Schools

Oakhurst School & First Buses

The first school buses to run to Dibble High School was in the Fall of 1930. Previous to this, students walked, rode horses or in wagons and buggies, according to a history of the Oakhurst School District #45 by former teacher, Christine (Harrell) Peters. A copy of the history, including early teachers and students, was recently donated to the Museum by Mrs. Peters' daughters.

The organizational meeting for the Oakhurst School was December 15, 1913. Barton Nolan Bond, Sr., William P. Rutherford, and, it is believed, Charlie Hale, were elected to serve on the new school board. Oak Hurst School location was to be in Section 18, Twp 6 North, Range 4 West, Middle E.S.

Men of the community worked when they could during the next year to build the school house and the doors swung open to its first students in the fall of 1915.

Miss Delma Harrell (Mrs. C.C. Hopkins), who was the first teacher, taught all eight grades to approximately eighty pupils for about the first three years. At that time, a curtain was hung to make two rooms and the first assistant, Miss

Ishman, was hired to teach the lower grades in c.a. 1918-1919.

Following teachers were listed, and many Board members, as well as the students from the first school enumeration book of 1915. (These have all been microfilmed by the Historical Society. Each family page includes the signature of the parent or guardian.)

A section on activities, both school and local, was included, as well as transportation and schedules.

Criner Schools

On April 10, 1975, R.O. Hardage, a local correspondent, who had attended the Criner Schools, wrote a school history in the Purcell Register. He stated that he had attended the Criner Schools and had seen them all.

The first was built about 1908 and was built on unallotted land across the road from the Criner town-site. When it was threatened by allotment, the builders moved it across the road overnight to a location about where Bink Graham's grocery was located in 1915 when it was moved or torn down.

The second school house was built in 1911 west of the center of the Criner Townsite. In 1936 the second school was torn down and another one was built just slightly southeast of the previous one on the same property. It was still in use in 1975.

Other School Records

A county school ledger of teachers was saved from the trash cans by the McClain County Historical Society when the office of County School Superintendent was disestablished by the State. Unfortunately, a day's worth of disposal had already occurred before the fact was discovered. Only a few other records survive.

The School Census originals were saved by the County Clerk's Office and were included in the McClain County Historical Society/Utah Genealogical Society microfilming project.

A few records from before Statehood have been discovered at the National Archives in Fort Worth concerning the Catholic Indian School in Purcell. Unsuccessful research into their whereabouts included the Pennsylvania sisterhood and the Shawnee church. Queries to the Catholic diocese offices in Oklahoma City were never answered.



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Genealogical
Society**

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Calendar of Events
Cleveland County Genealogical Society

Meetings

All meetings are held in Conference Room C, near CCGS
Library, unless otherwise noted. See map on page 57.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| December 21, 2004 | 7:00 p.m. • Christmas social |
| January 18, 2005 | 7:00 p.m. • Chester Cowen: <i>Preserving
and Dating Photographs</i> |
| February 15, 2005 | 7:00 p.m. • John J. Mulvihill: <i>Genetics</i> |
| March 15, 2005 | 7:00 p.m. • Darline Shawn: <i>Research</i> |

Workshops

- February 26, 2005** CCGS has tentative plans to hold a Half Day Seminar, Saturday morning, February 26, 2005 in Conference Room C at the CSBI building in Norman. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will get us off to an early start in recognizing National Women's History Month which begins March 1. Plan to join us for *Tea and Woman Talks*.
- July 30, 2005** CCGS announces their 20th Annual Summer Seminar which will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2005 at the Brand Center in Moore, Oklahoma. Our speaker will be Martha Everman Jones, Ph.D., who will talk to us about *The Law of the Land in Texas*.