



Josiah Vandaveer (lower right) was Cleveland County's representative

## Cleveland County Men in the First Legislature of the State of Oklahoma

### The Election for Statehood Officers

Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory merged on November 16, 1907, to become the new state of Oklahoma.

Only a month earlier, September 17, 1907, citizens of the Twin Territories had ratified the constitution for the new state. In the same election, voters selected those who would represent them in the first legislature of the new state of Oklahoma, as well as representatives to the U.S. Congress.

### Oklahoma House of Representatives

According to provisions in the Oklahoma constitution, each county was allowed one representative to the state legislature. A census of Indian and Oklahoma Territories was taken in 1907, revealing a population of 1,414,042. This was a 78.9% increase since 1900. To provide for population in excess of the minimum specified in the constitution, provisions allowed the creation of flatorial districts (multi-county districts). These supplemental districts were in effect until after the 1910 census, when all the districts were reapportioned.

The ballot for Cleveland County State Representative included James G. Etheridge, Republican; J. Vandaveer, Democrat; O. F. Branstetter, Socialist; and John Franing,

Independence League. J. Vandaveer, whom we know as Josiah Vandaveer, from Noble, received the top vote.

Caddo, Canadian, and Cleveland counties composed a flatorial district. The ballot for this office included James G. Etheridge, Republican; and Ben F. Wilson, Democrat. Voters in these counties chose Ben F. Wilson of Union City to represent them.

The Oklahoma Constitution intended that the Legislature would be a part time body of citizen lawmakers. It was expected they would meet three to four months in the odd year following their election and members then would return to their former occupation. Legislative salaries were set at \$6 per day and \$2 per day after sixty days, except for the first session. Lawmakers were allowed ten cents per mile for travel to the capital. There was no provision to pay for lawmakers' lodging or meals.

The First Legislature of Oklahoma met at City Hall in Guthrie for 160 days between December 2, 1907 and May 27, 1908. The *Oklahoman* reported the legislature "was imposed with the herculean task of passing laws pertaining to every business, trade, profession and occupation followed in the state."

#### INSIDE

- First Legislature ... 49
- The Vandaveers ... 51
- Oklahoma A State 53
- News Items ..... 54
- CCGS News ..... 56
- Calendar ..... 57
- Presidents Msg .... 58
- Workshops ..... 58
- In the Library ..... 59
- 100 Years Ago ..... 60
- Index for 2007 ..... 62

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### Cleveland County Genealogical Society

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## Feature Story, continued



Ben F. Wilson, flori-  
al representative for  
Caddo, Canadian and  
Cleveland counties.

The leaders of both houses set up committees, and all members had a responsibility to prepare bills in their area. Vandaveer authored several bills, but we did not follow through to discover which, if any, were passed into law.

At any rate, when the final gavel sounded, the legislature had enacted nearly 200 laws for the state of Oklahoma. About half of the measures that passed activated provisions of either the Oklahoma Constitution or the Oklahoma Organic Act. The legislature also passed Jim Crow laws, as well as laws intended to create a tax base to fund the new state's services.

Their work was not finished when they adjourned in late May, 1908. But just as today, senators and representatives were looking ahead to the next election. They needed to be out campaigning, shaking hands in their districts. Any other laws that needed to be passed would just have to wait until the session of the Second Legislature.

In July, 1908, five men, including Josiah Vandaveer, filed for office to represent Cleveland County in the Second Legislature. Others who filed include S. W. Hutchin and W. M. Newell, democrats; C. M. Keiger, republican; and W. R. Roselius, socialist. Hutchins, of Lexington, won the August 4, 1908 primary election, which in Oklahoma at that time was tantamount to election.

### Josiah Vandaveer, State Representative 1907

Josiah Vandaveer was born July 9, 1849 in Greene County, Illinois. His parents were William Vandaveer and Margaret G. Piper. He grew up in Greene County and married Sarah Catherine Rafferty November 11, 1876 in Greene County.

Their son, Harry Cathron Vandaveer, was born November 29, 1877, and Sarah died a few days later. She is buried in Short cemetery in Greene County, Illinois. Josiah remained in Illinois in 1880, but lived apart from family. The child, Harry, was with his maternal grand-parents, William and Elizabeth Rafferty, in Greene County.

Josiah married Hannah Lorena Kessler, a native of Montgomery County, Indiana, February 22, 1881. Possibly the marriage occurred in Missouri. Hannah's parents, Solomon and Martha Kessler, lived in Bates County, Missouri at the time of the 1880 census, although they later returned to Indiana and lived many years in Montgomery County.

Josiah and Hannah were in Chautauqua County, Kansas in 1885. The family included Harry, the son from Josiah's first marriage, and two children, Louisa and Arthur, who were born in eastern Kansas. Josiah brought his family to Oklahoma Territory about November, 1889. The 1890 census of Oklahoma Territory shows that a daughter has been added to the family. Cora was born in May, 1890. Clarence, Wiley, Rosa, Ina, and Chester were born in subsequent years. Two children, Jessie and G. W., died in childhood and are buried in

Fairview-Maguire Cemetery.

Records show Josiah Vandaveer's property in the southwest quarter, section 22 8 north, 1 west. This would be about six miles east of Noble, near the intersection of Etowah Road and 96<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

The census consistently lists Josiah Vandaveer as a farmer. In 1910 he and his family lived at 504 E. Symmes in Norman. By 1920 he was farming near Goldsby in McClain County.

Josiah's second wife, Hannah Lorena Kessler, died May 5, 1929. Josiah lived at 520 N. Findley in Norman in 1930 with his son Wiley Vandaveer and family.

Josiah Vandaveer, Cleveland County's first state representative, died in Norman June 29, 1938. He is buried beside his wife, Hannah, in Fairview-Maguire Cemetery.

Although he served only one term in the Oklahoma legislature, Josiah Vandaveer participated in a very important part of the early history of the 46<sup>th</sup> state. There is no mention of his public service in any of the family information we find in the CCGS Library.

**Information about the First Legislature** of Oklahoma was found in these books in the CCGS Library:

Humphreys, George G. *A Century to Remember: A Historical Perspective on the Oklahoma House of Representatives*. Oklahoma City: Forty-Seventh Oklahoma Legislature, 2000.

*The Oklahoma Red Book*, vol. II. Compiled by W. B. Richards, Corporation Record Clerk. Oklahoma City: Secretary of State, 1912.

## The Vandaveer Family

### Harry Cathron Vandaveer

There were other Vandaveers, relatives of Josiah Vandaveer, in the Cleveland county area in the first half of the twentieth century. Josiah's only child from his first marriage, Harry C. Vandaveer, came to Cleveland county with the family in November 1889. The 1900 census found Harry boarding, as a farm laborer, in the home of William and Tennessee Nolan.

By the end of the year, Harry was married to the Nolan's 16-year-old daughter, Tennessee Cleveland Nolan. Harry and Cleve had at least seven children—Loretta, Tennessee Catherine, Frank, Erlene, James, Emadean, and Eugene. The family lived first in the Maguire community, then near Franklin. In later years, Harry lived in Oklahoma City. Cleve Nolan Vandaveer died in 1940 and Harry died in 1951. Both are buried in Blackburn cemetery.

### Arthur, Clarence, Wiley, and Chester Vandaveer

Josiah's children from the second marriage grew up in Cleveland county. Of the sons, Arthur Vandaveer lived in the Goldsby area in McClain county in 1930. He died at Blanchard in 1981. Clarence Vandaveer moved to Jerome county, Idaho by 1930 and died there in 1973.

Wiley served in the U.S. Army at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, after World War I. Wiley was married, living in Norman, and Josiah lived with his family in 1930. Clarence moved to California, where he died at Garden Grove in 1982. The last son, Chester, died in Nemaha county, Nebraska in 1979.

Of the daughters of Josiah and Hannah, Louise married William H.

Strate. She must have married a second time, for in later years she is referred to as Louise Shelton. Louise died in Richardson county, Nebraska. Cora Bell married Melvin M. Brown. Cora lived in San Fernando, California in 1951, but she died in Norman in 1968. Rosa married Joseph Richard Shelton in Norman and died here in 1988. Ina married Ora Fox. She lived in Whittier, California in 1951, and died in Navajo county, Arizona.

It is quite possible that some descendants of Josiah Vandaveer, Cleveland county's Representative in the First Legislature of Oklahoma, could remain in central Oklahoma today.

### Israel T. Vandaveer

Israel T. Vandaveer was Josiah Vandaveer's only brother. Israel married Rebecca Harrison March 11, 1877 in Greene County, Illinois.

Israel T. Vandaveer left Illinois and he and his wife were living in Linn County, Kansas in 1885. Israel joined his brother Josiah in Oklahoma Territory in 1897, settling on a farm near Lexington in township 7 north 1 west.

Israel and Rebecca never had children of their own. However, they adopted a son, William H. Vandaveer, probably during their residence in Kansas. William was about 15 years old when the family came to Oklahoma.

Israel and Rebecca were living on their farm east of Lexington when Israel died in October, 1921. Rebecca continued life on the farm until she moved to Norman in the fall of 1939. Her home was at 318 East Gray in Norman until her death in May 1944.

Israel and Rebecca Vandaveer are buried in Greenwood cemetery, Greene county, Illinois.

## William H. Vandaveer

Israel's and Rebecca's son, William H. Vandaveer, was single and living near Noble in 1910. He married Edna about 1914; it is not known where. The family was in Independence county Arkansas in 1920 and 1930. All their children were born in Arkansas.

Perhaps William H. Vandaveer returned to Cleveland county in the late 1930s; certainly he was here when his mother, Rebecca, died in 1944. William and Edna Vandaveer are buried in Lexington cemetery.

## State Senate

At statehood, Cleveland, McClain, and Garvin counties comprised the 19<sup>th</sup> State Senate District. This district was one of several that elected two senators for the district in the early sessions of the legislature.

Candidates for this office included John R. Guyer and C. M. Keiger, Republicans; R. P. Wynne and H. S. Blair, Democrats; and E.B. Browning, Socialist.

The two senators elected for the 19th District in 1907 were H. S. Blair, from Katie in Garvin county, and Robert P. Wynne of Lexington, Cleveland County.



H. S. Blair  
19<sup>th</sup> District Senator

## Robert P. Wynne, 19<sup>th</sup> District State Senator, 1907

Robert Penn Wynne of Lexington served the 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District for three terms in the Oklahoma State Senate.

At the first session of the legislature, on December 2, 1907, as reported by the *Oklahoman* on December 3, Senator Wynne presented Lieutenant Governor George W. Bellamy "a handsome and unique little gavel that he manufactured from timber in his district. The handle is of hickory obtained from the Oklahoma side of his district and the head obtained from the Indian territory side. The union of the handle and head are emblematical of the union of the two territories."

Robert P. Wynne, born March 13, 1867, in Grundy county, Missouri, was a merchant in Lexington when the census enumerator visited in 1900. He and his wife Lizzie had three children, Elsie, Willie, and Bessie. Judging from the children's birthplaces, it is thought the family came to Oklahoma Territory sometime before October, 1895.

In 1910, while serving in the legislature, Robert Wynne farmed

near Goldsby in McClain county. He had moved to Pocasset in Grady county by 1920, doing bookkeeping for a grain elevator. The 1930 census finds him farming again in Jim Wells county, Texas. The household includes Robert, his wife Elizabeth and two of their children, as well as their youngest son, William E. Wynne, with his wife and three children.

Robert P. Wynne died in Jim Wells county, Texas November 20, 1941. Probably because he moved away from Oklahoma, little more is known of Cleveland county's first state senator.



R. P. Wynne  
19<sup>th</sup> District Senator

## U.S. Congress

Lawton was home base for two lawmakers who represented Cleveland county in Washington D.C. Scott Ferris was elected in the 5<sup>th</sup> District to the U. S. House of Representatives, while Thomas P. Gore was elected by the state legislature as U.S. Senator. Oklahoma's second senator was Robert L. Owen of Muskogee.

**Oklahoma's Official Flag** was adopted April 2, 1925. The design, by Mrs. Louise Funk Fluke, an artist from Oklahoma City, was chosen from entries in a Daughters of the American Revolution flag contest.

The sky-blue field comes from a flag carried by Choctaw soldiers during the civil war. Centered is an Osage Indian battle shield made of buffalo skin and adorned with eagle feathers and white crosses (the crosses represent the stars in the sky, and symbolize higher purposes in Native American culture). Two symbols of peace lie across the shield: the calumet, or peace pipe, and an olive branch. **OKLAHOMA**, printed in white under the shield, was added to the flag in 1941.

## Oklahoma Motto

Labor Omnia Vincit (Labor Conquers All Things)



## Oklahoma a State

At nine o'clock last Saturday President Roosevelt issued the proclamation which made Oklahoma a state. A few minutes afterwards the word was flashed over the wires. Bells rang, whistles blew, cannons were fired and a general jubilee reigned.

Mr. C. N. Haskell took the oath of office about 9:30 in his rooms at the Hotel Royal in Guthrie and at 12 o'clock the public inauguration took place at the Carnegie library. The program at the inaugural exercises was carried out without a hitch.

Secretary Chas. Filson read the proclamation and Leslie G. Niblack administered the oath which made Hon. C. N. Haskell governor of the great state of Oklahoma.

Secretary of State William Cross took the oath of office at his rooms in the Saratoga Hotel in Oklahoma City.

In the afternoon several thousand people marched to Island Park south of Guthrie's city limits where twelve barbecued beves were served to the crowd.

### Cleveland County at the Inauguration

At least 200 Cleveland county people attended the inauguration of Governor Haskell at Guthrie last Saturday.

The University orchestra and a band made up from the local and University bands attended in uniform. There were 40 musicians in both and the display given received considerable comment. The orchestra furnished the music near the reviewing stand at Island Park and in the evening played in the ball room at the Ione hotel. The University and Cleveland county were well represented.

The college yell could be heard on nearly every corner. In fact the University of Oklahoma was the only state school that was represented. Nearly the entire Cleveland county delegation joined in the parade.

Uncle Tom Antrim, a prominent member of the G.A.R., carried Albert Carter post flag in the procession. The splendid showing made by Cleveland county at Guthrie spoke volumes for the interest we have in Oklahoma affairs.

### New Officials Sworn In

The new county officials took charge Monday. All of them except Sherman Davis filed their bond and took the oath of office.

Judge Sharp, who has faithfully performed the duties of the office of probate judge for over four years succeeds himself but the office is known as county judge.

L. L. McComb assumed the office of county clerk and at once appointed R. L. Ewing as deputy.

F. O. Miller went up one flight of stairs and can now be found performing the duties of district clerk, which office has of late been filled by William W. Gresham. This office will be kept to a high standard.

Geo. G. Graham of Lexington took charge of the county attorney's office. It is believed by his numerous friends that the county's legal affairs will be in safe hands and that he will serve as an able protector.

Sheriff Ike Sale who assumed the duties of his office several weeks ago, has surrounded himself with an able set of deputies and jailor.

B. R. McDonald will look after the school affairs of the county and with his experience in school affairs the work will be well done. Mr. McDonald has appointed O. V. Pool and A. R. Ewing members of the examining board.

J. R. Stogner, the accommodating register of deeds for nearly three years, will continue to record deeds and mortgages for a few more years.

R. D. Alexander, one of the best surveyors and engineers in Oklahoma, was promoted from deputy county surveyor to surveyor.

The board of county commissioners is composed of W. A. Taylor of the first district; T. E. Blair, of the second district; and John A. Fox, of the third district. The board organized in electing W. A. Taylor as chairman.

The affairs of the county are in safe hands and the taxpayers are assured that an honest and economical administration will be given by Messrs. Taylor, Blair, and Fox.

## Oklahoma State Symbols

Flower	Mistletoe (1893)
Tree	Redbud (1937)
Bird	Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher (1951)
Animal	Bison (1972)
Reptile	Mountain Boomer Lizard (1969)
Stone	Rose Rock (Barite Rose) (1968)
Colors	Green And White (1915)
Song	"Oklahoma" (1953)
Beverage	Milk
Butterfly	Black Swallowtail
Fish	White Or Sand Bass
Folk Dance	Square Dance
Furbearer	Raccoon
Game Animal	White-Tailed Deer
Grass	Indiangrass
Insect	Honeybee
Musical Instrument	Fiddle
Poem	"Howdy Folks," David Randolph Milsten
Waltz	"Oklahoma Wind"
Wildflower	Indian Blanket
Nickname	Sooner State

## Around & About

### Oklahoma Territorial Census Is Now Online

Ancestry has announced that the Oklahoma Territorial Census, 1890 and 1907, is now available to subscribers.

In June 1890 a territorial census of Oklahoma was taken. It enumerated the following seven counties: Beaver, Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma, and Payne.

In 1907 a census of Indian and Oklahoma territories, comprising the proposed state of Oklahoma, was also taken. However, only the schedules for Seminole County exist. These schedules are also included in this database.

Information available in this database includes:

- Enumeration place (town, county, state)
- Name of individual
- Relationship to the head of household
- Race
- Gender
- Age
- Place of birth \*
- Number of years in the U.S.

\* Only in the 1890 census

Additional information about an individual may be listed on the original record. This information can be obtained from the census image.

Oklahoma is lucky to have the 1890 Territorial Census. The 1890 U.S. Federal Census was damaged and destroyed by fire in 1921. Less than 1% of all the 1890 schedules are available for research today.

Ancestry is a subscription service. If you are not a subscriber, you can access Ancestry on computers at any library in the Pioneer Library System.

At press time, the editor's experience is that this index is incomplete and the digital images very difficult to read. If you can determine the township and page number for your ancestor, the microfilm of this census is available here at the CCGS Library. However, at the present time we are unable to print the record.

Ralph Wilson, at 86, is one of our oldest, and most active, members. Pictured with him at the September Society meeting is our youngest member, Maxwell Jerome Toenjes, age four months, held by his dad, Colin Toenjes. Max's first name comes from his mother's maiden name; he shares his middle name with his paternal grandfather. Photo by Crystal Maxwell Toenjes

### CCGS Garage Sale Project

The Cleveland County Fairgrounds Building is reserved for our Garage Sale Project on Saturday, February 23, 2008.

We hope you have been saving items for this sale all year as you clear out a box or a shelf. Your donations contribute to the success of this fund-raiser. You may bring your donations to the CCGS Library beginning the last week of January.

As a fund-raising activity, this project has two parts. One is sales in our own booth. The other is encouraging other non-profit groups to join us by renting booth space.

We can use your help. Please promote this project with non-profit groups you know about. Do inform us by phoning us during library hours (1-5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday) or leave contact information in a voice mail message.

Soon we will be asking for volunteers to sort and price merchandise, to transport, and to sell. Those who have helped in the past are usually the first to sign up, as they don't want to miss the fun. However, there is room for more helping hands to make this another successful venture. Ask Jo how you can help.

### Cleveland County Courthouse Records

County Court Clerk Rhonda Hall has hired personnel from her office to pull Small Claims case files which need to be retained. They have been working for more than a month in our Archives. When that job is finished, the remainder of the Small Claims case files will be shredded.

The Civil Court files in our possession will be culled for cases of recording a name change, files that may be of interest to our researchers. The remainder of Civil Court files will be shredded.

Felony cases from our Archives will be removed to Cleveland County's recently acquired off-site storage facility.

Although we may take on more case files in the categories in which we are most interested, such as probate and divorce cases, we expect this project will reduce the amount of storage space we need to rent. This will save us a significant amount of money. Ms. Hall is grateful to us for archiving these files when her options were limited. We are appreciative that she could find the funds for this project in her budget.



## New Norman Library Citizens' Committee

In our last issue, the President's Annual Report indicated that there was little reason to expect action toward a new Norman Public Library facility any time soon.

A Mayor's Committee on the subject had reported to the City Council and disbanded. It then reorganized as the *Citizens' Committee for a New Norman Library*. Last August began a new series of public meetings indicating a change.

The Citizens' Committee, co-chaired by Richard Ryan and Rachel Butler, has pushed ahead, with the support of City Council, new Mayor Cindy Rosenthal, and new City Manager Steve Lewis, to meet deadlines and monitor progress on this project.

For our part, we welcome the support of newly appointed Pioneer Library System Director Anne Masters, and Norman Public Library Branch Manager Susan Gregory, and her staff.

Currently, steps are being taken toward a public vote in May. In the meantime, public meetings led by consultant Jeff Scherer are moving into the design phase in the planning of a new building.

At this time, plans call for an area for local history and family history, which would include our collection.

Any interested Norman citizen can participate in this project by attending the public meetings (or following them as they are repeated on local cable channel 20), and by attending open study sessions of City Council as well as the meetings of the Citizens' Committee.

The next public meeting will take place in City Council chambers at 7:00 p.m. Monday, December 3rd.

For other meeting times, check with the City Hall Action Line at 366-5396 or call the CCGS Library at 701-2100 during library hours: Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Your presence at any of these sessions will be a show of support which can make a positive difference in our part of a new facility. City Hall personnel and Norman Public Library staff notice our attendance and participation in this process.

You can also find information about Norman's library project at [www.newnormanlibrary.com](http://www.newnormanlibrary.com)

## When Corbett Flourished

Descendants of pioneers in the Corbett community will be delighted to learn that the book, *When Corbett Flourished* is still available. The book tells the story of Corbett, Oklahoma and its people when it flourished around 1910. The book may be ordered by sending Cashiers Check or Money Order for \$36.00 to Harreld K. Howell, 7104 Douglas Ave., Oklahoma City OK 73139. This includes tax, insurance and shipping. For more information, write Mr. Howell at the above address.

## Main Street Construction

For the next year or so, a road project will be in progress to create four lanes on East Main Street from Carter Avenue to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E., south of the CSBI Building.

As the work progresses, traffic will be disrupted in the area. Therefore, we recommend using the 12<sup>th</sup> Street entrance to the CSBI Building whenever possible.

The latest road advisories are available at the city of Norman's web site, [www.NormanOK.gov](http://www.NormanOK.gov). A button near the top of the web page labeled "Road Work" links to a list of street closings for the current week. Alternatively, may we suggest you call us at 701-2100, and we'll report the latest word on the road work situation.

## Bits & Pieces



**A listing of books online**, full text, free, and in English.

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu>

**How old was great-aunt Sadie** on her wedding day? This calculator will give you the time between any two family events.

[www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html)

**The Scotch-Irish in America.**

[www.newriversnotes.com//pa/dinssl.htm](http://www.newriversnotes.com//pa/dinssl.htm)

**Explore the lives and times** of our American ancestors.

[www.digitalhistory.uh.edu](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu)

**Find the patent** for Uncle Harry's invention.

[www.google.com/patents](http://www.google.com/patents)

**Search 15 million grave records:** [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

**This gazetteer** can help you locate obscure place-names.

[www.getty.edu/research/conducting\\_research/vocabularies/tgn](http://www.getty.edu/research/conducting_research/vocabularies/tgn)

**Civil War books**, information, and web sites featured

[http://www.thecivilwarbookstore.com/store/products/8\\_books](http://www.thecivilwarbookstore.com/store/products/8_books)



## September

Fifteen members and one guest sampled goodies and shared stories of summer (research and otherwise). Our youngest member, 5-month-old Max Toenjes, won the door prize provided by first vice-president Sarah Pool.

## October

Rita Broyles was dressed in full Revolutionary soldier gear as she spoke to twelve members and six guests at our October meeting. She told about her reenactment activities with the First Continental Regiment of Foot, which was first formed in Pennsylvania in 1775. She bases her persona on Deborah Sampson, a woman who, portraying herself as a male, enlisted twice in military units during the Revolution. Deborah escaped detection by treating herself when she was wounded. Only when she became ill during a yellow fever epidemic was she discovered and mustered out of the service. In later years she was awarded a government pension for her military service.



## November

Mary Ann Nelson, representing Cleveland County Abstract Company, spoke about real property ownership records.

## Duplicate Books Yield Funds for New Books

As the CCGS Library faces a shelving shortage, the Library Committee recently authorized the removal and sale of duplicate titles in our collection.

Mary Lewis and Linda Oliver worked diligently to identify duplicate books and to gather pricing examples on the internet. The Library Committee then selected the titles to be sold.

CCGS volunteers hosted vendor tables at the Society's Summer Seminar July 28 and at the OGS Ancestor Fair August 4. Sixty-four books were sold, raising \$396.26 to be used for future purchases of books for our library.

Volunteers who worked the vendor tables include Mary Lewis, Jo Mustoe, Linda Oliver, and Mary Sue Schnell.

## CCGS Membership Dues

CCGS dues are based on the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Your dues for 2008 are payable now. The envelope and membership form provided with this issue are for your convenience in responding.

More importantly, we appreciate your continued support for this organization, for its contribution to your family history, and for its contribution to the community.

With your membership, you receive this quarterly newsletter, as well as the opportunity to store a backup copy of your genealogy data in a dust free, temperature-controlled environment. Our list of members' surnames continues to grow. This data helps us in selecting future programs and research materials.

While we encourage your monetary support, we also look forward to hearing from you and seeing you for projects, meetings, and other activities throughout the new year. In the meantime, we wish you and yours a happy holiday.

## Special Library Event

A special workshop titled *CCGS Library Exploration* will be held at the CCGS Library Monday, January 21, 2008, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

This workshop is primarily an orientation to using the materials in the CCGS Library. The session will explore the variety of research materials available for local history and genealogy researchers, including basic resources and the library catalog. Participants will also become acquainted with the Cleveland County primary records held in the CCGS Archives and will learn

about some indexing projects in progress.

This is an opportunity for those interested in making use of this facility and for those who plan to volunteer. To reserve your place at this free workshop, call CCGS at 701-2100 or send an e-mail to [ccgs@csbi.org](mailto:ccgs@csbi.org)

If you would like to participate, but the time is not convenient, please let us know. We plan to offer this workshop again soon.

## Speer Photograph Collection Digitized

During recent months, two Norman residents, Bob Rice and Stan Hall, have been working in our library to digitize the photographs in the collection Bonnie Speer donated to the Cleveland County Genealogical Library. They presented us with two CDs of early Cleveland County photographs. We are indeed grateful for their volunteer effort.



## Personal Memoir Writing Workshop

Generating writing ideas, getting thoughts onto paper, and sharing bits of writing were the focus of the ten participants in this workshop. Mary Lewis was speaker for this event.

## National Conference in Kansas City in 2008

National Genealogical Society Conference in the States 2008 will be held May 14-17 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme, "Show me the Way to Our Nation's Records," is based upon the unofficial state motto of Missouri. The outstanding program will enhance the family history research skills of attendees.

In addition to more than 150 lectures and workshops, receptions will be held at the Mid-Continent Public Library and the National World War I Museum. Research opportunities are also available at the new Mid-Continent Public Library and the National Archives Regional Center.

Local hosts will include Missouri State Genealogical Association, Mid-Continent Public Library, Northland Genealogy Society, APG Heartland Chapter, and Johnson County, Kansas, Genealogical Society.

CCGS encourages members to attend this national conference so close to home. We hope to have one or two cars traveling to Kansas City next May. For updated information, check the NGS web site: [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org). Online registration for this conference will begin January 1, 2008 at <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2008/>

## Featured Records in Library

Would these people-finding resources help you?

The CCGS Library has Norman city directories for 1908 and 1926, as well as a 1957 Norman criss-cross directory. We also have most Norman telephone directories for 1964 through 2004. Many of the Norman phone books are regional, therefore including Lexington, Moore, and/or Noble.

Our collection also includes some telephone directories for Moore between 1959 and 2000 and for Lexington between 1973 and 2001. Rural Resident and Farm Directories are available for most Oklahoma counties, dated 1970s. *Smith's Directory* is an index to those who recorded land entries after the 1889 Run in the Unassigned Lands.

Check our selection of University High School, Norman High School, and University of Oklahoma annuals.

## You Know You're a Genealogy Addict When You ...

- brake for libraries.
- hyperventilate at the sight of an old cemetery..
- think every home should have a copier and a microfilm reader.
- begin all your correspondence with "Dear Cousin".

(Found on internet, attributed to "Jeannie Price who got them from one of her 'Cousins'.")

## CCGS Calendar of Events

### Board Meetings

Second Monday 1:00 p.m. at CCGS

- December 10
- February 11
- January 7
- March 10

### Society Meetings

7:00 p.m. Third Tuesday at CSBI Classroom near CCGS Library

- December 18: Christmas Social, Bring snacks
- January 15: Chuck and Dana Anderson — Historic House Renovation
- February 19: Clyde Shroyer
- March 18:

### Family History Writers Group

Second Wednesday each month  
10:00 a.m. in CCGS Library

- December 12
- February 13
- January 9
- March 12

### Genealogy Computer

#### Users Group

9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Norman Public Library, Computer Room

- December 19
- February 27
- January 23
- March 26

### CCGS Garage Sale

Cleveland County Fairgrounds

- February 23 • 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### New Norman Library Events

Public Meeting, City Council Chambers

- December 3 - 7:00 p.m.
- January 21 - 7:00 p.m.

### CCGS Summer Seminar

- August 2, 2008 (tentative)  
Pat Gordon, speaker

### Special Workshop

#### CCGS Library Exploration

- Monday, January 21, 2008, 1-3 p.m. CCGS Library

## Workshops

### **National Genealogical Society Conference in the States**

Show Me The Nation's Records  
May 14-17, 2008  
Kansas City, Missouri  
1-800-473-0060  
<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/AnnualConference.cfm>

### **CCGS Summer Seminar**

August 2, 2008 (tentative)  
Pat Gordon, speaker

### **Federation of Genealogical Societies**

September 2-5, 2009  
Little Rock, Arkansas

## President's Message

In this issue, we call your attention to several important current issues.

- It's time to renew your membership. A Membership Form and self-addressed envelope are included with this issue of the CCGS Newsletter.
- The date for our annual Garage Sale fund-raising project is announced. We need your help before, during and after the sale.
- The new Citizens' Committee for a New Norman Library is moving the project forward. This project will affect CCGS directly. You will want to keep informed and give it your support.
- The Courthouse records in our possession are in a sift and sort process.
- We are offering a workshop in January to explore the research materials available in the CCGS Library. It is open to everyone, and will be especially useful to those who may volunteer to help in the library.
- Main Street construction will partially obstruct access to the CSBI Building from time to time. We welcome your phone calls for current information.

As always, we thank you for your support of our Society and its activities.

## **1852 New Year's Resolutions Solve Genealogical Mysteries**

It is New Year's Eve 1852 and Henry HYDENWELL sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's resolutions.

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.
2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.
3. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church—either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.
5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once every ten years—just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.
6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.
8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.
9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.
10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

Of course, birth and death dates in genealogy are important to have. While backtracking one family group, I came upon a death date entry indicating only that the man's demise was "None too soon."

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 14 February 2007, Vol. 10, No. 7

## New Materials — Books

*The A-Z Guide to Tracing Ancestors in Britain*

*“ACHO” Flower of the Prairie Administrators and Guardian Settlements, Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, 1834-1909*

*Alikchi's Leaves*

*American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War*

*American Revolution in Indian Country*

*America's First Ladies*

*America's Historic Trails*

*Beginning Your Family History in Great Britain*

*A Collection of Family Records with Biographical Sketches of Families & Individuals Bearing the Name Douglas*

*Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs Day Book Number 2*

*Deaths: The Norman Transcript 1 July 2006-31 December 2006*

*The Duke Family*

*Germanic People in America*

*Griswold Family*

*Hardin County's People:*

*Miscellaneous Records from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

*Herron Family of N. Y. and Ohio*

*Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places*

*Inventories of Estates, 1779-1821: Washington County, Tennessee*

*Journal, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, Department of California & Nevada*

*The Library of Congress: a Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research*

*Life 60 Years: a 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, 1936-1996*

*Marriage Records of Washington County, Tennessee, 1787-1840*

*Mercer County Kentucky Wills and Estates 1808-1821*

*Mercer County Kentucky Wills and Estates 1786-1808*

*Muhlenberg County, Kentucky Marriages, 1799-1836*

## In the Library



*Norman Business District: Selected Years*

*Norman Cross Index Directory, 1957 Passengers and Immigrants to America*

*Prairie Center, Gardner Friends Church 1872-1972*

*The Scot in British North America Surry County Virginia Marriages, 1768-1815: plus parents receipts*

*SW Oklahoma Keys*

*Tennessee Genealogical Research Tennesseans before 1800: Washington County*

*Union Soldiers and Widows, 1890 Special Federal Census: Index to Christian, Dade, Dallas, Polk and Taney counties of Missouri*

*Virginia Militia in the War of 1812: from Rolls in the Auditor's Office at Richmond (v.1&2)*

*Washington County, Tennessee Settlements of Estates, 1790-1867*

*Weld County, Colorado Tombstone Inscriptions*

*The William Jackson Family History*

### Computer Disks

*1850 U.S. Census, Benton County, Arkansas*

*Family Tree Maker Family History: Mid-Atlantic Genealogies, 1340-1940*

*A History of Rockingham County, Virginia*

*Missouri Vital Records*

*Missouri Vital Records: Marriages 1767-1900, Selected Counties*

*Norman CCGS 1: Photographs from the Bonnie Speer Collection*

*Norman CCGS 2: Photographs from the Bonnie Speer Collection*

### Digital Video Recording

*Moore's Stop: An Historical View of an Oklahoma Community*

### Journals

*Backtracker*

*East Parker County Genealogy & Historical Society Newsletter*

*Family Chronicle Year Five*

*Family Chronicle Year Four*

*Family Chronicle Year Six*

*Family Chronicle Year Three*

*North Carolina Historical & Genealogical Register*

*Ohio, the Cross Road of our Nation, Records and Pioneer Families*

### In Recent Journals

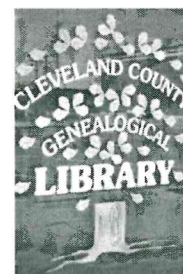
**Your story could be a winner**—read the guidelines for entering the OGS 2008 Family Story Writing Contest. *Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 52, No. 2, 2007.

**Death notices for infants** and children in the Cherokee Nation 1870-1907. *The Goingsnake Messenger*, Goingsnake District Heritage Association, Vol. 24, No. 2, 2007.

**Family reunion planners** will appreciate these suggestions for fun family history activities for everyone in the family. *The Western Plainsman*, Western Plains Genealogical Society, Vol. 22, No. 4, July 2007.

**Which war** might my ancestor have fought in? Check this list of U.S. wars or campaigns from 1622 to 1945. *Roots & Branches*. Garfield Genealogists, Vol. 30, No. 2, August 2007.

**When you think you've tried every source**, here are some places you may have missed. *Roots & Branches*. Garfield Genealogists, Vol. 30, No. 2, August 2007.



# 100 Years Ago



## Newspaper Abstracts

*Norman Democrat-Topic* • Friday, November 22, 1907

(Editor's Note: All newspaper abstracts are typed as originally printed.)

### Noble

John Medaris spent Sunday with home folks.

Homer Sellers made a business (?) trip to Norman Saturday.

Little Jimmy Pratter is recovering from a spell of the measles.

Mrs. Homer Sellers has been quite sick for the past several days.

Mrs. E. F. Cambron of Norman is visiting her daughter and family, Mrs. Geo. Mois.

Miss Lena Mozley, who is attending the high school at Norman spent Saturday and Sunday at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Smith of Lexington township spent Sunday with their daughter and family, Mrs. Jim Wadley.

Miss Mable Morris, who has been very sick the past 3 weeks the result of typhoid fever, is slowly improving.

### Boston

Miss Jessie Hagan is slowly recovering from the chills.

Miss Essie Damron of Oklahoma City is visiting her old friends in the country this week.

We had a fine rain last Tuesday. The farmers could not pick cotton that day, but they enjoyed the rain.

Rev. Graves of Kansas preached at Round Top school house last Sunday night. He is their United Brethren preacher for the coming year.

There will be a box supper at the Round Top school house Thanksgiving night. All are kindly invited to come and bring well filled boxes and enjoy yourself.

### Stella

The rain Tuesday stopped cotton picking for awhile.

Miss Loyd Brunner had dental work done in Norman Saturday.

Miss Bessie Williams visited her sister, Mrs. Fred Doolen at Oklahoma City Saturday.

Dr. Clifton entertained quite a host of our young people with a nice supper and social Saturday night. All report an excellent time.

The singing at J. W. Wilson's Sunday night was a very enjoyable affair.

### Schwartz

Quite a number of Schwartz people were in Oklahoma City Saturday taking in the sights.

Miss Ollie and Mr. Henry Schultz and Miss Grace Mitchell and Mr. Luther Rayburn took dinner with the Misses Rayburn Sunday.

Mr. Henry Kasbaum who is attending Hill's business college at Oklahoma City, visited friends and relatives Saturday night and Sunday.

There will be a quilting given by the Rebeccas at Mishak next Friday for the orphans home. Every body is cordially invited to go and enjoy the day and help in the quilting.

### Moore

Dr. J. L. Womack went to Norman Monday.

Mrs. John Sheets is visiting her son and family in Shawnee.

Rev. J. H. McCance who for a number of years was pastor of the M.E. church south at Moore is now pastor of the church at Sparks, Lincoln county, Oklahoma.

Vada, the four months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Dyer, died last Friday and was laid to rest in the Smith cemetery Saturday. Bro. J. W. Payne conducted the funeral ceremonies.

A literary society was organized at the public school building in Moore Wednesday night. Prof. C. T. Wilson was chosen president, Miss Rhoda Kelley secretary and Miss Dora McPeck treasurer. The society will have regular meetings every Wednesday evening.

Mrs. A. F. Barton, Miss Minnie Payne, Dr. C. P. Kelley, Dr. J. L. Womack, Dr. C. C. Nail, W. W. Hinkle, Henry P. Dresser, C. E. Schnitzler and James A. Cowan were among the Cleveland county delegation attending the inauguration of the new state officers at Guthrie Saturday. Dr. Kelley wore his Confederate veteran uniform and took a prominent part in the proceedings of the organization.

### Local News

FOR RENT: Two furnished rooms. Call up phone 295.

Mayor John E. Millar was a Guthrie visitor Wednesday.

Miss Susie Warner of Sayre arrived Sunday to visit Mrs. T. W. Ewing and family.

Ex-County Attorney A. Nicodemus is attending to business at Tulsa this week.

S. H. Maddon was here from Sulphur last Friday. He has recently recovered from a spell of typhoid fever.

Roland Hughes and John H. Mosier returned last Thursday from Kansas City where they appeared before the postoffice inspector to give information against a wild cat company.

C. W. Sammetinger who has been visiting here for several days left this week for Lockwood, Missouri. He will likely return to Oklahoma in the near future and again take up his residence.

Mrs. W. E. McFadden of Lexington purchased a resident property from E. B. Johnson in West Norman this week. Tate & Clement consummated the deal. Mrs. McFadden will move to Norman to send her children to school.

Joseph and James, sons of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Thompson, of Pauls Valley, were the guests of their aunt, Mrs. Geo. Winans from Friday until Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson were the special guests of Governor and Mrs. C. N. Haskell at the inauguration. Mrs. Thompson assisted Mrs. Haskell in receiving.

W. N. Hayes returned last Saturday from Chicago.

Wm. Alair was here from 10-4-west Monday attending the tax sale.

W. D. Maxey and family moved to Norman from their home in 10-1-east Tuesday. They will occupy the Rowntree property in West Norman.

The "Swap Social" given at the home of Mrs. J. H. Mosier last week by the boys of her Sunday school class was a very pleasant occasion.

E. L. Davis and wife and father who resided near Wanette, left Wednesday afternoon for Portland, Oregon, at which place they will make their home.

### **Saloons Closed**

The Saloons of Norman closed last Saturday night to stay closed for 21 years. Several of them quit about 11 o'clock having sold their entire stock. A few drunks and a few fights was the extent of the wind up of the saloon business.

### **G.A.R. Thanksgiving Dinner**

There will be a Thanksgiving dinner given for all of the old soldiers and their families at the Red Men's hall. Bring your baskets well filled and have a good time.

P. J. Martin  
Commander

### **A Card to the Public**

I desire to thank the people of Norman for the patronage given me in the past and say that I expect to remain in the city and continue in the ice business. I will be on the wagon personally and see that every customer is given a square deal.

O. H. Anderhub

### **Score 29 to 10**

The Texas University football team defeated Oklahoma last Friday by a score of 29 to 10. The game was played at Austin.

### **Marriage Licenses Issued**

W. R. Cross, 22, Womack, and Elsie Skinner, 19, Womack

Truman H. Endicott, 20, Norman, and May M. Dodds, 17, Norman

### **Notice to Hunters**

All hunters are notified to keep off of my land.

H. Downing

### **Norman Democrat-Topic Friday, November 29, 1907**

#### **Market Report**

Cotton \$10 to \$10.50 per cwt  
Corn 40 cents per bushel  
Hogs \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cwt

### **4,300 Bales Weighed**

Up to Wednesday Cotton weighers Martin and Berry had weighed 4,300 bales of cotton. It is believed that at least an equal amount is still in the hands of the farmers.

### **First Born in State of Oklahoma**

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Wheeler last Saturday—the day that Oklahoma was admitted to statehood. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler have the distinction of having the first child born in the state of Oklahoma.

### **Hine - Clifford**

Mr. Geo. Hine and Miss Pearl Clifford were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Clifford, southeast of Lexington at high noon Thanksgiving day. The bride is a pretty young lady of many accomplishments. The groom is a prominent business man of Lexington.

The *Democrat - Topic* joins with their many friends in extending congratulations.

### **Services Held Wednesday**

The funeral services of Mr. W. H. Meyer, aged 35 years, 10 months and 7 days, were held at the Presbyterian church at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, conducted by Rev. F. M. Alexander. The body was shipped to Holton, Kansas, for interment on the afternoon train.

### **Sold Farm**

Theo. Osterhaus sold his farm six miles east of Norman last week to D. Dilbeck, who takes possession January 1<sup>st</sup>. Consideration \$2000.

Miss Anna Webster has accepted a position under District Clerk F. O. Miller. Miss Webster is one of the most competent clerks in Cleveland county.

# Index • Volume 28

January to December 2007

- Acers 6  
Adams 46  
Ahrens 6, 43  
Akin 46  
Alair 61  
Alexander 6, 53, 61  
Allan 23  
Allbright 30  
Ambrister 34  
Anderhub 6, 61  
Anderson 57  
Antrim 53  
Appl 40  
Armstrong 13  
Arnold 7  
Ashton 24  
Askew 22  
Avery 35  
Babek 31  
Bahner 22  
Baker 17, 28, 38, 40, 41  
Barbour 6, 23, 34  
Barker 6, 23  
Barley 22  
Barnes 6  
Barta 6  
Barton 60  
Baughn 14  
Beale 11  
Been 11  
Belew 6  
Bell 14  
Bellamy 52  
Bennett 47  
Bergslessen 22  
Berry 23, 27, 61  
Bessent 23, 34  
Bettes 6  
Bible 7  
Biddle 47  
Bizzell 4  
Black 6  
Blackburn 23  
Blackwell 47  
Blair 6, 52, 53  
Blake 42  
Bobo 22  
Boggs 34  
Bohannan 46  
Bohnenkamp 26  
Bowman 24  
Boyd 22  
Bradley 6  
Bradshaw 23  
Brady 10  
Brand 22  
Branstetter 49  
Brawley 34  
Brockhaus 6  
Bromley 22  
Brooks 33  
Brown 6, 39, 43, 51  
Brownell 6  
Browning 52  
Broyles 41, 56  
Brunner 60  
Bryan 3  
Bryant 2  
Buchanan 3, 4, 23  
Bulmer 39, 40  
Burgess 39  
Burke 23, 34  
Burkett 6  
Burlison 6  
Burroughs 12, 40  
Burt 20  
Butler 41, 55  
Butterfield 45  
Calkins 41  
Calvert 23  
Cambron 60  
Capshaw 22  
Carey 33  
Carley 23  
Carmon 23  
Carr 6, 23  
Carrier 23  
Carter 6, 7, 43  
Cass 15  
Caywood 12  
Clark 6, 42  
Clarke 43  
Clemens 22  
Clement 23, 34, 43, 61  
Cleveland 5  
Clifford 61  
Clifton 60  
Cohee 42  
Coleman 6  
Collins 30  
Copaugh 47  
Copeland 15  
Corner 14  
Couch 6, 33, 34  
Cowan 60  
Cox 2, 6, 8, 25, 35, 39, 40, 43, 44  
Craig 6  
Cralle 3, 6, 23  
Crawford 31  
Crick 42  
Crittenden 34  
Cross 53, 61  
Crowder 15  
Curren 6  
Curtis 23  
Damron 60  
Davis 7, 22, 23, 34, 42, 43, 53, 61  
Debo 24  
Denison 43  
Desper 12  
Dilbeck 61  
Dittmar 38  
Doard 7  
Dodds 61  
Doolen 7, 22, 60  
Douglas 59  
Downing 34, 61  
Downs 6  
Dragoo 2, 46  
Dressen 7, 22  
Dresser 60  
Dudley 23, 31, 33  
Duff 6  
Dufran 43  
Duke 47, 59  
Dunn 6, 23, 43  
Durkee 6  
Dyer 14, 60  
Eagleton 34  
Edwards 15, 23, 42  
Ellinger 23  
Ellis 3  
Endicott 61  
Esadooah 38  
Essex 23  
Etheridge 49  
Ethridge 46  
Eubanks 6  
Ewing 53, 60  
Ferrell 6  
Ferris 52  
Fierbaugh 39  
Filson 53  
Flehart 29  
Fluke 52  
Forehand 34  
Foster 26, 31, 39, 42  
Fox 34, 42, 43, 51, 53  
Franning 49  
Frantz 43  
Franz 4, 7  
Galbraith 4  
Garee 43  
George 22  
Giles 23  
Gilmour 13  
Glade 15  
Goins 26  
Goodson 31  
Gore 52  
Gormley 24  
Goss 47  
Graham 53  
Graves 7, 43, 60  
Gray 29  
Gregory 55  
Gresham 23, 53  
Griesmer 23  
Grigsby 34  
Grisham 41  
Griswold 59  
Grosse 14  
Grotts 6  
Grove 14  
Guthrie 37  
Guy 22  
Guyer 52  
Hadsell 30  
Hagan 60  
Hall 38, 39, 54, 56  
Hallmark 7  
Hanratty 3  
Haralson 26  
Harder 31  
Hardie 23, 34  
Harper 6  
Harris 7  
Harrison 51  
Harshbarger 7  
Harvel 43  
Harvey 34  
Haskell 40, 43, 53, 61  
Haswell 7  
Haughey 6, 7  
Hayes 61  
Hendrickson 6  
Henry 47  
Herring 3  
Herrington 6  
Herron 59  
Hess 34  
Hickok 7  
Higbee 42  
Higgins 22  
Hill 12, 22  
Himes 23, 34  
Hine 61  
Hinkle 60  
Hobaugh 6  
Hoge 7  
Holsenbake 6  
Hornback 21, 39  
Hoshall 43  
Howard 23  
Howell 6, 55  
Hoy 6  
Hughes 6, 22, 34, 61  
Humphreys 51  
Hunt 43  
Hurst 3, 5  
Huston 7  
Hutchin 50  
Ingram 6  
Ivie 42  
Jackson 6, 59  
Jacobs 6  
James 13  
Janda 6  
January 22  
Jarboe 7  
Jeffress 15  
Johnson 22, 23, 61  
Jolly 43  
Jones 14, 28, 40, 45  
Jury 12, 42  
Kasbaum 23, 60  
Kaupke 6  
Keeling 39  
Keiger 34, 50, 52  
Kelley 6, 42, 60  
Kemp 8, 39  
Kendall 42  
Kessler 50, 51  
Kidd 33  
Kinard 24  
King 6, 15, 27  
Kinnard 6  
Knight 46  
Knowles 23, 43  
Koepke 23  
Koplowitz 24  
LaClaire 13  
Larsh 23, 34  
Lassiter 42  
Lauer 23  
Lawrence 33  
Lawson 6  
Lessly 6  
Lewis 8, 17, 25, 39, 40, 55, 56, 57  
Liedke 3  
Lindsay 22, 23, 33, 34  
Littleton 3  
Loeffelholz 17  
Loeffelholz 39  
Lollis 38  
Lorenz 20  
Luckuck 6  
Lyles 31  
Maddon 61  
Marcotte 24  
Marriott 24  
Marshall 15  
Martin 9, 17, 35, 38, 43, 61  
Masters 55  
Maxey 3, 61  
Maxwell 54  
May 31, 42  
Mayes 22

Mayfield 7, 23, 29, 34  
 McCall 23, 34  
 McCalla 41  
 McCance 60  
 McClain 3  
 McClure 22  
 McComb 6, 33, 53  
 McCracken 8, 28, 39  
 McCullough 7  
 McDaniel 6, 23, 33  
 McDonald 15, 53  
 McFadden 61  
 McFarland 33  
 McIntire 34  
 McKinney 26  
 McKitrick 6  
 McKown 26  
 McLaughlin 43  
 McLaughlin 7  
 McMillan 34  
 McMurray 42  
 McNeill 46  
 McPeck 60  
 Meador 47  
 Medaris 23, 60  
 Meloy 6  
 Meyer 23, 61  
 Millar 23, 60  
 Miller 22, 53, 61  
 Millsap 2  
 Milsten 53  
 Minteer 34  
 Miser 23  
 Mitchell 60  
 Mock 18  
 Mois 60  
 Montgomery 23, 40  
 Moore 8, 23, 43  
 Morgan 6, 34, 47  
 Morris 8, 60  
 Morrison 43  
 Morse 18, 20  
 Morter 7  
 Mosely 9, 24, 38  
 Mosier 23, 61  
 Mozley 60  
 Muldrow 34  
 Muphis 6  
 Murray 3, 4, 29  
 Musgraves 22  
 Mustoe 8, 25, 35, 38-40, 56  
 Nail 22, 60  
 Nations 26  
 Neaves 43  
 Neece 42  
 Nelson 56  
 Nemecek 13  
 Newall 3  
 Newblock 33  
 Newell 23, 34, 50  
 Niblack 53  
 Nice 18-20  
 Nicodemus 42, 60  
 Nolan 6, 28, 51  
 Norman 42  
 Northeutt 6  
 Novak 7  
 Nowlin 6, 23  
 Ogle 42  
 Oliver 6, 22, 25, 39, 56  
 Orme 6  
 Osterhaus 4, 61  
 Owen 52  
 Owens 39  
 Parker 25, 37, 39  
 Parr 42  
 Patrick 29  
 Patterson 43  
 Payne 3, 43, 60  
 Pennington 26  
 Perkins 11  
 Perriman 47  
 Perry 7  
 Pickard 6, 33  
 Piper 50  
 Platt 7  
 Poland 6  
 Pool 35, 38, 40, 41, 53, 56  
 Powell 42  
 Pratter 60  
 Primrose 9, 24  
 Provo 9, 24, 38  
 Puckkee 14  
 Purcell 6  
 Rafferty 50  
 Rains 22  
 Ramsey 3  
 Ratliff 7  
 Rayburn 6, 43, 60  
 Redwine 22  
 Reed 23, 34  
 Render 3  
 Rex 24  
 Reyerson 12  
 Rice 56  
 Richards 33, 51  
 Ridge 47  
 Riley 23  
 Robb 43  
 Robberson 6  
 Roberts 15, 23, 39  
 Robertson 6  
 Robinson 6  
 Rodgers 22  
 Rogers 3, 6  
 Rolater 6  
 Rollins 22, 34  
 Roosevelt 3, 4, 53  
 Roselius 50  
 Rosenthal 55  
 Ross 22  
 Rowntree 61  
 Rucker 6  
 Ruffin 41  
 Runyan 46  
 Rupp 29  
 Ryan 55  
 Sale 53  
 Sammetinger 7, 61  
 Sampson 56  
 Sanders 13  
 Sandoz 24  
 Schader 6  
 Scherer 41, 55  
 Schipul 12  
 Schnell 8, 17, 39, 40, 56  
 Schnitzler 60  
 Schultz 60  
 Schwagmeyer 19  
 Scott 6  
 Scruggs 6  
 Seawell 6  
 Self 23  
 Sellers 23, 46, 60  
 Shadrick 7  
 Shannon 4  
 Sharp 6, 47, 53  
 Sheeholtz 26  
 Sheets 60  
 Shelton 47, 51  
 Sheppard 39  
 Shippen 36  
 Shirley 23  
 Shroyer 31, 57  
 Simms 22  
 Skaggs 6  
 Skinner 61  
 Slajer 13  
 Smeltzer 43  
 Smidt 31  
 Smith 6, 30, 43, 60  
 Span 30  
 Sparks 24, 38  
 Speer 56, 59  
 Srygley 22  
 Standley 38  
 Stansel 39  
 Starzer 12, 34  
 Stogner 43, 53  
 Stone 3  
 Stout 42  
 Stover 22  
 Stow 7  
 Strate 51  
 Stubbeman 23  
 Suckev 7  
 Sullivan 22  
 Summers 43  
 Swank 34  
 Synnott 34  
 Tate 6, 43, 61  
 Taylor 43, 53  
 Teel 6  
 Terrill 6  
 Thomas 17  
 Thomley 29  
 Thompson 28, 61  
 Thornhill 22  
 Thornton 43  
 Todd 7  
 Toenjes 54, 56  
 Tolen 12, 24  
 Tomlin 14  
 Topper 6  
 Townsend 13  
 Trammel 13  
 Trippet 13  
 Trombla 13  
 Truax 13  
 Tubbs 13  
 Tucker 13  
 Turbyfill 13  
 Turley 15  
 Turner 13, 22  
 Upchurch 2, 6, 8, 13, 27, 39, 44  
 Valliere 37, 39  
 Valouch 13  
 Van Vleet 19, 23  
 Vanbeber 13  
 Vandaveer 6, 49-52  
 VanVleet 23, 34  
 Vardaman 14  
 Vaughan 14  
 Vaughn 14  
 Vest 14  
 Vestal 24  
 Vicars 14, 31  
 Vieux 14  
 Vincent 14, 33  
 Virgin 14  
 Vollandt 14  
 Voss 14  
 Wadley 60  
 Waggoner 14  
 Wails 14  
 Walch 14  
 Walker 14, 15, 22, 23  
 Walton 4, 47  
 Wantland 15  
 Ward 15  
 Warner 60  
 Warren 15  
 Washburn 15  
 Waters 15  
 Watkins 14, 15  
 Watson 15  
 Watterson 15  
 Weaver 3, 15  
 Webb 15  
 Webster 6, 15, 61  
 Weidenmaier 15  
 Weir 34  
 Weiss 15  
 Welborn 15  
 Welch 15, 29  
 Weld 13, 29  
 Welge 9, 17, 35, 38  
 Wells 29  
 Westervelt 29, 34  
 Wewers 29  
 Wheeler 29, 61  
 Wheelis 34  
 Whisenant 6  
 White 29  
 Whitsett 29  
 Whitten 39  
 Whittington 30  
 Wickizer 30  
 Wickoff 43  
 Wieland 30  
 Wiggins 30  
 Wigley 7  
 Wilkerson 30, 47  
 Wilkins 30  
 Williams 6, 23, 30, 31, 33, 39, 60  
 Williamson 31  
 Willingham 6  
 Wilson 25, 31, 38-42, 49, 50, 54, 60  
 Wingate 31  
 Wingo 31  
 Winstade 31  
 Wintin 31  
 Wise 43  
 Witt 15, 46  
 Witte 7, 31  
 Wolf 31, 34  
 Womack 31, 42, 6  
 Womastek 31  
 Wood 46  
 Woodard 46  
 Woodbury 13  
 Woodmansee 29  
 Woodring 46  
 Woodrow 6, 46  
 Wright 46  
 Wyatt 3  
 Wynne 6, 42, 46, 52  
 Yandell 47  
 Yates 23  
 Yeary 47  
 York 7, 47  
 Young 3, 39, 47  
 Zebrich 14

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To collect local, historical, and genealogical materials

To preserve selected local public records

To share our library and archival holdings with the public

To promote the development of research skills