



Cleveland County Courthouse built in 1906, after the first courthouse mysteriously burned, destroying many records. This building was torn down in 1939 to make room for the present courthouse. Photo courtesy of *The Norman Transcript* and Western History Collections, University of Oklahoma.

The Cleveland County Commission at Statehood

The ballot for the September 16, 1907 election in Cleveland County included the names of nine candidates, representing four political parties, for the three district offices of the County Commission.

The candidates selected by the electorate would assume the duties of their offices on Statehood Day, November 16, 1907. William A. Taylor became the District 1 commissioner. Thomas E. Blair was elected to the District 2 post, and John A. Fox was commissioner for District 3. Each of these men were Democrats.

Judging from the residence of these men, it appears that District 1 covered the northern part of the county, District 2 the southern portion, and District 3 a central area which included Norman. Commissioner boundaries are adjusted every ten years, according to current population.

William A. Taylor, District 1 Commissioner

William A. Taylor, although he was elected to office in Oklahoma's first state election, left few footprints in Cleveland County.

This gentleman was born in February 1865 in Kentucky. He and his wife Ida were in Cleveland County at the time of the 1890 territorial census; they were counted in Township 10N-2W. They had been in Oklahoma only seven months, which means they did not participate in the Run. At the time of the 1890 census they had no children.

William Taylor also appears in the 1891 census of taxpayers in Cleveland County, in Case Township, 10N-2W.

Taylor did receive a patent, which is recorded December 14, 1895, in volume 2, page 98. The legal description to his land is "Lots 1 and 2 and the east half of the northwest quarter, Section 19, Township 10N-2W, comprising about 162 52/100 acres".

William and Ida Taylor had five children while they lived in Cleveland County—Lawrence, Homer, Ola, Phoebe and William—born between 1891 and 1905. The 1900 census found them in Case Township, while they were in Taylor Township in 1910.

Sometime before 1920, the Taylors moved to Pampa, Gray County, Texas. Only the youngest child, William, lived with the parents at this time.

It is probable that all the Taylor children moved to the Texas panhandle with the parents. We find Social Security death records for Homer Taylor in Pampa, Gray County, Texas, and for Lawrence Taylor in Plainview, Hale County, Texas.

Since no 1930 census record for William or Ida Taylor could be found, it is likely that both died between 1920 and 1930.

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Cleveland County Genealogical Society

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Cleveland County Genealogical Society

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Feature Story, continued



Thomas E. Blair, District 2 commissioner

Thomas Elmer Blair was born September 8, 1862, probably in Macon County, Missouri. His parents were Sylvester Blair and Ardelia Emeline Lewis, who had married in Pike County, Illinois September 12, 1852. Thomas had one older brother, William Blair. By 1870 the family had moved to Van Buren Township, Newton County, Missouri.

Thomas' father, Sylvester, died sometime before 1880. The 1880 census found Thomas and his mother back in Macon County, Missouri. His mother had married again, to D. G. Buster, a Kentuckian. Thomas was listed in the census as a stepson to Mr. Buster. Records in that county show that D. G. Buster had taken legal action to be appointed "guardian and custodian of Thos. E. Blair."

Little is known of Thomas Blair's first marriage, except that it produced two sons, Elmer and Leslie, both born in Missouri before 1895.

After he came to Oklahoma, Thomas Blair married Lillian Alford in Cleveland County December 4, 1898. The children of this couple include Mary, Cecil, Agnes, and Albert Blair.

In 1900, the Blair family, including the two children of the first marriage, was living in Canadian Township, Cleveland County. Thomas's mother, Ardelia Buster, was widowed and living with them.

Thomas E. Blair's patent for a 160-acre parcel of land in Section 27-7N-1E was recorded June 24, 1905.

The only real property owned by Blair at the time of his death August 29, 1938, was 80 acres in Section 26-7N-1W.

Survivors of Thomas E. Blair in 1938 included his widow, Lillian. Surviving children were Leslie L. Blair of Purcell, Elmer T. Blair and Cecil T. Blair of RFD Purcell, Mary M. Blair Crawford of Wheelock Academy, Millerton, Oklahoma; and Agnes A. Adams of RFD Lexington.

Lillian Blair died July 18, 1952. Both Thomas Blair and Lillian Alford Blair are buried in Willow View Cemetery in Cleveland County.

John A. Fox District 3 Commissioner

John Abraham Fox was born July 14, 1850, possibly in Sevier County, Tennessee. His father, Abraham Maxwell Fox, was a native of North Carolina, while his mother, Hannah Burkett Hix, was from Tennessee.

John Abraham was the youngest of a family of twelve children. The Fox family moved to Catoosa County, Georgia, prior to the Civil War. Some of John's brothers served in Confederate military units, and the family probably experienced privation as civilians.

After the war, about 1869, John Fox went out west to the Indian Territory, most likely the Chickasaw Nation. It appears that he found work in the Byrd and Perry store in Stonewall or Tishomingo. About 1883 or 1884, he married a 13-year-old Indian girl.

The family story is that the bride was bought, or bartered for, and family members expressed some uncertainty that an official marriage actually took place. In any event, the girl was forced to give up her Indian name and select a white name for herself. Eventually she chose the name Columbia Ann Henegar.

John and Columbia Fox had nine children. Those who grew to adulthood include Mary, James, Paralee Josephine, Pearl, John J., Haney A., Etha M., and Saloma. Carrie Manerva died in infancy and is buried in Warren Cemetery.

In late 1929, the *Cleveland County Leader* published a series of articles John A. Fox had written about his life adventures. There were stories about life in northwest Georgia during the Civil War, adventures in Indian Territory, and early days at Pauls Valley in the Chickasaw Nation. He also told of stormy days preceding the opening of the Unassigned Lands, as well as of his making the run on a fast horse and staking a claim.

Records indicate that John Fox did not settle in Cleveland County until sometime after 1890. He does not appear in the 1890 territorial census. All federal censuses, beginning with 1900, enumerate the Fox family in Norman. The *Norman Transcript* advertised the John Fox grocery, first door west of Maguire's, on January 27, 1893. The 1908 Norman city directory lists his residence at 601 West Main Street in Norman.

For several years, John Fox was a grocer in Norman. Newspaper articles state he was a member of the Norman police and fire departments.

Some three years after Norman's city government was organized, John Fox was appointed to complete the term of a city councilman who had resigned. Thus began his opportunities for public service. Fox was elected County Commissioner for District 3 at statehood in 1907 and served two terms in that office.

Fox took special interest in two major projects that occurred on his watch. Shortly after statehood,

county commissioners acquired land and established a poor farm to care for the county's elderly and indigent. Fox supervised the building of a two-story, thirteen-room frame farm house on property the county purchased in Section 31 10N-2W.

He also was a leader in plans to build a bridge across the South Canadian River. When he lost his bid for re-election to the county commission in 1912, the Norman Bridge Company hired him as superintendent of construction for the South Canadian bridge. Construction began in January 1913 and was completed by late September.

The 1920 census shows John Fox and family living at 601 West

Main in Norman, his occupation as "organizer, W.O.W. Lodge." In 1930 he is shown as head of household. Other family members are his son-in-law, Claude Summers, his daughter Josephine Summers, and the Summers' two sons. The family resides at 108 North Flood.

John Abraham Fox's wife, Columbia Ann, died May 8, 1929, and is buried in Warren Cemetery. John Fox died April 18, 1941 and is buried beside Columbia in Warren Cemetery.

By all accounts, John Abraham Fox was a respected member of the community and a public servant who could be counted on to protect the interests of those he served.

Sources

From the CCGS Library:

- 1908 City Directory, Norman, Oklahoma*
- Cleveland County Cemeteries: Warren*
- Cleveland County Cemeteries: Willow View*
- Cleveland County Land Patents Granted by the United States of America 1891-1909, Volumes 1 thru 4*
- Cleveland County Index to Marriages 1902-1907*
- Cleveland County, Oklahoma Census of Taxpayers, 1891*
- Cleveland County, Oklahoma Territory Census of Tax Payers, Tax Year 1895*
- Cleveland County, Oklahoma Territory Index to Marriages 1895-1901*
- First Territorial Census of Oklahoma, 1890*
- Probate File 1557, Cleveland County, Oklahoma. Thomas Elmer Blair Surname File, CCGS Library. John Abraham Fox*
- Womack, John. Cleveland County, Oklahoma Historical Highlights. Noble, Okla.: Womack, 1983*
- Womack, John. Norman—An Early History, 1820-1900. Norman, Okla., Womack, 1976*

Online:

- Ancestry.com
- 1860 U.S. Census, Catoosa County, Georgia
- 1870 U.S. Census, Newton County, Missouri
- 1880 U.S. Census, Macon County, Missouri
- 1900 U.S. Census, Cleveland County, Oklahoma
- 1910 U.S. Census, Cleveland County, Oklahoma
- 1920 U.S. Census, Cleveland County, Oklahoma
- 1920 U.S. Census, Gray County, Texas
- 1930 U.S. Census, Cleveland County, Oklahoma

Social Security Death Index

Online Sources for Information about Oklahoma Pioneers

While researching the feature story for this issue, the writer turned to the internet several times looking for specific information about one or another of the early-day county commissioners. In the process, we discovered several Web sites that offer information about early inhabitants of Oklahoma and Cleveland County. Some of these may be helpful to our readers.

http://www.rootsweb.com/~okgenweb/census/indian_territory.htm

OKGenWeb offers extensive information about censuses that were taken in both Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. This includes important links to resources about the people who would settle in the area now known as Oklahoma. Although you may find some census transcriptions, the greater importance is learning what resources are available and where they may be found.

<http://www.okhistory.org/research/library/terr.html>

Visitors to the Oklahoma History Center Web site can search Brian Basore's *Name Finding List for Smith's First Directory*. Smith's directory was created in 1890 and lists individuals living in Oklahoma Territory, both those living in towns and homesteaders.

The Oklahoma History Center Web site also features a searchable index to the 1890 Oklahoma Territorial Census, which contains records from the unassigned lands in central Oklahoma and select records from the Panhandle region.

<http://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/ok/logan/history/dir/smiths1890nor.txt>

The transcription of inhabitants listed in *Smith's 1890 City Directory for Norman, O.T.* is featured on this Web page. Names are listed in alphabetical order, followed by occupation and residence.

<http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/census2/index.htm>

A comprehensive listing of American Indian census records appears on this Web site. Some links are free, and some require subscription.

http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ok/nations/1860_federal_census_of_indian_te.htm?

Transcriptions of the 1860 Federal Census of Indian Territory are available here. This census shows some (but not all) of the non-Indians who were living in the Indian Nations at that time. The original can be found at the end of the 1860 Yell County, Arkansas, census microfilm.

These census transcriptions can be accessed at this Web site by tribe or by alphabetical surname search. It is also possible to search by free and slave schedules.

<http://www.genealogybranches.com/1890census.html>

This helpful page suggests alternate resources for finding your ancestor in circa 1890 records. Suggestions for substitute records include state census records 1885-1895, city directories, and the 1890 Civil War Veterans and Widows Census.

<http://www.researchguides.net/census/free.htm>

We all welcome the links to free online census records and indexes offered by this helpful Web site.

<http://library.ucok.edu/instruction/genealogy.pdf>

Closer to home, the University of Central Oklahoma offers a list of selected resources for genealogical research available at the college in Edmond.

Bits & Pieces



1911 census of Ireland is now online (records for Dublin only at present).

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/>

Largest online collection of World War II photos was recently released by Footnote.com

www.footnote.com/wwii.php

Who are the Black Dutch? There are many theories.

[http://homepages.rootsweb.com/](http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~hornbeck/blkdutch.htm)

[~hornbeck/blkdutch.htm](http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~hornbeck/blkdutch.htm)

Online tutorials in deciphering Scottish handwriting from sixteenth-, seventeenth-, or eighteenth-century Scottish records.

<http://www.scottishhandwriting.com/>

If your Revolutionary War ancestor fought in the South, you need to visit the web site of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.

<http://www.southerncampaign.org>

New Norman Library Update

As this newsletter goes to press, the Norman City Council is working on proposals for a May 13th ballot asking for funding in three areas of interest to Norman citizens: Public Safety, the Pioneer Library System, and a new Norman Public Library building.

One ballot item will propose bond funding for a new 118,000 square foot public library building in Norman at Main Street and Porter Avenue. The increased space will allow for the expansion of each department and meeting rooms as well as the inclusion of our library collection as a local and family history reference room. Perhaps most important for many of us, the project also includes four times the current parking spaces for library patrons.

The total bond package will include funds to refit the current public library building in order to expand city offices (primarily to increase much needed facilities for Municipal Court functions) and to house Senior Citizens activities.

Another item will ask for a seven year sales tax increase of as much as a half cent to bring fire and police forces in line with the needs of a growing city by hiring, training, and outfitting 41 police officers and 30 firemen.

A related bond issue would fund two new fire stations and new police cruisers and fire trucks to support the additional public safety personnel.

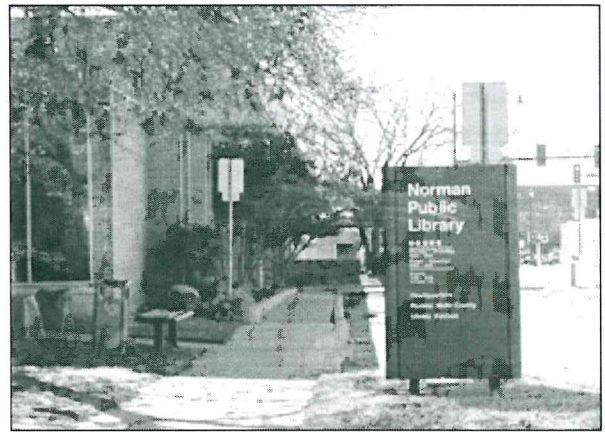
It has been estimated that the cost of this bond package to the individual homeowner would be less than \$6.00 per month for a \$150,000 property, or less than the cost of a paperback book.

Another ballot item will be a request from the Pioneer Library System (in Cleveland County as well as in McClain and Pottawatomie Counties) to increase library funding from 4 mills to 6 mills. This funding

would provide for the purchase of more books and materials, more staffing and programs, and more computers and technology support.

For the latest information on these issues (which may see changes after our newsletter press time), follow the *Norman Transcript* and the Norman section of the *Oklahoman*, or check out the Web site for the City of Norman. www.normanok.gov You may already have been following these public discussions on Cox local cable channel 20.

For our Society, additional space and support for the Norman Public Library would mean that our collection would be housed and maintained in the new building. The genealogy collection would be more easily available to the public and would be open additional hours. The



collection would have technology, cataloging, and staff support of the Pioneer Library System, and CCGS would have more convenient meeting spaces and parking spaces.

Since the beginning of our library collection in 1990, the Cleveland County Genealogical Society has worked toward a goal of being more available to the community. This move would be a giant step toward that goal.

The proposed measures would pass with a simple majority of ballots cast.

We urge you to vote on May 13th.

President's Message



Recently, the Citizens' Committee for a New Norman Library, formerly a Mayor's ad hoc committee, has reorganized once again as a Campaign Committee for a New Norman library.

This group will now focus on promoting the bond issue in favor of a new library building. Anyone can assist in this effort by signing up for membership with a minimum \$25 contribution. (Make your check out to Campaign Committee, and mail to Campaign Committee, P.O. Box 5321 Norman OK 73070-5321.

In addition, committee members and supporters are needed now for volunteer help in preparing mailings, calling, distributing signs and handout materials, and driving voters to the polls on election day. Any experience in a campaign is a plus. Would you like to help?

We ask that you share your views on these issues with family, friends, and neighbors.

Do you have questions? Check out the Web site for the City of Norman. <www.normanok.gov> Ask your city council member to clarify a point, or call the CCGS Library during library hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. We'll try to get a response for you.

And we urge you to vote on Tuesday, May 13th.

100 Years Ago



Newspaper Abstracts

Norman Democrat-Topic • Friday, March 6, 1908

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

Society News

Mr. & Mrs. James Maguire entertained Mr. & Mrs. William Newell, Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Stubbeman, and Mr. & Mrs. John Taylor for six o'clock dinner Saturday.

The Informal club attended "The Slow Poke" Saturday night and postponed their meeting with Miss Bernice Rice until the following Saturday.

The Swastika club meets with Miss Ruth Bumgarner Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Fred Carder entertained at bridge Friday afternoon for her sister, Mrs. Anna Carder Bossen of Oklahoma City who has been visiting relatives for a few days.

The boys and girls of the high school danced at Cain's hall Thursday evening.

The Entre Nous met with Miss Nan Hughes Thursday evening. The lesson was from Tennyson's *Idyls of the King* was studied and discussed. A quartette by Misses Donnelly, Webster, Kopeke, and Lindsay met with a hearty encore. The club adjourned until the next regular time which will be a social meeting.

Moore

Dr. C. P. Kelley made a trip to Snyder looking after his farm last week returning to Moore Wednesday.

Miss Dona Jenkins who is teaching school at Lindsay, Oklahoma, attended the funeral of her brother in law T. J. Orrick at Moore Saturday returning to Lindsay Sunday.

The Modern Woodmen of America installed the following officers at a

special meeting Saturday night: Geo. F. Dressen, V. C.; J. W. Williamson, W. Adv.; J. M. Blevens, B.; F. E. Percival, Clerk; Johnie Luckuck, Escort; Clifford Bruce, Watchman; A. F. Higgins and Frank McLennan, Managers.

Mayor James A. Cowan has fitted his office with a new Globe-Warnecke book case and is laying the foundation for one of the most complete and up to date law libraries in the new state.

Mr. John Duncan a popular young farmer of Moore Township becoming weary of the happy fortunes of single blessedness quietly departed to the land of the big red apple in North-western Arkansas returning last Saturday with beautiful rosy cheeked maiden whom he has chosen for his life partner. He was married to Miss Mollie Mathis at Fayetteville Arkansas, Thursday, February 26. His many friends extend congratulations.

Death of T. J. Orrick

The unfortunate and sudden death of Mr. T. J. Orrick who resides north of Stella was a shock to his many friends and acquaintances throughout the county. Mr. Orrick died from the results of a kick in the stomach by a yearling colt on Thursday evening, February 27th, death resulting about three o'clock the next morning.

Funeral services were conducted at the Moore cemetery Saturday afternoon under the auspices of the Stella and Moore Woodmen of the World of which the deceased was a member of the former lodge, and carried \$2,000 insurance. The deceased was 50 years old and had resided in Oklahoma and

the Indian territory for more than 30 years coming here from Tennessee. He was spoken of by his neighbors and friends in the highest terms. A widow and a fifteen year old son survive him. The many friends of the family extend to them their sympathy in their hour of bereavement.

Canada

The most prosperous farmers are taking advantage of the pretty weather.

There are at this writing twenty-three cases of mumps in District 49.

Mrs. W. E. Riggs who was very sick Saturday and Sunday is some better at this writing.

Mrs. Floyd Eastep is on the sick list this week.

Mrs. Dilbeck and daughters visited W. E. Riggs and family Saturday night.

Nellie Burkett and Bessie Brooks attended the teachers' meeting at Noble Saturday.

Arcilla Ketner spent Sunday with Mattie Taylor.

Norman Democrat-Topic Friday, March 13, 1908

Local News

E. B. Johnson was a Guthrie visitor Friday.

Foss Shockley was here from Lexington Friday.

Judge Wolf attended court at Pauls Valley this week.

Attorney John H. Mosier returned from Chicago Saturday.

Take your prescription to the New Drug Store. — "LINDSAY'S"

W. H. Johnson and E. B. Johnson leave this week for Isom, Texas, on a two weeks business trip.

Leo. Schader returned Friday from a five weeks visit at Sedalia, Missouri.

A. J. Scarbrough was here from Canadian township last Friday and Saturday.

C. W. Wilson sold his 80-acre tract of land near Linden Wednesday to C. Hall of the ten mile flat.

Mrs. M. B. Fulkerson of Denver departed Saturday for Rockport, Kentucky, to visit relatives for a month.

Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Burton departed Saturday for Estancia, New Mexico, where they will make their future home.

E. A. Phillips who formerly resided across the river is putting in a \$2,000 stock of harness and saddles at Altus, Oklahoma.

Prof. J. S. Buchanan conducted a state examination at Sulphur Friday and Saturday for teachers, who desire to conduct and instruct in county institutes.

Noble State Bank

Your attention is called to the financial statement of the Noble State Bank in this issue. The financial condition of this splendid institution speaks volumes for the bank's splendid management. An application has been made to the banking department for an increase of the capital stock to \$25,000 - an increase of \$10,000. The Noble State Bank is one of the solid banks of Oklahoma.

Laundry Changes Hands

The Norman Steam Laundry was sold this week to R. F. J. Williams and B. G. Hazard of Anniston, Alabama. The new proprietors took charge Tuesday. Messrs. Williams and Hazard are energetic young men and we believe will do their utmost to give satisfaction. The Peebles-Pickard Company closed the deal.

Carlton Weaver Slugged

Carlton Weaver, a former student of the University and a delegate to the constitutional convention was slugged in a joint at Ada last week.

Weaver accompanied a drunken man into a joint and while there was assaulted by the friends of the jointists whom Weaver has been fighting through his papers.

Kintergarten to Open

The Kintergarten department of the public schools will open on Monday March 9th. The sessions will be held in the building second door north of City National Bank.

Eggs for Sale

Brown and White Leghorns, Cornish Indian Games, Silver Spangled Hamburgs, and Buff Cochin. Put in your order now. Phone 18.
S. A. Brewer,
Norman, Okla.

An Attraction

The largest post card rack in the city and probably in Oklahoma, is to be seen at Kingkade's Book Store. The rack is 12 by 8 feet, and shows something like 2,000 post cards and makes a very attractive display.

Schwartz

Mrs. Annie Reed was a pleasant visitor at Mrs. M. J. Pryor last Thursday afternoon.

Miss Blanche Reudy was able to be at school again Monday after having dismissed two days on account of having the mumps.

Mrs. B. W. Wynne was quite sick the latter part of last week.

Hill and Oak Grove

Mrs. Steves is suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism.

Fay Thompson and Robert Luttrell were visitors in this part of the county last week.

Miss Nora Jones and Dora Hamlin departed last Tuesday morning for Western Oklahoma and to a casual observer it would seem that Henry Barton and Lum Jones were going along.

Omer Barker who is teaching the Denver school was the guest of Will Thompson and John Luttrell Saturday and Sunday.

Owing to the fact that the busy season of the year is fast approaching the spelling schools at Hill and Oak Grove will be discontinued in the near future.

Norman Democrat-Topic **Friday, March 20, 1908**

Noble

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Stogner are the proud parents of a bouncing baby girl born Sunday night, March 8.

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Williams of Minco spent several days last week with Mrs. Williams parents, Mr. & Mrs. Bradshaw.

Mrs. Minnie Neff received the sad news of the death of her little grand daughter Bess Neel, who died at the home of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Neel, of Dallas, Texas, Sunday March 8.

Mrs. M. B. Carley and children were guests of Mrs. B. R. McDonald of Norman Saturday.

The children of Mr. & Mrs. Homer Sellers are entertaining the measles this week.

Harry Beasley, the business manager of the Noble Merc. Co., is spending this week in eastern markets, and promises their customers the finest line of goods for the coming year ever shown in Noble.

Mr. & Mrs. Ovits are having a new kitchen built to their home in Noble. When finished this will be one of Noble's finest cottages.

Meetings

November

Marian Davis, an abstractor with Cleveland County Abstract, explained that abstracts outline the history of ownership of a property. Abstractors are required to explore and cite all courthouse records that could have implications on the title to a property. Oklahoma law holds abstractors to strict standards.

December

The speaker at our December meeting was Richard Ryan, co-chair of the Citizen's Committee for a New Norman Library.

Mr. Ryan cited inadequate space in the current library, the need to double current seating and computer stations, the lack of free meeting spaces, and the shortage of library parking spaces as impetus for plans to build a new library facility.

He pointed out the many decisions that must be made as the city council considers and acquires a site, develops a budget, and prepares for a millage or bond election.

January

Charles Anderson intrigued those who came to hear his account of researching the genealogy of a house. While doing some minor remodeling, he discovered love letters and other artifacts hidden in the walls of his 1916 home on Chautauqua Street.

His research to learn about Addie Maloy and her family led him to the Cleveland County Genealogy Library, the local courthouse, and other sources—and eventually to current-day members of the Pumphrey Maloy family.

His story was filmed the previous week by the HD-TV program *If Walls Could Talk*, and

CCGS News



will likely be aired sometime during the next four to six months.

Library Exploration

Jo Mustoe and Mary Lewis presented a Library Exploration workshop January 21. Focus of the event was on the variety of research sources held in the CCGS Library and how to find and use these materials.

Twelve persons participated in this event, including seven who have not previously visited the CCGS Library.

This workshop will be repeated Friday, March 21, 2008, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the CCGS Library. Please call the CCGS Library (701-2100) to register for this informative free workshop.

CCGS Statistics

During the last six months of 2007, 450 persons visited the CCGS Library. Of these, thirty-six were first-time visitors.

Our visitors came from Alabama, California, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Texas, and Utah, and from the Oklahoma communities of Duncan, Edmond, Lawton, Midwest City, Oklahoma City, and Ponca City. Cleveland County visitors came from Lexington, Moore, and Noble, as well as from Norman.

For the entire year 2007, our library saw 904 visitors, of whom sixty-five were first-time visitors.

Our records show donations of 49 books, 77 journals, and four miscellaneous items for the CCGS Library during 2007.

Family History Writers Group

Participants in the monthly Family History Writers Group never know what kind of stories they will hear from their writing peers. The January 2008 meeting was no exception.

The stories included:

- Exploration of the relationship of a daughter with her mother as that relationship changes over the years
- Flexibility—a key skill for the group hosting international visitors to Norman during the December ice storm
- Memories of the writer's childhood friendship with a neighboring Jewish family, survivors of the Holocaust.
- On a nature walk, searching for, and finally discovering, the source of an unusual sound.
- Biography of an early resident of Cleveland County
- Description of an effective computer search technique

Some of these stories later appeared in print. Tricia Carleton's description of entertaining Japanese visitors during the 2007 ice storm was featured in the Sunday, January 13, issue of the *Norman Transcript*. Readers will find another story in the current issue of the *CCGS Newsletter*.

You are invited to bring your story and join the Writers Group. They meet the second Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. in the CCGS Library.

The next meeting of the Family History Writers Group will be Wednesday, March 12, 2008.

Deaths

We extend sympathy to these CCGS members.

To Colin Toenjes, whose mother, Patricia Toenjes, died November 23, 2007 in St. Louis, Missouri.

To Edwin Thompson, whose wife, Gerlinde Thompson, died December 22, 2007 in Norman.

To Jean and Robert Dubois, whose daughter, Michelle Tull, died December 29, 2007 in Orlando, Florida.

To Betty Hall, whose brother, Robert "Bob" January died in Oklahoma City January 9, 2007.

To the family of Gladys I. Dodson, a former member, who died January 19, 2008 in Norman.

To Sharron Owens, whose husband, David Malcolm "Dave" Owens, died in Norman February 4, 2008.

Garage Sale

As this issue of the CCGS Newsletter goes to press, CCGS members are busily preparing for the annual Norman Non-Profit Agencies Garage Sale.

Sale items are arriving at the library daily, and teams are working diligently to price all items. Workers are being scheduled to load sale items Friday afternoon February 22, to set up our booth at the Fairgrounds that day, and to work the booth on the sale date Saturday, February 23.

It takes a lot of work to create, promote, and execute this fund-raising project. We appreciate all the members who help in so many ways to make this annual event a financial success.

A financial report on the garage sale will be presented at the CCGS Board meeting Monday, March 10, as well as at the regular CCGS meeting Tuesday, March 18, 2008.

Reserve this date!
Saturday, August 2, 2008

for the
Cleveland County Genealogical Society
Summer Seminar

*Ancestry Reality Show: Exploring Images and
Data to Make Our Ancestors Real*

New Location this Year
Norman Community Church of the Nazarene
1804 North Porter, Norman, just South of IOOF
Cemetery

See page 12 for more information!

CCGS Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

Second Monday 1:00 p.m. at CCGS

- March 10
- April 7
- May 12
- June 9

Society Meetings

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

- March 18, Donna Waddle
Research in the Local Family History Library
- April 15, Billie Fogarty • Writing Family History
- May 20, To be announced
- June 17, Installation of Officers and Social Hour.
Bring snacks

Family History Writers Group

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

- March 12
- April 9
- May 14
- June 11

Genealogy Computer

Users Group

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Norman Public Library,
Computer Room

- March 26
- April 23
- May 28
- June 25

CCGS Garage Sale

Saturday, February 23 • 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Cleveland County Fairgrounds

Library Exploration Workshop

Friday, March 21, 2008, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
CCGS Library • Please call 701-2100 to register

Summer Seminar

Saturday, August 2, 2008
Norman Community Church of the Nazarene
1804 N. Porter, Norman Pat Gordon, speaker

Workshops

Oklahoma Genealogical Society 2008 Spring Seminar

Craig Roberts Scott –
Military Research
Saturday, April 5, 2008
Chesapeake Event Center,
Oklahoma History Center
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
364-5374 (J. Fendley) or
www.okgensoc.org

National Genealogical Society

Conference in the States
Show Me The Nation's Records
Kansas City, Missouri
May 14-17, 2008
[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/
AnnualConference.cfm](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/AnnualConference.cfm)
1-800-473-0060

CCGS Summer Seminar

See box at right

Federation of Genealogical Societies

September 2-5, 2009
Little Rock, Arkansas
[http://www.fgs.org/conferences/
index.php](http://www.fgs.org/conferences/index.php)

CCGS Summer Seminar

Ancestry Reality Show: Exploring Images and Data to Make Our Ancestors Real

is the exciting focus of the 2008 CCGS Summer Seminar.

When: Saturday, August 2, 2008
Where: The place is new this year—
Norman Community Church of the Nazarene
1804 North Porter in Norman

Speaker for our 2008 Summer Seminar is Pat Gordon, who teaches journalism at the University of Texas at Arlington. She holds a master's degree in journalism from Texas Christian University and is a former newspaper reporter.

Grounded in a variety of family research techniques, Mrs. Gordon is especially interested in placing her ancestors in context to the social setting in which they lived. As a professional writer and photographer, she often lectures at genealogy seminars on how to make the most of using digital cameras and scanners, as well as editing software.

These are the topics covered in her presentation.

1. Going Digital: Using Digital Cameras and Scanners for Family History
2. Using Editing Software: Getting the Most from Your Digitized Images.
3. Beyond Vital Statistics: Just Who Are These People, Anyway?
4. Earning a Living: Your Ancestors at Work

Look for more information about the
2008 Summer Seminar
in the June issue of the CCGS Newsletter.
or call 701-2100 • or go to
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~okccogs/>

NGS Conference

The National Genealogical Society's Conference in the States and Family History Fair will be held this spring in Kansas City, Missouri. The Conference runs Wednesday, May 14th through Saturday, May 17th. The theme for this year's conference is, *Show Me The Nation's Records*.

Attendees may select one of nine choices for each of five sessions throughout each day to hear top lecturers in a wide variety of genealogical research, historical background, and technical skill areas.

Conference events also include a virtual and a real tour of the Mid-Continent Public Library's newly remodeled Genealogy Center in Independence, Missouri.

Check out the conference program schedule at www.ngsgenealogy.com. You may want to attend since the conference is so close to our area. Contact us at the CCGS Library and we'll try to connect you with a traveling companion to share expenses. Call 701-2100 or e-mail ccgs@csbi.org

New Materials

Books

1840 U. S. Census, Scott County, Mississippi
1850 U. S. Census, Scott County, Mississippi
1989 Plat Maps of Fremont County, Iowa
Adams County Illinois 1841 Tax List
Colonial Surry
Danish Genealogical Helper
Death Records of the St. Clair County Poor Farm and Hospital, Belleville (Swansea), Illinois
Early Records of Montague County, Texas, 1858-1879
Edgecomb County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes
Evidence Explained: Citing Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace
Hardin County Civil War Tax Assessment
Hardin County Deeds 1856-1866
Hardin County Hodgepodge
History of Oklahoma State Federation of Women's Clubs
History of the Post Office in Norman, Oklahoma
Holt County, Missouri Death Notices from Area Newspapers 1857-1899
Holt County, Missouri Deaths: 1883-1893
Index to Probate Cases, 1846-1900, Dallas County, Texas It Happened in Oklahoma
Lexington Miscellany
Marriages, Dallas County, Texas: Books A - E (1846-1877)
Marriages, Dallas County, Texas: Book F, G, H
Marriages of Adams County, Illinois
Montague County, Texas, Marriage Books B & C, 1879-1888
Moore Miscellany
Moving Forward: Hardin County History from 1870 to 1930
Newspaper Obituaries, Collin County, Texas, 1884-1899
Noble Miscellany
The Pilgrims: Their Journeys & Their World
St. Clair County, Illinois 1840 Census
Story of Oklahoma
Warren Cemetery
West Tennessee Death Records

Genealogy

Genealogy begins as an interest,
Becomes a hobby;
Continues as an avocation,
Takes over as an obsession,
And in its last stages,
Is an incurable disease.

Author Unknown

Borrowed from Smoke Signals, Ottawa County Genealogical Society, Miami, Oklahoma. Spring 2005.

In the Library



Journals

Augustan, The
Bartholomew County Ancestors
Flashback (Washington Co., Ark.)
Heart of Texas Records
High Family Journal
Montague Milestones
Welch - Welsh - Walsh: The official Publication of the Family Association

Computer Disks

Abstracts of Wills, Wichita County, Texas, 1882-1927
Centennia Historical Atlas
Genealogy and History of Morris county, New Jersey
Legacy Trail Dedication #4
North Carolina Wills and Inventories and Abstract of North Carolina Wills
Tombstone Inscriptions of Murray County, Georgia

In Recent Journals

A model farm of the Choctaw nation in 1875 is managed by a white man. *Bryan County Genealogical Library & Archives Quarterly*. November 2007.

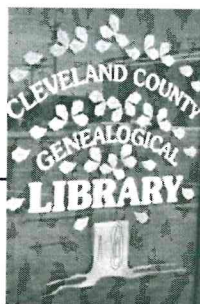
A photographic visit to the Tulsa and Springfield, Missouri libraries. *Smoke Signals*. Ottawa County Genealogical Society. Vol. 29, No. 4, Oct. - Nov. - Dec. 2007.

Life in the Cherokee Nation in the early days—in both the East and the West. *The Goingsnake Messenger*. Goingsnake District Heritage Association. Vol. 24, No. 3, 2007.

DNA accepted as Mayflower proof of descent. *Delaware County Family Trails*. Delaware County Genealogical Society. Vol. 21, No. 4, Oct-Nov-Dec 2007.

Do you need a county map for Mayes, Nowata, or Ottawa counties in northeast Oklahoma? It's right here. *Craig County Genealogical Newsletter*. Craig County Genealogical Society. Winter 2007-2008.

1907 statistics for the United States. What a difference a century makes! *Roots & Branches*. Garfield County Genealogists. Vol. 30, No. 3, November 2007.



Can a first cousin, once removed, return?

Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.

I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.

It's hard to be humble with ancestors like mine.

Report of Examination of Successful Candidates for Common School Diploma

• Eighth Grade Exams • 1909-1911 • Cleveland County, Oklahoma •

Below are names of Cleveland County students who successfully passed the Eighth-Grade Exams and received a diploma during the years 1909 through 1911. We will present 1912 and additional years in this publication over the next several issues.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Year</u>
Abshier, Mable	15	Norman	1910
Aitkenhead, William C.	13	Norman	1911
Alexander, Ione	15	Norman	1910
Allen, Janet	13	Norman	1911
Ambrister, Harry	14	Norman	1911
Amerine, Rudolph	13	Noble	1910
Amrein, Herman	15	Noble	1911
Ashford, Nealie	14	Noble	1909
Austin, Roy	15	Noble	1910
Bacon, Willie	19	Newalla	1910
Barber, Vena	16	Trousdale	1911
Barber, Willie	17	Wanette	1910
Barnes, Letha	17	Noble	1909
Barton, Myrtle	16	Newalla	1909
Barton, Clara		Moore	1910
Beasley, Vernon	14	Noble	1910
Bell, George	17	Noble	1911
Bell, Myrtle	14	Noble	1911
Berry, Walter	14	Norman	1911
Bessinger, Esther	17	Newalla	1911
Bessinger, Grace	15	Newalla	1911
Bible, Ruby	14	Norman	1910
Black, Horner	14	Noble	1910
Blake, Meltha	15	Norman	1909
Blanchard, Lela	16	Norman	1911
Bode, Theodore Joseph	15	Norman	1911
Boston, John		Newalla	1910
Bowlan, Clay	19	Lexington	1911
Bowlan, Florence	17	Lexington	1911
Boyd, Tuletah	15	Noble	1910
Boydston, John	12	Lexington	1910
Bradley, Rhoda	16	Moore	1909
Bradway, Mary	14	Noble	1911
Brannon, Lockie	16	Norman	1910
Brawn, Richard	12	Moore	1910
Brown, Carl	13	Lexington	1910
Button, Lotta	14	Norman	1910
Byers, Reverby	14	Norman	1911
Caldwell, Beulah	15	Wheatland	1911
Capshaw, Naomi	12	Norman	1911
Cargill, Guy	16	Lexington	1910
Cargill, Lonnie	14	Lexington	1910
Carmon, Ethel	16	Noble	1910
Carmon, Ruth	14	Noble	1911
Chase, M. L.	13	Norman	1910
Chorpening, Mildred	13	Moore	1909
Clary, Walter	20	Lexington	1910

Clifton, DeEtte	13	Norman	1911
Clopton, Susie	14	Norman	1910
Collins, Paul		Norman	1910
Conley, Olin	16	Lexington	1910
Conley, Ruth	12	Lexington	1911
Corbett, James	16	Lexington	1910
Corbett, Lewis	16	Lexington	1910
Corbin, Bertha Benton	13	Norman	1911
Deal, Martha	17	Tribbey	1910
DeLong, Murle	13	Norman	1911
Dickerson, Cora	16	Trousdale	1909
Doakes, Maltie	15	Newalla	1910
Dragoo, Raymond C.	14	Lexington	1911
Duffy, Homer	18	Lexington	1909
Dye, Clarence	18	Norman	1910
Eichhorn, Clara	13	Norman	1909
Emery, Gladys	16	Newalla	1910
Emery, Julia	13	Newalla	1909
English, Ned	17	Norman	1910
English, Ruth	16	Norman	1910
Eoff, Teresa	16	Lexington	1911
Eubank, Hela	15	Choctaw	1909
Farris, John	13	Moore	1910
Flood, Eva	13	Norman	1911
Fontenier, Emile	15	Lexington	1909
Fontenier, Paul	17	Lexington	1909
Fort, Lizzie Bell	18	Norman	1911
Foster, Alice	17	Moore	1910
Franklin, Docia	17	Tribbey	1909
Frick, Helbert	14	Norman	1909
George, Euline	15	Norman	1911
Gilliam, Ellis	18	Norman	1910
Givens, Weaver	16	Noble	1909
Goodrich, Margaret	13	Norman	1911
Gorton, Clover	14	Norman	1910
Graham, Effie	14	Noble	1910
Graham, Elva	14	Noble	1909
Graves, Clarence	13	Norman	1909
Griffin, Ada	18	Norman	1910
Griffin, Bennett	15	Lexington	1910
Griffin, Bryan	14	Norman	1911
Grotts, Leora	14	Norman	1910
Grotts, Lizzie	13	Norman	1910
Hackler, May	16	Lexington	1910
Hall, Bettie	19	Norman	1910
Hall, Geneva	14	Norman	1910
Hall, James	15	Norman	1911
Hall, James N.	15	Lexington	1911
Hall, Thomas Ethridge		Noble	1909
Hall, Willie	18	Norman	1910
Harris, Lottie	14	Noble	1911
Haswell, Lillie	12	Norman	1909
Helms, Earnest		Norman	1911
Helms, Gladys	13	Norman	1911

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Year</u>
Helms, Homer	16	Norman	1911	McKittrick, Fred	15	Moore	1910
Herrington, Pearl	14	Norman	1910	McLennan, Gladys	13	Moore	1909
Higgins, Ethel	13	Moore	1910	McVey, Maurene	13	Noble	1911
Higgins, George	12	Moore	1910	Medaris, Nola	15	Noble	1909
Hobaugh, Charles	18	Noble	1910	Medaris, Ray	17	Noble	1909
Hobaugh, Nelson	15	Noble	1909	Meloy, Ruby	13	Moore	1910
Holden, Vollie	19	Newalla	1910	Menasco, James	17	Wanette	1910
Holland, Roy	15	Norman	1911	Menasco, Nieye	1	Wanette	1910
Holloway, David	15	Lexington	1910	Mendenhall, Chester	15	Noble	1911
Holmes, L. Bessie	19	Newalla	1910	Mendenhall, Walter	14	Norman	1911
Hooper, Charles	18	Lexington	1910	Merritt, Cicero	15	Lexington	1909
Hoover, Maud		Norman	1910	Merritt, George	14	Lexington	1910
Hopper, Mamie	16	Noble	1909	Millar, John E.	13	Norman	1910
Hopper, Repear	16	Noble	1911	Miller, Ira	15	Norman	1911
Howland, Raymond		Moore	1909	Milton, Elmer	15	Moore	1910
Hoy, Lola	16	Norman	1909	Morgan, Mabel	14	Norman	1911
Hunker, Nevin		Wheatland	1909	Morris, Esther	15	Norman	1910
Hunt, Edith	16	Lexington	1910	Moseley, Ray	17	Tribbey	1910
Hunt, Glynn	14	Lexington	1910	Myers, Ella	14	Norman	1911
Huntsman, Daisy	18	Norman	1911	Neal, Ophie	14	Norman	1910
Huntsman, Sallie	17	Norman	1911	Nelson, Ulrica	14	Norman	1911
Jack, Blanche	14	Moore	1910	Northcutt, Clarence	18	Lexington	1910
Jackman, Agnes	13	Moore	1910	Northcutt, Lena	14	Norman	1911
Jacobs, Elva	15	Norman	1911	Olander, Anna	13	Moore	1910
Jameson, John	13	Chillicothe, TX	1911	Oliphant, Howard	18	Newalla	1910
Jennings, Grace Gertrude	14	Norman	1911	Oliver, William	15	Norman	1909
Jennings, Will	17	Newalla	1909	Ovits, Vera	15	Noble	1910
Johnson, Graham	14	Norman	1911	Pelty, Curtis	14	Noble	1909
Jones, Charley	18	Norman	1910	Pelty, Earlie	15	Noble	1909
Keller, Edgar	12	Lexington	1910	Perkins, Lois	14	Lexington	1909
Ketner, Clinton	14	Noble	1909	Perkins, Mayme	14	Lexington	1911
Kircher, Edith	12	Norman	1911	Phillips, David	15	Norman	1909
Kitchen, Willie	15	Moore	1910	Phillips, Kenneth	12	Norman	1910
Kobush, Henrietta	15	Norman	1910	Phillips, Paul	16	Norman	1911
Lambert, Lola	15	Newalla	1910	Polk, Birdie	17	Norman	1911
Lay, Lura	32	Tribbey	1910	Prater, Louis	15	Noble	1909
Leach, Naomi	13	Norman	1910	Proffitt, Maude	14	Norman	1910
Lessly, Anna	15	Norman	1909	Rainey, Everett	13	Moore	1910
Lessly, Ernest	16	Newalla	1909	Rayburn, Jess	19	Norman	1911
Lessly, Mahala	14	Norman	1910	Reed, Emma	16	Norman	1909
Lessly, Paul	17	Norman	1909	Reed, Winnie	18	Norman	1909
Lewellen, Lucy	15	Newalla	1910	Rhoades, Donald	14	Norman	1910
Lewis, Addison	14	Noble	1909	Rhoades, Gordon	14	Norman	1910
Lewis, Norma	16	Norman	1910	Rieger, Allie	13	Noble	1910
Long, Eva	13	Norman	1911	Robberson, Anna	13	Lexington	1909
Lowther, Irma	13	Norman	1910	Roberts, W. Dorr	16	Noble	1911
Lukinbill, Vinita	16	Lexington	1909	Roller, Howard	13	Norman	1910
Lyle, Bessie	19	Norman	1909	Rollins, Warden	18	Norman	1911
Martin, Lillie	13	Norman	1910	Roselius, Bessie	15	Noble	1911
May, Jett		Noble	1909	Russell, Helen	14	Noble	1909
Mayes, Sterling	?	Newalla	1909	Samples, Loyd	16	Noble	1909
McCall, Laura	14	Norman	1910	Sandel, Freeda	14	Noble	1911
McCall, Lewis	14	Norman	1910	Sandel, Louise	14	Noble	1910
McCartney, Elithe	13	Moore	1910	Sandusky, Mary	13	Lexington	1911
McDaniel, Grace	19	Norman	1911	Sanford, Arthur	15	Norman	1910
McFadden, Clyde	14	Norman	1911	Sasser, Mable	14	Lexington	1911
McFerron, George	14	Norman	1910	Scheid, Lewis L.	15	Norman	1911

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Year</u>
Shank, Frankie	12	Norman	1910
Shank, Laura	15	Norman	1909
Sheets, Robert	16	Noble	1909
Shepard, Ellen	17	Newalla	1910
Skinner, Porter	14	Wanette	1910
Slajer, John	16	Noble	1910
Slajer, Marie	14	Noble	1911
Smalley, Ella	16	Norman	1911
Smith, Eunice	16	Lexington	1910
Smith, Luther	17	Tribbey	1910
Smith, Rex	16	Noble	1909
Smith, Ruby	14	Norman	1911
Sommerville, Addie	15	Norman	1911
Spencer, Park	15	Norman	1911
Spottswood, Guy	14	Norman	1910
Sprowl, Hannah	17	Norman	1911
Starzer, Oscar	17	Norman	1910
Steckel, Paul	14	Norman	1911
Stephens, Razzie	13	Lexington	1910
Stevenson, John	19	Wheatland	1909
Stufflebean, Earl	17	Noble	1911
Stufflebean, Fay	16	Noble	1909
Taylor, Frances Adelia	19	Norman	1911
Thompson, Jesse	18	Noble	1909
Truscott, Lucian	15	Newalla	1910
Truscott, Patsy	14	Newalla	1911
Tullius, Fred	14	Noble	1910
Turner, Earl	14	Moore	1910
Tuttle, Earl	13	Norman	1911
Vance, Frank	18	Noble	1910
Vincent, Ralph	15	Norman	1911
Virgin, Joseph	14	Norman	1910
Waide, Mamie	16	Norman	1909
Walch, Lawrence	14	Norman	1911
Walker, Floyd	13	Norman	1911
Wall, Karl	14	Newalla	1910
Wallace, Earl	17	Oklahoma City	1909
Wallace, Helen	15	Noble	1911
Walton, Edgar	16	Lexington	1910
Walton, Marvin	18	Tribbey	1910
Ward, Fred	20	Lexington	1910
Ward, Greeley	19	Lexington	1909
Ward, Mary	15	Newalla	1910
Ward, Ples.	18	Lexington	1910
West, Myrtle	16	Norman	1911
Whitwell, Ruby	15	Norman	1911
Williams, Clarence	16	Newalla	1910
Wilson, Libbie	14	Newalla	1911
Wilson, Willie	13	Newalla	1911
Winegarner, Fay	17	Newalla	1911
Wingate, Macy	16	Norman	1910
Woodring, Allie	13	Noble	1909
Woodring, Britton	19	Newalla	1911
Woodring, Susie	16	Noble	1909
Wynne, John	14	Norman	1910
Yeargin, Ellen	15	Trousdale	1909
Young, Charles	18	Norman	1911

Did you Know?

BY: MAE D. COX

The Colonial period began with the founding of Jamestown in 1607 and ran to the end of the Revolutionary War.

And that in Colonial Days ...

- 90% of the colonists were farmers living outside of cities and towns.
- About 40% of the farmers owned their land, and lived lives of considerable comfort. Farm laborers, on the other hand, only earned a paltry £30 annually.
- Typical landowners also owned slaves. Newspapers carried offers of reward for runaway slaves.
- Colonists owning ten cattle, sixteen sheep, two horses, six pigs, and a team of oxen, were considered well-to-do.
- Roads became so muddy in the spring and fall, that most colonists did their traveling in summer or winter.
- Only a few colonists could read or write; women in particular had no chance at getting an education.
- Men planted crops, butchered game and livestock, built fences, and did most of the outdoor-type work.
- Women worked more indoors preserving food, smoking meat, spinning, weaving, sewing, cooking, and washing. They also did outdoor jobs like gardening and milking the cows .
- Cooking was done at a fireplace that was well furnished with lugpoles and andirons, pot hooks and trammels, spits and kettles, pipkins and potties.
- Most colonial clothes did not have pockets in them. A colonial pocket was a detachable cloth bag used for holding pocket books (wallets), and other things.
- When a road was needed, a crew or gang was formed by recruiting nearby landowners. Each laborer was forced to work at least six days a year on roads, and had to use his own tools, teams, and wagons.

Colonial Times Coins and Money

by: Mae D. Cox

Earlier coins and money used in exchange for goods were frequently coins brought to America by an immigrant. A variety of coins came into play. However, the most popular method of buying and selling goods was the barter system. A farmer traded a cow or hides in exchange for a wagon wheel..... or perhaps for cloth to make shirts and dresses.



Since coins were few and far between it was difficult to always have just the right amount when making a purchase. Colonists

solved that dilemma by cutting up a larger coin. Despite this attempt to cope, there was still a shortage of legal tender coins of all denominations throughout the country — a problem persisting well into the 1800s.

The first United States Mint came into operation in 1793. Situated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the operation produced coins of various denominations, yet the practice of altering coins, both domestic and foreign, for the purpose of trade continued. Though the governments didn't sanction coin modifications, alterations, and mutilations, they did nothing to discourage it.

Shaved Coins

Perhaps the earliest method used in the Colonies was Coin Shaving. The first of this two-part system was to shave or scrape small quantities from silver coins.



Once a sufficient quantity was accumulated, it was melted into a crude glob of silver. The settler sold this, usually to an assayer, for the silver value of the homemade ingot.

While shavings and scrapings from coins were melted down and sold as bullion, the original coins became irregular in size and shape as shown here. The original coin from which the shave or scrape was made was also spent, even though it was no longer as originally minted. Dating as far back as antiquity, this practice is evident on some of the earliest coins found in this country.

Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar...

This familiar phrase comes from the practice of altering coins during the 1700s and 1800s. Early settlers to America actually cut regular-issue Spanish silver coins into specific portions, called pieces of eight. A bit was one-eighth of an eight-reales coin, equaling 12-1/2¢. Two bits, one-fourth of the original whole coin, equaled 25¢, or a quarter; and so on.



Fevers, poisonous snakes and wild animals took a toll on the Colonists, killing many in their prime.

Life Span of A Colonist

There were few medical resources in the 1600s and 1700s causing many Colonist's life span to be of short duration. Medicines often were nothing more than remedies handed down from one generation to the next and did little to thwart the fevers, poisonous snakes, and wild animals abundant in the area.

Hence many young fathers while toiling in the fields fell dead of snake bites, or were preyed upon by wild animals. Young mothers died in childbirth, or developed one of the diseases or fevers prevalent in their area.

Young mothers or fathers would suddenly become widowed with several small children to raise, fields to work, and livestock to tend. It was next to impossible to run a farm of any size with just one adult — to survive in this wilderness took two sets of working hands. Many times the single parent quickly married again to solve their dilemma.

There are indications that it wasn't unusual for someone to have three or four husbands or wives. And most of the couples had numerous children. Big families were prevalent in this day and age.

Cleveland County Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 6176
Norman, Oklahoma 73070

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The number 2007 beside your name on the mailing label indicates your 2008 dues had not been paid at press time. Please pay your dues now if you wish to continue receiving your CCGS newsletter.

CLEVELAND COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY: 1119 EAST MAIN
NORMAN, OK

MAILING: P.O. BOX 6176,
NORMAN, OK 73070

PHONE: (405) 329-9180 OR
(405) 701-2100

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

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

Meetings: 7:00 p.m., 3rd Tuesday of each month
except July and August, in CSBI
Classroom near CCGS Library

Membership

January 1–December 31

Individual	\$20
Family	\$23

Supporting Membership

Library Sponsor	\$40 minimum
Sustaining Member	\$100 minimum
Corporate Associate	\$50 minimum
Corporate Sponsor	\$100 minimum
Benefactor	\$1000 minimum

Volunteers Needed



Here are some one-time or short-term volunteer activities. Are you the one who can help? Call Jo at 701-2100 to volunteer.

Library Volunteers

Please help! Some of our regular library volunteers will not be available during the next couple of months so we're facing problems of keeping the library open three days a week, plus processing all the materials arriving daily!

We need YOU! Can you volunteer in our library one or more days a month for either a two-hour or four-hour session?

Computer Work at Home

Have you visited our Web site recently? We're promising lots of data can be found there soon. You can help make that promise a reality!

We'll supply a hardcopy of the data to enter in columns on a pre-formatted spreadsheet. You can work at your own pace transferring this invaluable data into a format appropriate for our Web site. It's easy and fast!

Mission of the Cleveland County Genealogical Society

To collect local, historical, and genealogical materials

To preserve selected local public records

To share our library and archival holdings with the public

To promote the development of research skills