

The side of the wagons
were decorated with
water kegs, washtub,
lanterns and many other
things.

First-Person Stories of Oklahoma Pioneers

Cleveland County Genealogical Society's Genealogy Library and Archives holds a number of special collections that are unique to this library.

One of these collections is currently a large loose-leaf binder, which is shelved in the Reference section, bearing the title *Pioneer Stories, I.T. and O.T.*

This binder houses a collection of stories about and interviews of some of the hardy people who came to the Twin Territories, both before and after the Run of 1889.

If you are interested in history—whether it involves family or not—you will be intrigued by the tales told by these pioneers.

We offer here some previews of the stories to be discovered in this collection.

We Came in a Covered Wagon

This story was written about 1952 by Tessie Gender Vail. Tessie died in 1987 at the age of 95 and is buried in Kingfisher.

It was in November of 1900 that the Gender family made the trip to Oklahoma. Tessie describes how her father rebuilt two wagons for the trip. He extended the width of the body of the wagons, as well as installing side boards to make it deeper. Then he fastened bows to hold the heavy canvas which was fastened over the bows. Sufficient canvas was provided at each end of the wagon to allow use of a draw rope to draw the canvas together during bad weather.

As the family packed the wagons, items that would not be used until they arrived at their destination were placed in the bottom of the wagons. Mattresses made from fresh corn shucks were placed atop that. This is where the small children played and slept during the journey.

It's dues time again!

Annual dues are payable on the first day of January each year
and become delinquent on the last day of March.

—
Your CCGS membership year is January 1 through December 31,
regardless of when you pay your dues.

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“Mr. Bugher got the soldiers to pilot his wife and children across. ...When the gun was fired for the run, Mrs. Bugher plunged into the river, the soldiers in front of her, and when they reached the bank, the soldiers took their hats off and said to Mother ‘Go yonder.’

“This is Mrs. Bugher’s true story as she related it to her children many times. She drove fast as she could through swamp grass and brush till she saw her husband standing on his claim with his stake and flag waving. This farm is located five miles north of Lexington and two miles west.”

Ellen Robertson’s Journal

Harland Abbott, a CCGS member from Escondido, California, allowed the Society to publish portions of this journal in each issue of the 1989 volume of the CCGS Newsletter. Ellen Robertson settled with her family at Springhill, Lexington, Oklahoma Territory, in 1889.

Ellen’s journal reveals that she and her family left their home in DeVoe, South Dakota, in mid-afternoon on Wednesday, September 11, 1889. Three of their neighbor families, the Shoulds, Wilson, and Goode families, travel with them. These families are going to Nebraska and Kansas, but the Robertsons are headed for Oklahoma. The family travels with two covered wagons and a small tent to pitch at night. In the first night, they experienced a small thunderstorm and a little hail.

On the third day, Ellen reports, “There was heavy rain in the night. Our tent and wagon covers are waterproof. The place where we had the tent, the ground was very low, so we moved our bedding into a large lumber shed beside us, and staid there till morning. The [water] was over a foot deep in the tent, but everything in the wagons was as dry as ever.” On this day, her father spends time “nailing up two of our boxes to send by the cars” because their wagons are too heavy.

In the early pages of this journal, Ellen relates that some in their party unexpectedly meet up with relatives. Another time, her father got acquainted with a Mr. Thompson, who left Glasgow four years ago. That evening, the family went to visit with his wife and children. Ellen commented, “They are almost the first

people we have heard speak Scotch in America. It seemed like old times.”

Ellen’s diary pages begin to remark on a new phenomenon. “We saw some *trees* today larger than any I have seen for several years.” They left the railroad, taking a winding road toward Huron, S.D., passing groves of *trees*, mostly cottonwood, willow, box-elder, and ash. Driving through the main streets of Huron, she was impressed at the sight of pretty houses with *trees* around them.

A couple days later, Ellen remarks that the country is changing and looks more pleasant than DeVoe. They see groves of trees quite often. When they crossed a steep ravine, they used the wagon brake for the first time in a number of days.

[EDITOR’S NOTE: The Pioneer Notebook contains the entirety of the first installment of Ellen Robertson’s journal. Subsequent installments may be found in Volume 10, Nos. 2, 3, and 4 of the *Cleveland County Genealogical Society Newsletter*.]

Covered Wagon Travelog

(WRITTEN FROM MEMORY BY ALICE L. BURKETT IN 1953)

Mrs. Burkett’s story begins in 1896, when she was an 11-year-old girl living in Salem, Nebraska. She describes her grandfather, Addison P. Lewis, as “one of the men chosen by the government to protect the Indian Territory ... from ‘boomers’ and ‘sooners’ who persisted in going into the territory land, picking out the best land for themselves, before the government was ready to open the territory for the run ...”

As her story begins, Addison Lewis owns two farms in Oklahoma Territory—the farm he claimed in the 1889 Run, and that of a deceased son. Addison’s sister, Eliza Jane Waggoner, lives on one of the farms. Addison Lewis, almost eighty years old, offers a deed to the second farm to Mrs. Burkett’s father, Addison L. Lewis, if he will move his family to Oklahoma.

By July, 1898, all plans had been completed for the move from Nebraska to Oklahoma, despite the advice of friends who warned against taking their children to a land of wild Indians, where there are no schools.

The younger Addison Lewis had a team of young mules, a covered wagon, a spotted pony and an open buggy called a road wagon. The older children rode in the covered wagon, while the parents and youngest child rode in the road wagon.

The parents insisted that the children walk at least one mile, twice each day, for their health's sake. The children made great fun of these hikes by "rushing up telegraph poles and tapping out messages to our friends back in Nebraska." The oldest brother, Walter, was interested in telegraphy and always had a practice key around.

In the evenings, the family camped by the roadside and put up their tent. The mother cooked the evening meal and breakfast over a gasoline stove. They mostly ate cold lunches and snacks during the day. The two wagons were equipped with overjets which would accommodate the mattresses where the children slept.

Between supper and bedtime was fun for the children. They would project shadows, which they called "moving pictures" against the tent. First one set of the children would put on an act, for which the others, sometimes including Father and Mother, would be the audience. Then another group would put on their act. If they camped near a farm where children lived, the neighbors would be invited to see the Lewis family's show.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There is much more to this story, which can be found in the *Pioneer Settlers* binder in the Reference section of the Genealogy Library and Archives. Descendants of the Addison Lewis families still live in Cleveland County.)

Historical Notes

This obituary appeared in the *Norman Transcript* on Monday, May 1, 1939.

Belknap Rite Set Tuesday

Pioneer Norman Resident Dies After Long Illness; Once Taught in Japan

Funeral services for John F. Belknap, 78 years old, who died Sunday night after an extended illness, will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Meyer and Meyer funeral home, with Rev. E. N. Comfort, in charge. Interment will be at the IOOF cemetery.

Survivors include Mr. Belknap's wife, Mrs. Harriet Belknap, Fairfax; [son Harold Belknap] manager of the *Norman Transcript*; three daughters, Mrs. Charles Meek, Norman; Mrs. J. H. Robinson, Fairfax, and Mrs. Herbert Jacobi, Marietta.

Five Brothers

Other survivors include five brothers, Oren, Isaac, William, Cen, and Ted Belknap, all of Chinook, Wash.; two sisters, Mrs. Anna Porter and Mrs. Emma Timmons, both of Ilwaco, Wash.; a cousin, J. C. Clapham, Norman, and 11 grandchildren.

Mr. Belknap was born in Minnesota and moved with his family to near Blair, Neb., while a young boy. He was graduated from what was then the National Normal university at Lebanon, Ohio. He also was graduated from the theological school of Boston university and from the law school at Northwestern university, Chicago.

He was sent by the Methodist board of missions as a professor of education and psychology to the Anglo-Japanese college in Tokyo, Japan, where he taught for five years. While there he was married to Miss Mary Vance, a music instructor in the same institution. One child was born to the union. Mrs. Belknap died a year later.

Came Here in 1895

Mr. Belknap came to Norman in 1895 and had lived here ever since. While in Norman he practiced law and farmed. He was married to Miss Harriet Spottswood in 1903. Mr. Belknap was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The Transcript office will be closed from 2:15 until 4 p.m. for the services.

Bearers will be T. E. Clement, S. R. Hadsell, E. H. Stubbeman, C. M. Keiger, Jerome Dowd, and L. C. Lindsay.

Norman's Water Supply

This article appeared in the *Norman Transcript* Tuesday, December 5, 1911

There is so much complaint by people of neighboring towns and cities over the deficient water supply at many points that the people of Norman surely have cause for great rejoicing over the excellent quality and quantity here. With the completion of the new wells now contemplated there will be no danger of Norman ever having a water famine. As it is even at this time, no city of equal size in Oklahoma is so well blessed.

President's Message

BY FRANK APPL

As the Holiday Season approaches, please keep in mind the Cleveland County Genealogy Society (CCGS). The CCGS is winding down the Bakeless Bake Sale, which will be our major fund raising campaign for the year. Please make a donation to the CCGS through the Bakeless Bake Sale if you have not already done so.

This newsletter contains a CCGS dues notice for 2012. The Finance Committee has revised the dues notice to clearly separate dues and donations. *Dues payments to CCGS are not tax deductible. Donations to CCGS are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

Please join CCGS or renew your membership, and at the same time make a generous contribution to CCGS. We depend on donations to pay the rent on the Genealogy Library space at CSBI, so we can continue to preserve the library holdings and make them available to CCGS members and the general public.

The Genealogy Library holdings include many original Cleveland County records from the Cleveland County Courthouse, indexes of Cleveland County cemeteries, Cleveland County funeral home records, and newspaper obituaries.

The CCGS library also holds excellent references for genealogical research nationwide. Perhaps the most valuable asset of the CCGS library is the volunteer staff, who know where the library holdings are located and how to assist and direct research efforts.

You are invited to attend CCGS workshops and seminars and to become more familiar with the CCGS library. You are also invited to volunteer some of your time to assist with the many facets of operating a library. Our volunteers need some assistance in continuing the operations of the library. You will find that the time you devote to the library is enjoyable and rewarding.

The CCGS Board and Mary Sue Schnell are continuing work on a Strategic Plan for the future direction of the Cleveland County Genealogical

Society and the CCGS library. This effort is quite time consuming and can not be rushed.

Work has continued on the consolidation of archival records in our storage space. We have turned back to CSBI one of the storage rooms that CCGS has been renting, with a welcome reduction in rent. Ten five drawer file cabinets have been placed in the storage space and have been filled with original Cleveland County records. Some records were of no genealogical value and have been destroyed, with the concurrence of the Cleveland County Court Clerk.

Velma and I extend our warmest wishes to you at this Holiday Season and our hope that the New Year 2012 will be better for you than the last year.

Status Update on CCGS Archives Reorganization

We are making progress!

In September Frank Appl and Mike McCurtain tore down another of the original wooden shelves built to store boxes of courthouse records.

Ten five-drawer legal file cabinets are now in place. All the probate records CCGS holds are now filed in six of these cabinets, and are more easily accessible.

All the courthouse records we intend to keep are presently stored in the Main Archives room. We are awaiting permission from the Court Clerk to return or destroy other records we do not need. Room 108 is effectively vacated, with a welcome reduction in our total monthly rent payment.

Before our volunteers began filing probate records, Betty Hall compiled an index to probate cases from 1950 to 1972. Jean McCracken is now entering the information into a database for publishing.

January 1, 2012 is the target date for completion of the probate indexing project. With completion, all probate records in our possession will be accessible through our indexes.

Need a Flatbed Scanner?

Free HP Flatbed Scanner (*HP Scanjet 4600 digital flatbed scanner*) available to someone using Windows XP operating system. Like new condition. This scanner was only used infrequently. Contact Mary Sue Schnell if interested (364-0677).

In the Library

35,000 Tennessee Marriage Records and Bonds, 1783-1870 [2 Vols.]

American Migration Guide

Arkansas Genealogical Society's 1992-1993 Resource Directory

A Bibliography of American County Histories

Blacks in White Colleges: Oklahoma's Landmark Cases

The Chickasaws

The Complete Book for Tracing Your Irish Ancestry

County by County in Ohio Genealogy

Dutch Genealogical Research

Eskridge's Early History of Tallahatchie County, Mississippi

Essays in Scotch-Irish History

Exploring Scottish History

Forty-seven Straight: the Wilkinson Era at Oklahoma

Georgians: Sketches of Some of The First Settlers of Upper Georgia, of The Cherokees, and the Author

Growing up with Oklahoma

A Guide to County Records on Microfilm: Published by the Missouri State Archives

Hamlin Garland's Observations on the American Indian, 1895-1905

Historical Markers: University of Oklahoma

How to Write and Publish Your Family Book

Index to Marriage Books: Register 1891-1897, Marriage Book One 1890-1895 [Cleveland Co. OK]

John Collier's Crusade for Indian Reform, 1920-1954

Lifeline: the Action Guide to Adoption Research

Ohio Genealogical Periodical Index: a County Guide

Ohio Guide to Genealogical Sources

Oklahoma, Foot-loose and Fancy-free

Oklahoma Kickoff: an Informal History of the First Twenty-five years of Football at the University of Oklahoma

Presidents Can't Punt: the OU Football Tradition

Rhode Island Land Evidences: 1648-1696, Abstracts

Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia

The Scottish Migration to Ulster in the Reign of James I

St. James United Church of Christ Church Register (Reformed Church), Loudoun County, Virginia

Ulster Emigration to America, 1718-1775

The Union: a Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War

The University of Oklahoma and World War II

U.S. Military Records: a Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present

Virginia Genealogy: Sources and Resources

Washington County, New York: Its History to the Close of the Nineteenth Century

In Recent Journals

How typical were your ancestors? Use these tips to discover how they fit in with their peers. *NGS Magazine*, Vol. 37, No. 3, July-September 2011.

Remember Kilroy? There was a real man behind the World War II legend, who seemingly was everywhere. *NGS Magazine*, Vol. 37, No. 3, July-September 2011.

Surnames can be spelled many different ways. Ripley's "Believe It or Not" found 67 variations of spelling of Sir Walter Raleigh's name. *Oklahoma Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 56, No. 3, 2011

Ancestors with common names can be difficult to research. If you find two John Townsends where your John T. should be, research other family members, religion, legal documents such as deeds and wills, and pay attention to the neighbors. *Kiowa County Genealogical Society Newsletter*, Vol. 18, No. 2, August 2011.

Tribal headquarters in Oklahoma—forty-two of them! Includes mailing address, phone and fax numbers. *Greer Frontier*, Vol. 1, No. 53, Fall 2011.

Wanted — A Good Home for:

Microfilm Reader

Microfiche Reader

Arkansas 1880 Soundex microfilm (T630-W230)

Missouri 1860 U.S. Census microfilm (Cooper and Crawford Counties)

Missouri 1870 U.S. Census microfilm (Cooper County)

Missouri 1880 U.S. Census microfilm (Cole and Cooper Counties)

Anyone interested in any of these items should contact the CCGS Library at 405-701-2100. Free to a good home.

Have You Really Proved Your Ancestry?

BY MARY HARRELL-SESNAK

Researchers often feel they've proved ancestry because they located family on one or more online trees.

But tying into a database doesn't suffice as proof. For that, you need to verify an author's sources and references – whether they are from original or derivative documents –and whether they can be treated as primary or secondary sources.

Original vs. Derivative Documents

The first term is easy, as *original* records must be original and not copies. Examples are birth, marriage and death certificates created by attending physicians or officiates, any hand-written or original typed document or letter, and first time photographs, which are not scans or reprints.

Derivatives can establish viable evidence of ancestry, but only

1. if citations are accessible for examination
2. if they are not too many steps removed from the original -- such as a fact referring to a reference which was not verified. (e.g., a copy of a copy of a copy)

Rule of thumb:

Any document, database or citation which is one or more steps removed from the original, must be evaluated as to whether the intermediary author examined the original or a reliable reference referring to the original.

This doesn't mean we should discount all online data. Just treat it as possible leads (not proof), and find source documents for verification. After all, most of us would not be able to pursue so much of our ancestry, without these valuable clues.

Primary vs. Secondary Sources

Primary sources are those created close to the time of an event, assuming the originator had the proper expertise and authority to create it. Some examples are:

- birth, marriage and death certificates
- maps
- artifacts, such as military badges
- commemorative plaques
- certain ephemera (e.g. playbills, advertisements)

Some documents have both primary and secondary elements, depending upon the information. For example, a passenger manifest is a primary document in regards to the details of the voyage, but a secondary source for birth dates, addresses, etc. The same issue relates to birth dates on tombstones, which are always secondary. And depending upon when the monument was erected (or replaced), a death date can be secondary.

Diaries, whereby events were recorded on a day by day basis are considered primary, but an author's memory of the past is secondary.

And a dilemma exists in regard to Bible records, whereby the author and date of the entry is uncertain. As a result, many lineage societies note whether a title page with publication date is available, and whether the handwriting and ink changes from item to item.

One might think that original documents are always primary sources –and that derivatives are always secondary. But in reality, it is possible for either type to be primary or secondary. For example,

A hand-written letter discussing family births is an original document, but the source is secondary, since it occurred after the original events.

A film created of an original document (such as those made by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) is a derivative treated as a primary source, since the copy is a reliable representation of the original

Preponderance of the Evidence vs. the Genealogical Proof Standard

The final step in proving ancestry lies in the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS).

Until recently, researchers cited evidence based upon the legal principle of preponderance of the evidence – meaning that if definitive proof documents could not be located, and if all evidence pointed in the right direction, then a lineage or relationship was accepted as true.

But there are numerous examples of why this might not be true. In my own ancestry, there were three William Harrells, recorded on early census records in Wythe Co., Virginia. A logical assumption might be that they were kin, given that they shared names and lived in the same vicinity. But DNA studies imply that they share a more distant relationship, despite the preponderance of the evidence.

Although certification is not a requirement for proving ancestry, you may wish to review the five elements of the GPS, established by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG). They recommend that a strong genealogical proof should include:

- a reasonably exhaustive search;
- complete and accurate source citations;
- analysis and correlation of the collected information;
- resolution of any conflicting evidence; and
- a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

As you search through records on RootsWeb, and other sites, keep in mind that you can't be sure of the information until you have seen the evidence. Happy sleuthing!

Previously published in RootsWebReview: 8 September 2010, Vol. 13, No. 9.

CCGS News

Introducing CCGS Research Interest Group

The Genealogy Research Group will hold its initial meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. in the CCGS Library. The new special interest group will meet for discussion about genealogy research problems and will share genealogy resources and experiences.

Anyone who is researching their family and could use another viewpoint—or just a small hint on finding that illusive ancestor—is welcomed. Please bring to this meeting a list of the top five locations you are researching.

Future meetings of the Genealogy Research special interest group will be on the third Wednesday of each month.

Bakeless Bake Sale

The Annual Bakeless Bake Sale is our major fund-raiser each year.

Answering the call for volunteers to address envelopes for this project were Frank Appl, Tricia Carleton, Betty Hall, Marilyn Henry, Sherry Leafgreen, Mary Lewis, Mike and Christina McCurtain, and Mary Wheless.

In one morning this group addressed, stuffed, stamped, and sealed 290 envelopes soliciting donations from CCGS members, past members, our recent contacts, and library visitors.

At press time, the 2011 Bakeless Bake Sale has brought in \$2060.00. Expenses of the project include the cost of printing, postage, and envelopes. Our profit will be about \$1763.00, enough to pay two months' rent for our Library.

We thank those who responded to the 2011 Bakeless Bake Sale in support of the Cleveland County Genealogy Library.

Deaths

Jim Mustoe, a long-time CCGS member and husband of past president Jo Mustoe, died in Norman August 30, 2011. Memorial services were held October 25 in the auditorium at Sam Noble Museum.

CCGS member Loren Simms' mother, Ruth Arlene Porter Simms, died October 11, 2011 in Norman.

Pioneers of Cleveland County, O.T.

Do you have ancestors who lived in Cleveland County before statehood?

If so, you are eligible to participate in this newest project of the Cleveland County Genealogical Society.

The *Pioneers of Cleveland County, O.T.* project will be a permanent registry of early residents of Cleveland County—those who came to live in Cleveland County between the Run of 1889 and Statehood Day in 1907.

The purpose of this registry is to assemble a body of historical information and research materials about the territorial inhabitants of this county that will be made available for future researchers.

All persons who lived in Cleveland County prior to November 15, 1907 are eligible for recognition as *Pioneers of Cleveland County, O.T.*

Anyone who is a direct descendant of the Pioneer whom he or she is registering may apply. The applicant must complete an official application and Family Group Sheets and be able to prove descent with official records or other acceptable sources of proof.

The applicant need not be a past or present resident of Cleveland County, Oklahoma. The fee for registering each Pioneer application is \$20 and includes a certificate suitable for framing.

Those who are interested may request the *Pioneers of Cleveland County, O.T.* application packet by telephone (405-701-2100), e-mail (ccgs@csbi.org), or mail (CCGS, P.O. Box 6176, Norman OK 73070).

Calendar Project

CCGS is exploring the publication of a calendar as a fund-raising project in the fall of 2012. We are looking now for members who can help with the project. We need your creative ideas, as well as your skills in photography, scanning, layout, etc. Call 701-2100 or e-mail ccgs@csbi to indicate your interest in being a part of this project.

Calendar

CCGS Board Meetings

1:30 p.m. second Monday, CCGS Library
December 12, 2011
January 9, 2012
February 13, 2012
March 12, 2012

CCGS Society Meetings

7:00 p.m. third Tuesday, south lobby near CCGS Library
December 20, 2011 - Christmas Party
January 17, 2012
February 21, 2012
March 20, 2012

Family History Writers Group

10 a.m. second Wednesday, CCGS Library
December 14, 2011
January 11, 2012
February 8, 2012
March 14, 2012

Genealogy Research Group

1:30 p.m. third Wednesday, CCGS Library
February 15, 2012
March 21, 2012

Genealogy Computer Users Group

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. fourth Wednesday
Norman Public Library Computer Room
(Call 701-2100 or 329-0321 to verify date)
December 2011 - no meeting
January 25, 2012
February 22, 2012
March 28, 2012

Beginning Genealogy Workshops

All sessions will be in the CCGS Library
Choose to attend Thursday or Sunday workshops
Smart Start: 10:00 a.m., January 19, 2012
2:00 p.m., January 22, 2012
Second Steps: 10:00 a.m., February 2, 2012
2:00 p.m., February 5, 2012

Library Exploration Workshop

Mary Lewis conducted this workshop, outlining the focus areas of the CCGS Library and explaining the principles of organization of library materials on the shelves, on Thursday morning, September 15. Five members of the CCGS Board attended. This workshop was advertised only to members and will be repeated on request in the future.

Please call 405/701-2100 if you would like to attend a future session of this workshop.

Beginner Genealogy Workshops

Participants can choose to attend *Thursday morning* sessions or *Sunday afternoon* sessions of the two-part beginning genealogy workshops being offered in January and February.

The first workshop, *Smart Start—Before You Surf the Internet*, will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2012 and again on Sunday, January 22, 2012. In this workshop, participants will learn how to organize the family information they have right now, and explore the sources they can utilize to learn more about their family history. In case of inclement weather, snow dates for these sessions will be Thursday, January 26 and Sunday, January 29.

The second workshop in this series, *Second Steps—Finding Grandparents & Their Tracks in Public Records*, is offered Thursday, February 2, 2012 and again on Sunday, February 5, 2012. This workshop will cover information sources outside the family that provide information about family members, including court house records, cemeteries, newspapers, federal and state census, online sources, and much more. Snow dates for these sessions will be Thursday, February 9 and Sunday, February 12.

All sessions will occur in the CCGS Library, 1119 E. Main, Norman. Thursday sessions will be 10:00 a.m. to noon. Sunday sessions will be 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The door will be open 30 minutes before each session.

The registration fee is \$25 for both workshops or \$15 for one. Early registration is suggested to reserve your space, as space is limited.

Please register by January 13, 2012 for the *Smart Start* workshop, (scheduled on January 19 and January 22), and by January 27, 2012 for the *Second Steps* workshop, (scheduled for February 2 and February 5).

For more information, call 701-2100 or e-mail ccgs@csbi.org.

Meetings

September

Only seven members attended the first meeting of the new program year. Although the numbers were few, the food was good and the stories of summer adventures were of interest to all.

October

Robert B. Smith, retired O.U. law professor, spoke on the topic *When Bank Robbery Was in Flower: Oklahoma in the '30s*. He told stories of Belle Starr and other outlaws, of train robberies and bank robberies, and of the many times the outlaws' stupidity and poor planning provided them with elementary justice.

100 Years Ago

The Norman Democrat-Topic
Friday, December 1, 1911

Death of Wm. Tate

Wm. Tate, aged 84 years, died at his home in Edmond last Friday night. The body arrived here Monday and was interred in the I.O.O.F. cemetery. The deceased is the father of Mrs. A. C. Acers, W.T., B.S., and Chas. Tate, former residents of Norman.

Attorney Harve Maxey of Shawnee and Banker Caldwell of Tecumseh were here last Saturday looking after a foreclosure case in the district court.

Mr. Downing arrived last Sunday from Atoka to visit his son, R. V. Downing.

Marriage Licenses

A.W. Wallace 27, Noble, and Mrs. Bonnie Craig, 22, Norman

Henry Black, 31, Tecumseh and Mary Mohawk, 24, Tecumseh

J.F. Matlock, 20, Norman and Grace Webb, 20, Norman

Perry Ramsey, 22, Noble, and Edith Lewis, 19, Noble

Local News

Dr. E. W. Cox of Lexington was a visitor here Tuesday.

S. I. Higgins came over from El Reno Saturday night to spend Sunday with his family.

J. J. Riley has a fine collection of Japanese ware on display at the I.M. Jackson Furniture store.

C. W. Rhoades returned last Saturday from a two weeks visit at his old home at Monticello, Illinois.

John Bennett of 8-1-east left last Saturday for Grady county to visit his brother, Frank Bennett and family.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Vicars, of the Grand Central Hotel, are the proud parents of a bouncing boy who made its arrival last Friday.

F. L. Darling, aged 60 years, died Monday night at his home fourteen miles east of Norman of typhoid pneumonia. The funeral services were held Wednesday under the auspices of the Stella A.F. & F.M. Interment in the Denver cemetery.

J. L. Masters and family who have been living in Blaine county have returned and purchased the W. T. Nolan store at Maguire where they will put in a complete line of groceries and dry goods. Mr. Nolan will move to Norman and put in a stock of goods in the new cement block building in the burned district.

Noble

J.A. Jenkins was in town Friday.

Ike Sale was here from Norman Tuesday.

Jim Wadley was in Norman Saturday night.

Mrs. Anna Stufflebean was visiting in Purcell Thursday.

Ed Hayes spent Sunday at Norman with home folks.

Mrs. Jeffress is quite sick at her home in the south part of town.

Mr. Ed Garee is building a new bungalow in the north part of town.

Miss M. Melford commenced a term of school at Rocky Point Monday.

Frank Filson was taken suddenly sick at the depot again Monday afternoon.

One of Ross Miller's fine black horses died very suddenly Friday evening.

Miss Bessie Seig returned to Willow View Sunday to finish her term of school.

Sam Harris of Norman came down Sunday to see about plastering a new house for J. L. Wadley.

Merle Austin who is teaching at White Mound visited his parents Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Maud Shuler and little daughter Mae who have been visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Scott for the past three months left Thursday for her home at Dora, New Mexico.

Bro. Hendrick and family who is to be the pastor of the M.E. church for the coming year arrived Friday and they were given a pound party by the members of the church Friday night.

Stella

W. R. Jennings was in Newalla last Monday.

F. H. Hall marketed cattle in Oklahoma City last Monday.

Cotton picking is almost a thing of the past in this part of the country.

A.V. Hulse is now in Shawnee having some dental work done.

As the writer of these items has taken a trip to the land of matrimony from which no traveler ever returneth, I will try and fill her place.

Mr. Clyde Thomason is back home again after a few months stay in the west, and gee, that grin on his face is as long as your foot.

Howard Oliphant and Hoyl Burrage took first and second prizes last Saturday evening in the riding contest.

Society

The Old Regime club will meet Thursday afternoon, December 7, with Mrs. John Hardie.

The Needle and Thimble club will meet Wednesday afternoon December 6 with Mrs. C. S. Bobo.

Miss Ruth Newall gave a dinner party Friday evening. Her guests were Misses Jennie B. and Ruby Dyer and Mr. Perry Hunt.

Mrs. John Barbour very delightfully entertained the members of the Delta Delta Delta sorority Saturday with a one o'clock luncheon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Newall entertained with three tables of whist last Thursday evening. A dainty luncheon was served by Miss Ruth Newall.

Mrs. J. J. Burke entertained a number of friends Friday afternoon. At six a delightful supper was served to Mrs. Richard Mariott of Ada, Misses Fay Davis, Lucille Dora and Agatha Burke.

Norman Democrat-Topic.

Tuesday, December 5, 1911

Marriage Licenses

Walter Rollins, 20, Norman, and Mollie Todd 21, Norman

J.M. Hume, 49, Norman, and Katie Wall, 41, Newalla

A.C. Barto, 44, Noble, and Theodocia Howery, 35, Noble

Carrie Walker, 47, Newalla, and Mattie Harmon, 35, Newalla

Prisoners to Pen

Sheriff J.D. Sale left Monday morning for McAlester with Adam Bentley and Ed Pullman who will serve four and one-half and four year's respectively.

A new desk and table has recently been installed in the county judge's office.

Lexington

Misses Alice Breeding and Mable Thacker of the Oklahoma University spent Thanksgiving in this city.

Earl D. Stevens went to Lindsay Saturday and luckily arrived just in time for the Lexington-Lindsay football game.

Miss Katherine Wise, teacher of room two in our school, was in Washington Saturday and Sunday visiting with her sister.

John D. O'Keefe, state organizer for Oklahoma Fraternal Union of America, was in town Wednesday looking after the interests of the lodge.

A great crowd assembled at Stovall school last Sunday evening for the purpose of singing. At the given hour the singing began and the people were surprised at the great improvement the singers have made under the instruction of Prof. Sparks.

L.A. Warner of Quincy, Ill. came in Saturday from his northern home to look after his property in and about this place. He owns some of the best farms in the county especially his alfalfa farm one mile south of town, is one of the best hay producing farms known.

Mr. Jim Riley entertained the young people of Lexington at his home last Saturday evening. The entertainment was given in honor of Miss Maud Northcutt. Many interesting games were played after which all pronounced a good time to have been had and departed.

George G. Giles, a Normanite, came down to Lexington in his automobile Sunday evening.

W. S. Bowlan and Sol Ward of Corbett passed through town Sunday evening on their way to Norman.

Local News

Mrs. L. Renner left Monday for Oklahoma City to visit relatives.

Marriage license was issued at Oklahoma City last Saturday to the following: Edward January, 22, of Norman, and Gussie Brittain, 30, of Moore.

Mrs. Arthur E. May who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. W. W. Wingate for the past five weeks will leave the last of this week for her home at Silvertown, Texas.

Mr. J. M. Hume and Mrs. Katie Wall were united in marriage at the home of J. W. Grotts on Little river Sunday by Rev. Beal of Yukon. They left Monday for Hydro to visit Mrs. Montgomery, daughter of Mr. Hume. Mr. and Mrs. Hume will make their home on their farm near Stratford, Garvin county.

Around & About

McClain County Genealogical and Historical Society Museum

The McClain County Genealogical and Historical Society's museum in Purcell has recently completed renovations. They have a new roof, new paint inside, and new carpet, plus many new items on display and a new room dedicated to war veterans.

The museum is located at 403 West Washington in Purcell and is open Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 405-527-5894 or visit the web site, www.rootsweb.com/~okmchgs/mchgs.htm

Archives.com Offers U.S. Census

Archives.com recently announced the addition of the complete U.S. Census to its already billion-record-strong database.

The addition of over 500 million census records and 10 million original images over the coming months means access to the most authoritative and complete index of American life. The records include names, ages, birth locations, family members, occupations, military service, ethnicity, gender, and more, depending on census year. This information makes identifying unknown ancestors and tracking your family's migration across the U.S. easier than ever. The images of the original documents provide confirmation of your ancestor's historical details and are a powerful connection to the past to share with family and friends.

Archives.com is a subscription site, available at the industry-leading low annual price of \$39.95. The U.S. Census, the ultimate resource for American family history research is free to Archives members.

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CCGS, P.O. Box 6176, Norman OK 73070

WORKSHOPS

St. Louis Genealogy Society
7th Annual Book Jamboree
December 4, 2011, 1-3 p.m.
#4 Sunnen Drive, Suite 140, St. Louis MO
<http://www.stlgs.org/>

Western Plains Weatherford Genealogical
Society
2012 Genealogical Workshop
Carolyn Leonard
January 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Cedar School House, Weatherford OK
<http://www.weatherfordgenealogy.org/>

*Roots Tech Family History and Technology
Conference*
February 2-4, 2012
Salt Lake City, Utah
<http://rootstech.familysearch.org/about>

All I Want for Christmas Is a New Surname

Dear Santa: Don't bring me new dishes,
I don't need a new kind of game.
Genealogists have peculiar wishes,
For Christmas I just want a surname.

A new washing machine would be great,
But, it's not the desire of my life.
I've just found an ancestor's birth date;
What I need now is the name of his wife.

My heart doesn't yearn for a ring
That would put a real diamond to shame.
What I want is a much cheaper thing;
Please give me Mary's last name.

To see my heart singing with joy,
Don't bring me a red leather suitcase,
Bring me a genealogist's toy;
A surname, with dates and a place.

Previously published in *Somerville Settlers*, Vol. IX, Winter, 2003

Report of Examination of Successful Candidates for Common School Diploma Eighth Grade Exams - 1930 - Cleveland County, Oklahoma

<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>
Andrews, Bertrand	14	Norman	1930	Lessly, Eugene		Newalla	1930
Anderson, Minor	15	Newalla	1930	McCalip, Hazel	14	Norman	1930
Argo, Clelvie	16	Norman	1930	McClure, Pauline	15	Newalla	1930
Anderson, Cyril		Newalla	1930	Moore, Hazel	12	Newalla	1930
Brockhaus, Floyd	14	Norman	1930	Morrell, Carl	14	Lexington	1930
Barto, Bessie	15	Noble	1930	Meizny, Victor I.	13	Wheatland	1930
Bryant, Inez	13	Norman	1930	Maruska, Lillie		Moore	1930
Berry, Cordelia	16	Moore	1930	Massey, Carl	13	Norman	1930
Bullock, Juanita	13	Lexington	1930	Murnan, Versa		Norman	1930
Bahner, Catherine		Moore	1930	Nemecek, Aline	13	Noble	1930
Beymer, Howard	13	Norman	1930	Newville, Opal	13	Lexington	1930
Bowman, Allen		Moore	1930	Roselius, Neil	11	Noble	1930
Butler, Russell	13	Moore	1930	Reed, Leila	15	Macomb	1930
Couch, Ruby	15	Tribbey	1930	Steely, Madge	13	Norman	1930
Champeau, Floyd	14	Norman	1930	Slavin, Ray	18	Lexington	1930
Curren, Marvin	15	Noble	1930	Sallee, Maomi	15	Norman	1930
Carr, Billie		Moore	1930	Smith, Kathalene	13	Newalla	1930
Dudley, Leonard	14	Moore	1930	Shockey, Harley		Lexington	1930
Dillard, John	14	Norman	1930	Smith, Eunice	13	Newalla	1930
Darling, Leota	15	Norman	1930	Thompson, Eula	14	Lexington	1930
Daniels, Lucille		Moore	1930	Teague, Ruby	16	Noble	1930
Dillard, Ozella	14	Norman	1930	Tullius, Robert	13	Noble	1930
Enmeier, Albert	17	Norman	1930	Troxel, Clifford	13	Norman	1930
Evans, Lois		Norman	1930	Tullius, Loretta	13	Norman	1930
Farr, Ausbon	14	Lexington	1930	Whitlaw, Christine	13	Newalla	1930
Fellows, Alvin B.	16	Norman	1930	Williams, Archie	16	Trousdale	1930
Franklin, Leon		Noble	1930	Woodrow, Christine	16	Noble	1930
Franklin, Charlotta	16	Noble	1930	Williams, Alice	16	Lexington	1930
Gifford, Vera		Noble	1930	Wade, Lucille	16	Lexington	1930
Harmon, Winnie	17	Norman	1930	Wylie, Blonnie	16	Noble	1930
Hobbs, Miriam	14	Noble	1930	Walker, Kelly	15	Noble	1930
Helm, Bonnie	15	Moore	1930	Woodrow, Lola		Noble	1930
Hall, Elder	15	Norman	1930	Ward, Willa Mae	13	Moore	1930
Holland, Irene	14	Norman	1930	Yoachum, Nola Mae		Moore	1930
Heard, Russell	15	Norman	1930				
Hansmeyer, Edmund	14	Norman	1930				
Hearron, Edith		Trousdale	1930				
Henderson, Golden	14	Noble	1930				
Huckabay, Cecil		Choctaw	1930				
Kasbaum, Geneva	14	Choctaw	1930				
Lessly, Rholine	13	Newalla	1930				

*A family tree can wither
if nobody maintains its roots!*

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Mission of the Cleveland County Genealogical Society

- To collect local, historical, and genealogical materials
- To preserve selected local public records
- To share our library and archival holdings with the public
- To promote the development of research skills

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