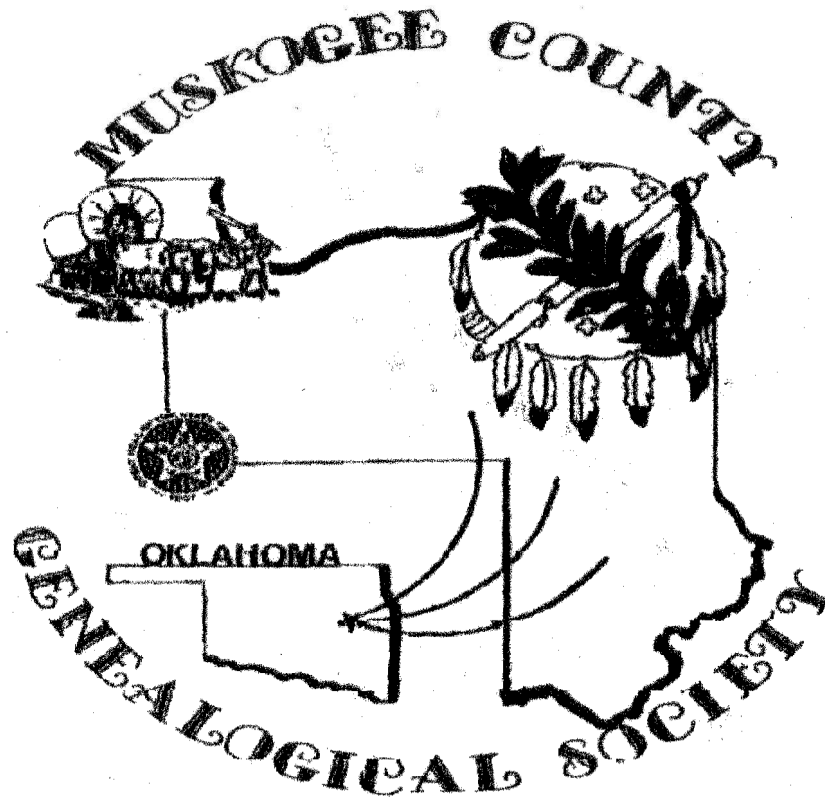


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July – September 2004

Muskogee County Genealogical Society

Quarterly Publication April-June 2004



Muskogee County Genealogical Society General Information

***To defray the cost of postage for mailing your issue of the quarterly we are asking that you please pick up your issues at the monthly meetings in March, June, September, and December.
Thank You!***

Purpose:

The MCGS was formed in 1983 for the purpose of promoting the general study of genealogy through workshops, seminars, and monthly programs; and to discover and preserve any material that may establish or illustrate the history of Indian Territory and Muskogee County and its families.

Meetings and Membership:

MCGS meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM at the Muskogee Public Library, 801 West Okmulgee, Muskogee, Oklahoma. The Board of Directors meetings are held prior to each monthly meeting beginning at 5:45 PM at the library. All members are invited to attend the Board meetings.

Membership in the MCGS is open to anyone promoting the purpose of the Society. Membership subscriptions are \$10.00 for individuals and families living in the same household per calendar year, without a quarterly subscription. To have the Quarterly added to your subscription is an extra \$10.00 per calendar year. Members joining after January Membership month will receive all previous quarterlies for that year.

Publication and Query Information:

The MCGS Quarterly is published four times a year: March, June, September, and December. Back issues of the Quarterlies are available for \$5.00 each, plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling.

The Society also publishes books of genealogical interest, focused on Muskogee County and Muskogee Indian Territory. A complete listing and price list is available on page of this quarterly.

MCGS will assist with search questions from members and non-members at no charge, but a donation is appreciated. Please send your requests with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to"

Muskogee County Genealogical Society

c/o Muskogee Public Library
801 West Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK 74401

Or you may email them to: mucogeso@yahoo.com

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INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS
Experiences Of A Pioneer Physician As
Told By Doctor Jesse Lee Blakemore

Given to Miss Ella M. Robinson
Field Worker, W. P. A.
March 1, 1937

I was born at Greenwood, Arkansas, May 26, 1862. I attended private schools in my native town until I was old enough to enter college. When I started Emery & Henry College in Virginia. Having decided on my life work I entered a medical hospital and training college at Memphis, Tennessee. On completing the course there I entered Vanderbilt University at Nashville, Tennessee where I graduated in 1889. Coming back to my native state I joined the staff of physicians at the Little Rock Hospital for the insane where I stayed for five years. Then I was obsessed with the idea that my services were greatly needed in Indian Territory and that the people there would be the loser if I did not go to their relief. I no doubt was led by attractive stories told of the underdeveloped territory and the possibilities for a young doctor. I decided to try Muskogee as my future location. That was in October of 1892. As Muskogee had had no occasion for a building boom it was impossible to secure an office. I at once called upon Mr. Francis B. Fite, who was a young doctor then and had established a fine practice, both as a surgeon and a general practitioner. He cordially invited me to share his office, which was located on Second and Bdwy., on the ground floor. He was my friend then and has been during the years since. He extended my every courtesy and I assisted him in his work accompanying him on his visits and attending to patients when he was called away. I took my meals at different restaurants for a while and then joined the Bachelor's Club. That was an organization composed of young men who were compelled to board. The building in which we took our meals stood where the English Block now stands and was under the supervision of Miss Parson. I roomed at the office where I was on duty at night as well as day. The office hours were 24 hours a day. In April of 1895 Dr. Fite and I formed a partnership which lasted until his own sons, who were babies then, were ready to take over their father's work and the Fite Clinic as formed in 1919. I have continued to practice alone since that time.

It's a long journey from those days up to the present time when the doctors have high powered cars that go 60 miles an hour over hard surfaced roads, well equipped hospitals and the latest instruments with which to work.

The streets of Muskogee were really of mud and a team hitched to a buggy would bog down on Main Street. There were no bridges over the streams, and in time of high water we rode horse back and plunged in and swam across the creek to visit the patients often getting wet to our waists. Often the country roads would become impassable and we had to travel in a light two wheel gig and carry our instruments because a buggy was too heavy for the frozen muddy roads. There were no nurses here no one nearer than Ft. Smith. All assistance in cases of illness was given by the families and neighbors. There were no hospitals so all surgical work was done in the home. The patient stretched out on the kitchen table, by flickering coal oil lamps held perhaps, by the unsteady hands of some member of the family. Our practice extended to a radius of 60 miles. The long trips often necessitated staying all night at the homes of the patient, sleeping, or trying to, on cold uncomfortable beds. Such a thing as considering it a hard life never oc-

curred to either of us. Pneumonia, malaria, typhoid fever were the most common diseases. Epidemics of all sorts came periodically, smallpox being the most dreaded. There was no board of health then and unruly people who persisted in spreading the diseases had to be handled by the town marshal. Babies persisted in making their advent into the world under the most seemingly unfavorable conditions. In tents, covered wagons, squalid huts they gave their first cry. However they all lived and did well regardless of the fact they had only a thin canvas between them and the cold world. Doctor Fite, at that time, was appointed surgeon for the K. K. T. railroad and I was his assistant. Calls came from one end of the division in Parsons, to the other end at Dennison.

There were no ambulances here and in case a patient had to be moved, a bed spring in the bottom of a farm wagon with a mattress on it was the means by which they were moved. I recall on instance of successful surgical work done under other unpromising conditions. Mr. Tom Smith of Muskogee, (afterwards Mayor) and some friends, started to Vann's Lake, a popular fishing resort at that time, to spend the night and fish. On the way over, driving through the woods in the dark, they ran over a stump and overturned the surry and broke Mr. Smith's leg. They carried him to nearest farm house and came for me. On the way over, driving in the dark, I struck a stump in the middle of the road and broke a singletree. A little thing like that was nothing to worry about. The horse had a nice long tail and I simply tied the horse's tail to the doubletree and went on. When I had completed setting the bone, the question arose as to how to get him to town, with-what the injured leg being put in a cast. Not being able to supply a cast at that time, I took a poling off the farmer's yard fence and fastened the broken leg to it. The plank was left on until the bone was thoroughly knitted. In 1899 when a terrible smallpox epidemic swept over the Creek Nation, I was put in charge of the quarantine work in the western part of the Creek Nation. In 1896 we brought the first X-ray machine to Muskogee and did several operation under it. In 1897, we opened a private hospital in the 200 block of South Main in a swelling owned by Mr. Connell Rogers. We had 8 rooms for patients and often had to place cots in the hall for fever patients. Mrs. Ferguson, a practical nurse, managed the hospital. Mr. Milton Thompson, then beginning his medical career, roomed there, and was on duty in case he was needed. In 1897, after Dr. Leo A. Bennett had been appointed U. S. Marshal, a report came to his office that Al Jennings, a noted and much hunted train robber, had taken refuge in the ranch house on the Spike S. Ranch several miles west of town, owned by John Harlin. Marshal Bennett ordered Bud Ledbetter and a posse to the scene. Upon refusing to come out when ordered the fired into the house. A bullet struck the stove and then struck Jennings' leg taking a piece of the stove with it. He was brought to the hospital and we operated successfully with the aid of x-ray. The operation created intense interest due to the machine and also the patient. He was held under guard at the hospital until he was able to stand trial. That x-ray wouldn't recognize it's descendent today with the perfected machines now in use. We closed the hospital after the disastrous fire of 1899, then a hospital board was organized and the Martha Robb Hospital was established on the old Kendall Campus in one of the dormitories on South 12th Street. It was called the Martha Robb Hospital in memory of the wife of Mr. A. W. Robb, a prominent merchant here. We rented the hospital from the city a \$1.00 per year and it was know as the Physicians and Surgeons Hospital the last years of its existence. Then the city sold the ground and erected a new building on Agency Hill which they afterwards sold to the U. S. Government and is now a unit of the Veterans Hospital. Although I have been interested in numerous busi-

ness enterprises in Muskogee, and I have always worked for the up-building of the city, I have never, for a day, deviated from my life work, the practice of medicine. The all absorbing interests in my purpose was to relieve human suffering and save life. In 1896 George H. Williams, John Dill, J. C. Pettigrew and I, organized the Commercial Bank. George Williams was elected president and I was made vice-president. The bank afterwards became a National bank and is now on of the two strongest banks in Muskogee.

In 1898 A. Z. English, F. B. Severs, S. M. Rutherford, C. W. Turner and myself promoted the Pioneer Telephone Company and had rural lines to Wagoner, Checotah, on Okmulgee. The lines were sold later to the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. I was a member of the school board when the first brick school buildings were erected. the Washington, Jefferson and Sequoyah buildings, And the Dunbar and the Douglas schools for Negroes. In 1901 Mr. Tamo Bixby, J. George Wright, Frank Hubbard, Mr. William Zeverly and I organized the Town and Country Club and secured a building on Garrison Hill at Ft. Gibson for a Club House. As the club soon out grew the small quarters, we purchased from Mr. Sim Garland, the location where the Muskogee Country Club is now located. In 1907 Mr. Tamo Bixby, Dr. Fite, John Hall and myself organized the first Fair Association, that had been in existence for a number of years, and gave it to the state. A doctor's life in early Territory days was far from and easy one from the physical standpoint.

In retrospection of my life it is a satisfactory feeling to know that I did, to the best of my ability, the work that I had chosen and will continue so to as long as it is possible. Notwithstanding the handicap under which we labored, this was a happy life. Our friends were real friends. The question of money never entered our minds, as we were completely engrossed in our work. People paid us when they could and we were happy and not at all worried when they couldn't. We took no notes or mortgages.

All in all it was a happy life and if I were given my choice, I would take the same course.



Indian Journal

3 June 1886

Pg 4 Col. 3

Jim Reed Killed

Editor Indian Journal:

Jim Reed was killed at Briartown, Canadian district, Cherokee Nation, on the 27th day of May at eleven o'clock by a party who was lying in ambush for him as he was waiting at the Kittle Ferry on the Canadian River. He was shot with a muzzle loading shot-gun, both shots taking effect in his right shoulder and head. His mangled body was moved across the river in the Choctaw Nation to White Field church, where he was buried this evening. As he had no relatives

in this country, I suppose there were no funeral services except to sit in silence beside the dead. Mr. Reed was supposed to be a desperate character, though he was good and kind to all he met. My heart throbs for his grief-stricken mother and sisters, as the case may be if they do sojourn in some distant state. Perhaps he may have been a wayward child, but how erring he may be? He was a son or brother.

*"They tenderly buried the fair young dead;
I will pause to drop on his grave a tear;
I will carve on the wooden slab at his head,
Somebody's darling slumbers here.*

May 29, 1886. N. E. W.

Muskogee Daily Phoenix
20 July 1927

OLD TIME U.S. DEPUTY ADVISES GIRL-OFFICER
Warns Her to Shoot to Kill as Dead Man Can't Testify; Would Tell His Life Story

Miss Pauline Fanning, 19 year old girl deputy United States marshal who has received a great deal of publicity lately in newspapers throughout the United States, has been the recent recipient of a good deal of fan-mail.

The most unusual of these letters was one received yesterday from C. P. Smith, 75, California rancher, who signs himself as an ex-deputy U.S. marshal. In his missive he imparts some sound advice to the budding girl deputy dealing principally with the handling of criminals, bidding her to "shoot to kill and not to scare as a dead man cannot testify."

Smith's letter follows:

Oceano, Calif., July 14, 1927

Miss Pauline Fanning
Deputy U.S. Marshal
Muskogee, Okla.
My dear Miss Pauline

I see in the papers that you have been appointed a Deputy U.S. Marshal for Oklahoma. Well, about 41 years ago I was appointed by Capt. John C. Carroll, of Fort Smith, Ark. I worked under him until Capt. Thomas B. Needles was appointed marshal and then I worked under Capt. Needles during his entire term and then under all others until the Indian Territory became a state. Then I resigned and went to old Mexico.

During the time I was deputy marshal I went through many hair-breadth escapes and I do hope you will not have to go through what we old boys went through. They tell me that you are a good shot. Now if you do have to shoot, shoot to kill and not to scare—a dead man cannot testify against you and cannot swear lies against you. I hope nothing will ever cross your path that you cannot handle with kind words.

I wish I could see you and give you my life story. I am a one-quarter Cherokee Indian, born in Tahlequah. I am 75 years old and ranching here in California.

Hoping to see you some day, I am yours to command.

Sincerely yours,
C. P. Smith
Ex-deputy U. S. Marshal





This picture was taken by Elsie Maud Neal Gilmore. Contributed courtesy of Bill Bayley, Bainbridge Island, WA. The photo was taken at the Kell Ranch, Ft. Gibson, OK, in 1914. Left to right: 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Herbert Gilmore 4. Nannie Rhoda Stiff McDaniel 5. Margaret Elizabeth Hickey West (wife of John Calhoun West) 6. Louisa Ralston Kell Hickey (widow of Bevelly Bean Hickey, mother of Rachel Cherokee Hickey) 7. Cyrus McDaniel Gilmore (son of Rachel Cherokee Hickey Gilmore)

If you can identify the unknown persons in this photo, please contact Bill Bayley wbailey@bainbridge.net or Sue Tolbert, 682-2279

Lucy West Celebrates 100th Birthday

by Sue Tolbert and Karen West Sanchez

Miss Lucy Ella West was born in Briartown, OK on Wednesday, July 27, 1904 to Richard (Daddy Dick) and Mattie Vandalee (Jones) West. Dick was the son of Frank (Franklin Pierce) and Nancy (Brewer) West. Frank West & Sam Starr (husband of Belle Starr) were cousins, and on December 17th at a Christmas party in Whitefield, Sam and Frank shot and killed each other. Lucy had four younger brothers: Jack, Frank, Mitchell and Clem. At the age of 14 she became the mother figure in the home after her stepmother, Sarah Arvella (Love) West, died caring for her brothers until they all enlisted in the Armed Forces and her father until he died in 1977.

Lucy was a caregiver for the children of the Low family in Muskogee for several years and was also a Sunday school teacher at the Briartown church. During the 1960's Lucy was the postmistress for Briartown and continued in that position until it was closed in the early 1970's.

Lucy has traveled to many places, including Jerusalem to see the Holy Land, Hawaii to honor the fallen soldiers of World War II at the USS Arizona War Memorial and to Tennessee to visit the burial site of one of her ancestors Nancy Ward. She is a long time member of the Descendants of Nancy Ward Association.

In her younger years Lucy was a wonderful seamstress , making dolls, clothes and quilts for her family and friends. She has collected a treasure trove of family history, building a genealogy dating back to the 1500's. Many people have benefited from her research. She willingly shares her knowledge with everyone who is searching and has been visited by many distant relatives for help in finding their connection to Nancy Ward.

In August 2002, at the Cherokee Festival in Tahlequah, Lucy was one of 10 original enrollees honored in the parade. She is very proud of her Cherokee heritage. Lucy has been honored as the oldest living alumna from the Briartown School at the last several reunions.

On July 24, 2004, Lucy's family and friends gathered in Stigler, Oklahoma to celebrate her 100th Birthday. She re-



Transcribed from the
MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX
12 October 1911
Page 12, Column 1

Dug Up A Skeleton

Workmen Made Find in Excavations For
Sealing Basin.

A mystery of forty years ago was un-
earthed by the share of a plow yesterday when men
working on the excavation for the new settling ba-
sin north of the pumping station discovered the
skeleton of a man lying in a rotten, roughly made
box of walnut.

In the coffin with the bones the men found
a half dime of 1853, two pair of rusty scissors and a
small bottle. Why these things were placed in the
coffin perhaps will never be known.

It is believed from the character of the
bones that the skeleton is that of an Indian.



PAGE 4, COL. 1 & 2

Local Lines

Bob Hubbard went to Wagoner
Tuesday.

E. L. Goben is at Wagoner with
smallpox.

George Morgan has an almost new
Owensboro wagon he will trade for
cows.

Ike Cameron and Ed Jorden each
contributed \$1 and trimmings to
the city treasury Saturday on
account of a little mix.

The following articles and ads are from:

THE MONITOR

Webbers Falls, J.L. McCurkle, owner
A.M. Havermale, editor & publisher

February 8, 1901

CITY DIRECTORY

CITY OFFICERS

Mayor	-	-	J. D. Hays
Recorder	-		H. A. Bettis
Marshal	-	-	Dan Long
Treasurer	-	-	Bascom Smith
Attorney			
Assessor	-	-	D. W. McCorkle

COUNCIL

C. C. Tittle	W. M. Gibson
B. F. Newton	J. C. Harrison
	Frank Vore

Board of Health

D. H. Burk	N. D. Woods
	W. H. Harrison

SCHOOL BOARD

J. D. Hays	D. H. Burk
	L. B. Smith

The Monitor, continued

Church Directory

First Baptist Church – Pastor C. Forrest Maddox

Methodist Episcopal Church – Pastor J. B. Blackwell

Mrs. Geo. Abbott will do your carpet weaving at reasonable rates. Residence on Robt. Ross farm.

Grandpa Blackwell is through plowing for corn.

Rev. Averyt held the quarterly meeting at Illinois Tuesday.

Br. J. T. Jones of Alma, Ark. Will preach at the K. of P. hall on Sunday, Feb. 10 at 11 am and 7 pm. All are invited

Dr. Woods' baby died Friday afternoon of catarrhal phenmonia. It was buried Saturday afternoon at the Lynch cemetery.

The Dawes commission will be at the following places on the date named for the purpose of taking a census of the Cherokee freedmen: Ft. Gibson, April 1 to 30; Vinita, May 6 to 25; Nowata May 29 to June 20.

John Wilson, who has grown rich and great by running a hack line between two livery stables owned by him at Tahlequah and Fort Gibson is in trouble. He has opposition. Frank Naylor, a Methodist preacher who knows as much about the good and the bad points of a horse as David Harum did has put in a opposition line and has some rigs. Wilson threatens to go to preaching to even things. If he does Tahlequah will have a continuous performance and every day will be Sunday.—— Vinita Leader.



THE MONITOR

Webbers Falls, Feb., 1, 1901

Page 1, Col. 1

The following bills passed at the late session of the Cherokee council have been approved by President McKinley:

Demanding settlement of Bert Chandler, Cherokee town commissioner.

Authorizing clerk to issue warrant to Daisy B. Starr.

Locating primary school in Cooweescoowee district.

For claims against asylum and repairing public buildings.

Making appropriation covering deficiency in colored orphan asylum.

The bill appointing Miss Florence Wilson as principal teacher of the Cherokee female seminary and those granting franchises to telephone companies were disapproved.

THE MONITOR

March 22, 1901

Page 5, Col. 1

ST. LOUIS IRON-MOUNTAIN & SOUTHERN RY TIME TABLE. ILLINOIS & T. WEST BOUND.

No. 233	- - - -	4:50 a.m.
No. 231	- - - -	5:50 a.m.

EAST BOUND.

No. 232	- - - -	11:00 a.m.
No. 234	- - - -	10:45 p.m.

Pullman sleepers on 231 & 232 between Kansas City & Fort Smith and on 233 & 234 between Fort Smith and Little Rock.

M. A. LUCAS, Agent.

McKINNEY SMITH'S Hack and Transfer
Line between Webbers Falls and Illinois station. Prompt and reliable service. Comfortable vehicles. U. S. Mail.

Bailey' Hack

TIME TABLE

NORTH		SOUTH
7:30 Ar	Webbers Falls	Lv 7:00
5:20 "	Gritts	Ar 8:20
2:30 "	Starvilla	" 10:45
1:20 Lv	Briartown	" 12:25

D. H. BURK,
Physician and Surgeon.
Office at southeast corner of the Public Square.
WEBBERS FALLS I. T.

H. B. BURNE, M.D. J. I. BAILEY, M.D.
Burns & Bailey
PHYSICIANS and SURGEONS.
Office over Pollard's store in K of P. building.

BEN NEWTON,
Village Blacksmith.
All work brought to me will be promptly done in either
Wood or Iron
Shop near the Hayes Mercantile Co.'s Gin, Webbers Falls, I. T.

J. S. Bettis,
Contractor and Builder.
Plans and Specifications furnished on application. Paper Hangings specialty. Charges reasonable.

THE MONITOR, Webbers Falls
March 22, 1901, Pg. 5, Col. 2

Mr. Hubbard says that since Tuesday noon it is too late to plant corn, unless you want a little patch for late roasting ears.

The Smith and Carlisle hack lines have consolidated. The business will be conducted by McKinney Smith. Thus the trust craze had reached Webbers Falls.

L. D. Jones, editor of the Arkansas Appreciator, of Fort Smith was in this vicinity Saturday in the interest of his paper, which is the only colored people's paper published by colored people between Little Rock and Muskogee.



THE MONITOR

Webbers Falls, March 29, 1901

Page 4, Col. 3

Texana Visitors.
Mrs. Lindsey, Mrs. Polly Triplett and Miss Mary Rogers, all of Texana, after a visit to relatives and friends of this neighborhood, returned to their homes Monday. Mrs. Lindsey resided here for a term of years, and Mrs. Triplett was born and was educated by the Presbyterians at Dwight Mission.

FAMOUS SMITH PARALYZED
Famous Smith, of Webbers Falls, one the best known of the Cherokee Indians fell on First street today as a result of a stroke of paralysis, it is supposed. Mr. Smith was seemingly in the best of health when he felt his legs give way from under him and he fell to the pavement. Officer Anthony was in the vicinity and went to the mans assistance and procured a carriage and had him taken to the office of Dr. Amis, who is Smith's physician. Smith complained of being in great pain. He is one of the best known Indians of the territory. He was formerly a deputy United States marshal and has occupied other public positions of note. — Ft. Smith News Record.

INTERVIEW WITH ELLA ROBINSON # 13655**Volume 98 page 29, INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS**

Ella Robinson, Investigator, May 4, 1938

FIRST THINGS IN MUSKOGEE

First railroad to present site of Muskogee – Missouri, Kansas and Texas – January 1, 1872.

First steam engine to cross Arkansas River bridge – “The General Grant”, property of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad. December 25, 1872.

First public eating house – a small shack east of Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad track. Built of odd pieces of lumber and goods boxes and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell. January 1872.

First General Merchandise Store – J. A. Patterson, where Turner Block now stands, 1872.

First Hardware – J. S. Atkinson, where old Patterson building is located, 1872.

First contractor and builder – P. J. Byrne, 1872 – Built the “Mitchell Hotel”, 1872.

First Main Street – adjacent to Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad; running parallel, 1872.

First doctor in Muskogee – Dr. George N. Comings, 1873. Office in drug store on Main Street.

First store on east side of Missouri, Kansas Texas track – Mrs. Joshua Ross – corner of Cherokee and Broadway, 1872.

First residence on east side of Missouri, Kansas and Texas track – Mr. J. Ross, 1872 – where 600 block now is on East Broadway in Muskogee.

First public hall in Muskogee over Cuars Newburgs dry Goods Store. Corner of Okmulgee and Main, 1878.

First livery stable in Muskogee – owned by Mr. Blackmore on South Second Street, 1875.

First stage line from Muskogee to Tahlequah via Fort Gibson – operated by Mr. Blackmore, 1875.

First wagon yard in Muskogee – operated by Mr. Blakemore on South Second, 1875.

First grist mill in Muskogee – owned and operated by Major John A. Foreman, 1873. Located on North Cherokee and Katy tracks, in 200 block.

First meat market in Muskogee – operated by Mrs. Matt Carter and Theo Lacey, 1874. Corner of Cherokee and Challahan.

First water supply system – operated by Charley Willey. Water sold from barrels, 1873.

First postmaster in Muskogee – appointed January 1, 1872, James L. Barnes,

First Newspaper in Muskogee, Indian Journal, 1875, Edited by Dr. M. F. Roberts.

First bakery in Muskogee – operated by George Belstead, 1874

First Indian International Fair held in Muskogee, 1874.

First president of International Fair – Major John A. Foreman, 1874

First Secretary of Indian International Fair – Mr. Joshua Ross, 1874.

First blacksmith shop in Muskogee. Owned by Coleman Roberson, 1876. Located at what is now Dayton and C Streets.

First shoe shop – owned by Mr. J. J. Corbutt, 1880. Located on Second Street at what is now 103 North Main

First saddle shop – owned by Dave Andress, a Cherokee, 1877. On Main Street, next door to Belsteads Bakery, facing west.

First town officer in Muskogee – Simps Bennett, a Cherokee, 1876

First lawyer in Muskogee – Colonel Bird Harris. Home in the country. A Cherokee, 1880.

First photographer in Muskogee – Mr. J. Brazel, 1876. Located near what I is now Main Street.

First church established in Muskogee – First Presbyterian, 1875.

First house of worship – in cattle pasture where Severs Hotel is located, 1875, burned 1876.

First Pastor of Presbyterian Church in Muskogee – Reverend John Elliott, 1875 – 1880.

First Sunday school superintendent – Mr. W. L. Squires, 1875.

First Methodist Church in Muskogee – organized October 1876.

First Pastor of Methodist Church in Muskogee – Reverend Theodore F. Brewer, 1878-1886.

First member of Methodist Church in Muskogee – Mrs. Ella F. Robinson, October 1876.

First superintendent of Methodist Sunday School – Mr. S. S. Sanger, 1876-1881.

First denominational Methodist school in Muskogee – Established by Reverend Theo. F. Brewer, 1881. Classes taught in Methodist Church. Corner of Cherokee and E. Okmulgee.

First boarding school for girls – Harrell Institute, 1882.

First religious publication – “Our Brother in Red.” Established by Reverend Theodore F. Brewer, 1882.

First private day school started in Muskogee – Mr. W. L. Squires, teacher, 1876.

First sermon preached in Muskogee – Reverend Young Ewing, Methodist itinerant minister, 1873. From empty boxcar on Missouri, Kansas and Texas tracks at Broadway crossing.

First white male child born in Muskogee – Ralph Dreisbach, October, 1872.

First white girl born in Muskogee – Jenie Robb, December 1872.

First dealer in hides, pelts and pecans in Muskogee – Joseph Sondheimer, 1874.

First tinner in Muskogee – Mr. Sam Yates. Shop where rear of Calhouns Dry Good Store now is, 1877.

First Orchard planted in Muskogee – By Joshua Ross, 1873

First woman employed in Dry Goods Store – Mrs. Nettie Graves, 1869, by Patterson’s Mercantile Company.

First woman stenographer in Muskogee – Miss Nettie Graves, 1890, by Harry C. Shepard, lawyer.

First Undertaker in Muskogee – Mr. J. L. Thomas, 1880.

First florist and landscape gardener – Chas. N. Moore, 1890.

First stone mason – Tom Bracket , 1874.

First freight line from Muskogee – operated by Hugh Bay, 1875. Ran to Baxter Springs, Kansas.

- First cotton gin, 1878, owned by John A. Foreman.
- First dressmaking and millinery shop – operated by Mrs. John C. Cunningham, 1877.
Where home of Mrs. R. C. Rogers is located.
- First resident dentist – Dr. A. E. Boncall, 1888. Office with Dr. Chas. Harris on Main Street.
- First cab line – Tom Winfrew, 1889.
- First transfer business – Cris Silverhorn, 1889.
- First jeweler – John O'Brien, 1880. Store at north corner of Main and Broadway – English Block.
- First ice house – operated by John A. Foreman on Katy track near depot, 1875. Ice cut from Grand River.
- First fire department – Volunteer, 1889
- First residence street, Cherokee Street, 1875.
- First steam laundry – Tung Woo Laundry and bathhouse. Operated by John Lee, 1890.
- First kindergarten – opened by Mrs. Pheobe Riddell, September 1890.
- First cleaning and dyeing establishment – 1890 – operated W. T. Davis.
- First Insurance agent, A. A. Engert, 1881. First in Indian Territory.
- First book store – “Post Office Book Store”. Operated by Mrs. Cherokee Gilmore.
Corner of Second and Broadway, 1890.
- First woman doctor – Dr. Grace Davis, 1898..
- First adding machine – Bought by Mr. John Dill, Cashier, Commercial National Bank, 1896
- First Catholic Knights of Columbus – Organized 1895.
- First public school opened in Muskogee – September 11.1889.
- First school board in Muskogee – W. C. Trent, President, Thomas A Sanson, Secretary, William N. Martin, W. T. Hutchings, J. B. Towers, O. F. Bebee.
- First brick school buildings erected – Washington and Jefferson, 1904.
- First opera house erected in Muskogee – Turner Opera House, in Turner Block, 1894.
Opened September, 1894 by Road Company, Sharp and Lee Camp playing “Forget-me-not”.
- First Knights of Pythias Lodge – organized 1888. W, S, Harsha, W. R. Robinson, and E. R. Rulison are living charter members.
- First edition of Phoenix published February 16, 1888. Dr. Leo E. Bennett, editor.
- First Literary Club in Muskogee – Organized by Mrs. Augusta Robertson Craig (Afterward Mrs. N. B. Moore) and Mrs. Legas Perryman. Partial list of charter members: Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. James Mitchell, Mrs. Ell F. Robinson, Mrs. Samuel Yates, Mrs. M. P. Roberts, Mrs. J. S. Atkinson, Mrs. W. L. Squires.
- First bank in Muskogee – First National – August 1890
- First Bank President – Robert L. Owen.
- First Cashier of bank – Chas. H. Worth.
- First candy shop – John Harches, “Candy John” 1888.
- First gun club – 1899
- First superintendent of City Cemetery – Chas. W. Moore, 1898.
- First ice cream parlor – Horace Veale, 1888.
- First cigar store in Muskogee – Milo Adams in Adams Hotel, 1899.

- First Masonic Lodge – Chartered, 1888.
- First Band – Maddens Mechanics Band – Organized by William A. Madden. Composed of his workman, 1890.
- First laundry agency – Abe Wolfenberger – Work sent to Parsons, Kansas, 1899.
- First Catholic Church established in Muskogee – 1890.
- First Pastor of Catholic Church. Reverend Father W. H. Ketahum, 1890.
- First Catholic school in Muskogee – Nazareth Academy, 1894.
- First paving in Muskogee – Wall Street between Second and Third by Cass W. Bradley.
- First residence street paved – Callahan – 1906-1907.
- First automobile brought to Muskogee by Mr. H. B. Spaulding, 1902.
- First cafeteria – Miss Alice Robertson. “The Sawokla”, 1915.
- First Oil Refinery – Chas. Madison, Superintendent, 1900.
- First café – J. C. Fast, 1899.
- First electric light system. Owned by C. W. Turner Company, 1894.
- First airplane built in Muskogee, 1895, by Ben Bellis in rear of plumbing shop.
- First brick yard – Jesse Haynes, Manager, 1897. Located on Coodeys Creek south of town.
- First oil company organized in Muskogee – 1904. H. G. Baker – A. Z. English.
- First street railway service in Muskogee – 1905. Benson and Hyde promoters and directors, Ira L. Reeves, superintendent, Nathan A. Gibson, attorney.
- First laundry – “John Chinaman” 1888.
- First ball team – Patterson Mercantile Company team, 1895, composed of employees only.
- First surgeon in Muskogee – Doctor F. B. 1889.
- First hospital in Muskogee – the “Martha Robb”, private. Operated by Doctors Fite and Blakemore, 1894.
- First ex-ray brought to Muskogee – 1896, by Drs. Fite and Blakemore.
- First patient operated on under ex-ray – Al Jennings, noted train and bank robber – 1896.
- First ex-ray in Indian Territory.
- First Jewish Temple erected in Muskogee – “Beth Abba” – Eighth and West Okmulgee, 1916. Rabbi Israel in charge.
- First automobile agency in Muskogee – A. B. Roberts, 1908. Agent for Chalmers.
- First telephone company in Muskogee – 1898. Housed in Turner Building. Promoters and stock holders, C. E. Turner, A. Z. English, F. B. Severs, S. W. Rutherford, Judge N. S. Moore.
- First residence telephone A. Z. English. Number 1.
- First noted singer – Madam Nordica. 1899.
- First Muskogee Commandery Knight Templar – 1891
- First Eastern Star Chapter in Muskogee – 1899.
- First wholesale grocery in Muskogee – 1902. “Muskogee Wholesale”, C. W. Turner, R. L. Davis, Earnest Cook, stock holders.
- First Public Library – Organized October 1906. Sponsored by Muskogee History Club – Mrs. I. N. Croom, first librarian. Room in Turner Building, second floor.
- First iron works in Muskogee. Moved from Aurora, Missouri, 1909.

- First gas service in Muskogee, Artificial – 1905.
- First natural gas service in Muskogee – 1904.
- First city water system – 1903. First superintendent of waterworks – Walter Johnson – 1903.
- First term of Federal Court held in Muskogee – April 1889. In upper story of Phoenix Office, 2nd and Okmulgee.
- First Federal Judge, James M. Shackelford.
- First Clerk, William Nelson.
- First United States Marshal, Thomas B. Needles.
- First United States Attorney A. T. Walrond.
- Foreman of first Federal Jury – Captain George B. Hester.
- First juror called and sworn, Honorable Pleasant Porter.
- First death sentence passed by Federal Court in Muskogee – Cyrus Brown, convicted of murder, 1898.
- First city officials – Major P. J. Byne, John G. Lieber, Attorney, George H. Williams, Treasurer. Councilmen – P. N. Blackstone, W. S. Harsha, A. W. Robb, F. B. Severs, Clarence W. Turner.
- First cigar factory opened by Mr. R. Bender of Nevada, Missouri, April 1895.
- First electric fans – Bought by J. C. Fast. 1895. Used in Alcazar Café.
- Henry Randall College – Opened 1894.
- First Christian Science Practitioner – 1904.
- First plumber – Ben Bellis – 1895.
- First Catholic school for boys – St. Joseph's College – 1894.
- First troop of soldiers recreated in Muskogee – Troops L. and N. for service in Spanish American War. May 1896. Entrained at Missouri, Kansas and Texas Station.
- First Day Nursery organized – 1908. Directors Mrs. H. B. Spaulding, Mrs. J. T. Halzlip, Mrs. Geo. Templeton.
- First dairy owned by J. B. Rucker. East of town, near location of Houston School, 1894.
- First cream factory started by Mr. Frank E. Frank of Indiana, 1903. Located on South Cherokee Street. First in Indian Territory.
- First pipe organ installed in First M. E. Church South, 1904. Miss Bess Brewer first organist.
- First Women's Christian Temperance Union – organized by Miss Frances E. Willard, 1882. Mrs. Laura E. Harsha, first president.
- First business college – Organized by Mr. George Clark of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, 1894.
- Occupied Women's Christian Temperance Union building in 100 block on North C. Street.
- First public drinking trough for stock – 1904.
- First college for Negroes – Sango Baptist College, September, 1904.
- First flagman at Katy crossing – 1891.
- First Merry-Go-Round – on East Okmulgee, near Katy tracks, 1893.
- First Merchant Tailor – J. G. Van Nostrand, 1891.
- First organization of Muskogee Mercantile Agency, 1891.
- First street sprinkler – 1891.

First nine hour system for employees adopted by Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, 1891, hours, 7:30 to 5:30.

First exclusive gents furnishing store – Apple Brothers. The Boston Store, 1891.

First morgue in Muskogee or in Indian Territory – Opened by George H. Bloom, 1905.

First electric elevator. Operated in the new Hotel Turner, 1905.

First electric piano – in Alcazar Café. Owned by J.C. Fast, 1905.

First packing house in Muskogee – Armour's, 1905.

First street car ran March 15, 1905.

First rock crushing machine in Muskogee – January, 1905. Capacity 100 yards per day.

First Green Trading Stamps – 1904

First Lutheran Church service held in Muskogee – Services in First Christian Church, January 29, 1905. Reverend Greaber preaching in English and German.

First cement works – 1905

First Baptist Church in Muskogee – organized July, 1890. Reverend David Crosby, first pastor.

First Elks Club – organized 1899. First in Indian Territory.

First City Park Board – organized 1909. Board composed of L. N. Holmes, James King and H. P. Showalter.

First cemetery board – organized 1910. members: Grant Foreman, Dr. J. O. Callahan, Mrs. Harry English.

First picture shown in Muskogee – shown at old Presbyterian church building at corner of Third and West Okmulgee, where city hall now stands, in 1907.

First permanent picture show was opened Monday, January 20, 1908, at the Lyric, 419 West Okmulgee, by L. W. Brophy; first reels shoed from four to nine minutes, price 15 cents.

In justice t should be noted that Mayor Tom Smith appointed Walter Johnson as superintendent of the newly installed city water works system. Mr. Johnson, an employee of the Katy Railroad, however, resigned and J. S. Dodson as selected and served as first superintendent. – Ed.

*“Life is not a journey to the grave
with the intention of arriving safely
in a pretty and well preserved
body, but rather to skid in broad-
side, thoroughly used up, totally
worn out, and loudly proclaim-
ing— WOW— What a Ride!!!”*



THE MONITOR, Webbers Falls.
April 10, 1901. Page 5, Col. 2 & 3

Born—Thursday April 11th to Mr. and Mrs. McKinney Smith, a girl.

Jeff Cluck has opened a lumber yard at Gritts. He will handle only cottenwood lumber.

John Koehler, who at present is with appraisers camped opposite the mouth of the Illinois river made the Monitor office a pleasant call Monday.

While Mr. Board was driving in a buggy Sunday his team became frightened and ran away, throwing him out and hurting him severely about the nose and eyes.

Linda Cyles of Cicking Mo., who is at present staying with her brother, Dr. Cyles, of Wagoner was the guest of her friend of auld lang sine, Mrs. M.J. Maples, on Monday.

Will Howard has accepted a position with Frances & Jones who have purchased the Sharon grocery store. They will put on a delivery wagon and do things in city style.

Mrs. Mary Taylor, mother of Mrs. J. W. Fletcher, who has been visiting her daughter since the middle of December, returned to her home at Siloam Springs, Ark., Monday. Grandma Taylor is 82 years ole and as spry as many a matron of half her years.

THE MONITOR, Webbers Falls
April 19, 1901, Page 4, Col. 2 & 3

Undertaking Parlors

We have several times mentioned the fact that W.M. Gibson was erecting a building to be used exclusively for an undertaking business. The building is now completed and furnished and is equal to many undertaking parlors in our neighboring states and is superior to any in the Indian Territory with its beautiful carpet, window shades and lace curtains, and white enameled cases for the display of coffins and caskets; and a beautifully arranged bay window display. Mr. Gibson has been handling undertakers goods in connection with his other business for several years, and it has grown to such an extent he realized that in order to properly conduct it he should keep abreast of the times. We are pleased to see this advancement in our town.

BRIARTOWN BUDGET.

Editor Monitor — Enclose are a few items from this famous health resort.

There will be about the same acreage of corn and cotton as last year.

George Blackstone of Starvilla was transacting business in our town one day last week.

Mr. And Mrs. Williams took a flying trip on the "flyer" to Starvilla yesterday.

The residence of Hi Barnes was destroyed by fire last week.

U. B. Love, our photographer, intends maintaining a permanent photograph gallery at this place.

School opened up last Monday under the management of Mr. Donald, who is a straight-forward energetic and competent teacher, and will bring our school up to the highest possible standard.

THE MONITOR. Webbers Falls
April 19, 1901, Page 8, Col. 3

On Friday, April 27th, there will be a big fish fry and the pupils of the Colored High School of which Prof. O. T. Willis is the efficient and energetic principal, will give an exhibition at Elm Grove A. M. E. Church. The following in the

EXHIBITION PROGRAM

Address	Rev. J. C. Richardson
Queen	Mary Carpenter
King	Willie Green
Recitation	Birithia Burch
Song, Only a dream	Ethel Winston
Recitation	Maunsey Walker
Clowns	
Recitation	Tom Turner
Recitation	Carry Green
Recitation	Maud Lewis
Recitation	Ollie Craig
Dialogue, A Fool for the Want of Sense	
Song, After the Sun Went Down,	M. D. Walker
Recitation	Willie Graig
Recitation	Mary Harris
Clowns	
Dialogue, Three Blind Mice	
Recitation	Lillie Carpenter
Recitation	Cleveland Green
Recitation	Mancy Walker
Recitation	Richard Douglas
Song, Call and I will Sing	Lillie Carpenter
Recitation	Joicy Green
Recitation	Cirley Walker
Recitation	Lucinda Harris
Dialogue	Ethel and Ada Winston
Recitation	Hesteller Cooly
Recitation	Birdy Burch
Dialogue, The Telephone	
Song, Bird in the Cage,	Mary Carpenter

Recitation	Fannie Green
The Clowns	
Recitation	Fannie Donerson
Recitation	D. A. Walker
Recitation	Jessie Andrew
Recitation	Great Green
Dialogue, The Butterfly	
Old Black Joe	
Recitation	Violy Green
Recitation	Clauace Edward
Recitation	Roxie Smith
Secitation	Lillie Shepperd
Uncle Ner and His Congregations	
Song, Try, Try, Again,	Fannie Donerson
Recitation	Author Davis
Recitation	D. Davis
The Preacher and the Goose	
Song, I Am Working on the Building	Fannie Green
Clowns	
Recitation	Granville Carpenter
Recitation	Hanigan Carpenter
Recitation	Henry Sparks
Recitation	Jessie Andrew
Recitation	Mary Harris
Recitation	Lucinda Harris
Recitation	Minnie Carpenter
Recitation	Texanner Carpenter



THE MONITOR, Webbers Falls,
May 10, 1901, Page 5, Col. 2 & 3

Mrs. Hudson is quite sick, the result of vaccination.

M. M. Maples has plenty of sweet potato slips for sale.

Rev. Husdon and wife returned from Van Buren Sunday.

Dr. W. J. Henson of Checotah, made the Monitor office a pleasant call Thursday.

Rev. G. A. Lovett of Vian, was guest of Rev. Blackwell Wednesday and Thursday.

Joe Francis returned with his wife and son the first of the week, and is the happiest man in town.

Mrs. Etta Mitchell went to Sallisaw Saturday and Monday she went to visit friends at Van Buren.

The Westville New Era was sold last week, which fact accounts for Havermales's still being on the Monitor force.

R. T. Hanks made a four days canvassing trip to Texana last week and took seventeen orders for the, "The Story of a Hundred Years."

E. M. Boarde has accepted a position in the office of Gov. Brown, of the Seminole Nation and will begin his new duties about the first of June.

W. B. Coleman, T. M. Looper, G. B. Harwell, Thos. Kellam and Walter Looper started Monday for a weeks hunting on the Illinois river.

Mrs. Wofford and her daughter, Mrs. Eula Gindney, of Tahlequah, came in Thursday morning for an extended visit with Mrs. Wofford's daughter, Mrs. R. T. Hanks.

T. S. Neal and H. L. Sanders went to Poteat the first of the week — Neal as a delegate to the Grand Lodge and the Sanders to take the grand lodge degree. They returned yesterday morning.



A Card Of Thanks

Dear Friends: I want to say I truly thank you all for your kindness during the time of my trouble. I wish to express the thanks of the whole family to Mrs. Etta Mitchell, Mr. And Mrs. Aaron Sugg, T. S. Neal, Joe Francis, Will Gibson, Rev. Hudson, and Mr. And Mrs. Havermale. May God reward you all. I feel like my child is in the hands of God. I pray for Tom Brimage as I would for my boy if it had been him.

Mrs. Cunningham



Grandma's Apron

The principle use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven; it was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken-coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came those old aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids; and when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling-wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls.

In the fall it was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out on the porch and waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner.

It will be a long time before anyone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

author unknown



Muskogee County Genealogical Society Publications

Cherokee Indian Rolls Doubtful and Rejected	\$31.25
Transcribed by: Betty Taylor Harris. An alphabetical listing of Cherokee names classified as "Doubtful and Rejected" by the Dawes Commission. 263 pages	
Cemeteries of Muskogee Co. OK, Vol. 1	\$18.75
Compiled by: Deone Duncan Penquite. Includes Agency, Bemo, Boynton, Brewer, Briartown, Brushy Mountain, Butler Creek, Council Hill, Doyle, Ft. Gibson/Anderson Bottom, Frozen Rock, Grayson, Plainview, Rock Grove, Starnes, Starr, Taylor, Walker, and 2 unidentified. 155 pages.	
Cemeteries of Muskogee Co. OK, Vol. II	\$31.25
Compiled by: Deone Duncan Penquite. Includes Harnage, Harris, Harris Family, Haskell, Jennings, Jobe Family, McClure, Middleton Chapel, Oktaha Community, Park, South Bethel, Summit, and 1 unidentified. 291 pages including index.	
Index to Divorce Cases, Muskogee Co., OK 1914-1920	\$20.00
Compiled by: Jimmie D. Benson and Loretta Dillon Benson. 103 pages including index.	
Marriage Records, Muskogee, IT, 1st US Court Northern District, Books A,B & B-1, July 1890-March 1893	\$13.75
Compiled by: Rae Lindsay & Mickey Hooper Hagan. 108 pages including index.	
U.S. Deputy Marshals, Indian & Oklahoma Territory, 1893-1896	\$12.00
Compiled by: Walter Heck Penquite, 66 pages.	
Genealogical Data Extracted, Muskogee Weekly Phoenix, IT 1888-1902	\$25.00
Compiled by: Sheri Sharpnack Siebod, 198 pages.	
Genealogical Data Extracted, Boynton Index Newspaper, 1926	\$12.50
Compiled by: Lillie Hodge Wiedel, 100 pages.	
Index of Deaths, Muskogee Daily Phoenix, 1930-1935	\$7.50
Compiled by: Deone Duncan Penquite. 49 pages	
Index of Deaths, Muskogee Daily Phoenix, 1924-1930	\$25.00
124 pages including index.	
Widow's Records, 1919-1924 Court Records	\$12.50
54 pages including index.	
Index to Probates and Guardianships, Muskogee 1907-1930	\$22.50
Compiled by: Deone Duncan Penquite. 160 pages including index.	
Index to Obituaries and Deaths, Muskogee Daily Phoenix 1954-1992,	
Compiled by Deone Duncan Penquite.	
Vol. I Surnames A – D	
(11,073 names, 201 pages)	\$25.00
Vol. II Surnames E – K	
(11,086 names, 203 pages)	\$25.00
Vol. III Surnames L – R	
(11,468 names, 210 pages)	\$25.00
Vol. IV Surnames S – Z	
(9,908 names, 180 pages)	\$25.00
The Pioneer Newspaper, circa 1898-1905	\$22.50
A blend of abstracts and extractions from an early Oklahoma newspaper. Indexed, 136 pg.	

To order send check or money order to:

Muskogee County Genealogical Society
801 West Okmulgee
Muskogee, Ok 74401

Or email us at: mucogeso@yahoo.com