

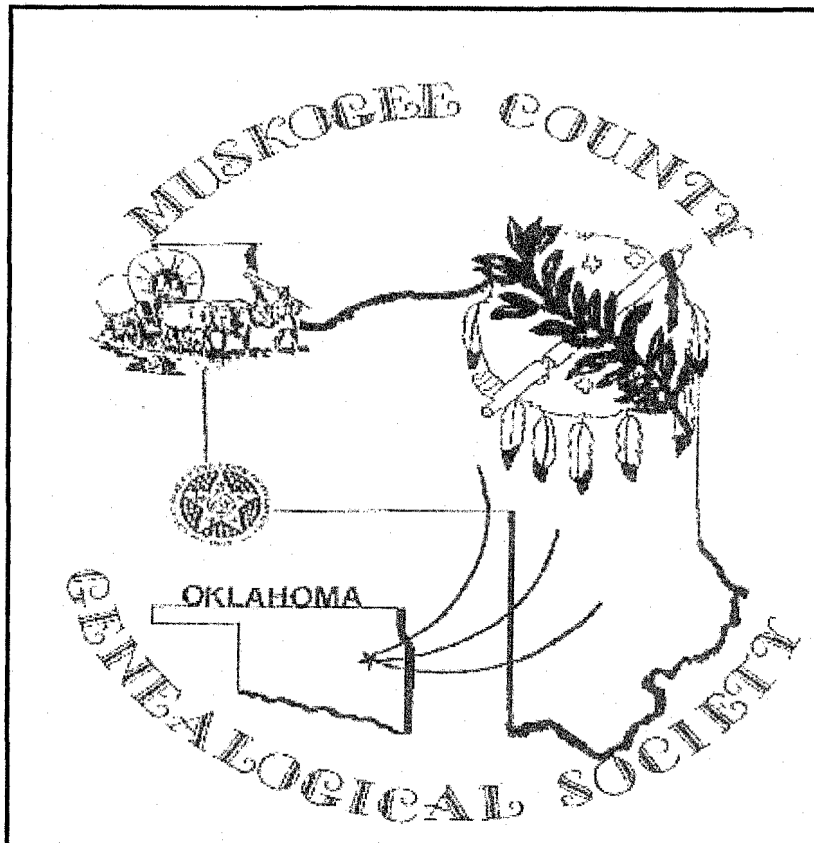
# Muskogee County Genealogical Society

Quarterly  
Publication

Volume 24  
Issue 1

*Jan-March 2007*

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## 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) 6:00pm "How To" session; 7:00 pm Meeting and speaker at the Muskogee Public Library, 801 West Okmulgee, Muskogee, Oklahoma. The Board of Directors meetings are held the third Monday at 6:00 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. Individual or family membership is \$21 per year and includes the Quarterly publication. A \$11 per year membership is available for those that do not wish to receive the Quarterly.

### Publication and Research Request 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 current price list of our publications is provided on our website at: <http://rootsweb.com/~okmuscg/index.htm> or write to us for a list.

Our research assistance policy is outlined on our website, or you may write to us for a Research Request Form at:

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

### 2007 Board Members:

Randy Painter, President  
Nancy Lasater, Secretary  
Barbara Downs, Treasurer  
Members at Large:  
Joyce Street, Library  
Linda Stout, Workshops and Education  
Sherry Jackson, Publications  
Diana Reaser, Quarterly Editor  
Past President: Stacy Blundell  
Library Liason: Sue Tolbert



# Mark Your Calendar!

All events at the Muskogee Public Library unless otherwise noted

## *April*

- |    |           |                                     |                     |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 17 | 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting                       |                     |
| 17 |           | Quarterly Material Deadline—Issue 2 |                     |
| 26 | 6:00p.m.  | 4th in Genealogy Class Series       | “Cemetery Research” |
| 26 | 7:00p.m.  | MCGS Meeting                        |                     |

## *May*

- |    |           |                               |                      |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 15 | 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting                 |                      |
| 24 | 6:00p.m.  | 5th in Genealogy Class Series | “Courthouse Records” |
| 24 | 7:00 p.m. | MCGS Meeting                  |                      |

## *June*

- |    |           |  |                                |
|----|-----------|--|--------------------------------|
| 9  |           | Muskogee Garden Tour of Historic Homes |                                |
| 9  |           | Muskogee City Centennial Celebration   |                                |
| 19 | 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting                          |                                |
| 28 | 6:00 p.m. | 6th in Genealogy Class Series          | “Immigration & Naturalization” |
| 28 | 7:00 p.m. | MCGS Meeting                           |                                |

## *July*

- |    |           |                                     |  |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 17 | 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting                       |  |
| 17 |           | Quarterly Material Deadline—Issue 3 |  |
| 31 | 6:00 p.m. | Ft. Wayne Trip Preparation Workshop |  |

## *August*

- |       |  |   |               |
|-------|--|---|---------------|
| 15-18 |  | Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference | Ft. Wayne, IN |
|-------|--|---|---------------|

## *September*

- |    |           |                               |                  |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| 18 | 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting                 |                  |
| 27 | 6:00 p.m. | 7th in Genealogy Class Series | “Census Records” |
| 27 | 7:00 p.m. | MCGS Meeting                  |                  |

## *October*

- |    |           |                                     |   |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 16 | 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting                       |   |
| 16 |           | Quarterly Material Deadline—Issue 4 |   |
| 25 | 6:00 p.m. | 8th in Genealogy Class Series       | “Research in Newspapers & City Directories” |

## *November*

- |    |           |                               |                             |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6  | 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting                 |                             |
| 15 | 6:00 p.m. | 9th in Genealogy Class Series | “Military Records Research” |
| 15 | 7:00 p.m. | MCGS Meeting                  |                             |

## *December*

- |    |           |   |  |
|----|-----------|---|--|
| 4  | 5:30 p.m. | Board Meeting                               |  |
| 13 | 6:00 p.m. | Holiday Party and Election of 2008 Officers |  |

Welcome to the new members and thanks to  
those who have renewed their membership since  
the last Quarterly!

New Members:

John & Polly Hatcher, Jack & Anna Key, Three Rivers Museum

Renewals:

Gary & Barbara Kegley, Nancy Lasater, Jeff & Stacy Blundell; Jacque Rutledge;

Barbara Downs;

Alissa Hill; Wally & Fay Waits, Susan & Les Christenson; Mary Downing;

Ann Gardner; Sherry Jackson;

Floretta Leatherman; Ginger McCall; Carol Rice; Geneva Taylor; Rosanne Nunley;

Tim & Jere Harris.,

# Oklahoma

.....Where the wind comes sweepin' down the plains.....well, you all know the song!

In celebration of Oklahoma's Centennial Year the MCGHS Quarterly will publish biographies of some of the people that lived here before and shortly after statehood as well as stories of buildings that played a part in the history of our state. Some of the material in this issue is from the book by H.F. & E. S. O'Beirne called *Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men* published in 1892 by the C. B. Woodward Company of St. Louis. This probably was a "Who's Who" type publication where those interested sent in their own pictures and biographies and even pre purchased a copy of the book-to-be.

## Notice.

Mr. E. S. O'Beirne will be in Muskogee between the 20th and 30th of March for the purpose of delivering to subscribers the history of the Indian Territory. He desires that all parties having contracted for the book will be prepared to meet their engagements.

We hope you enjoy what we've put together for this issue. Your contributions and suggestions for the issues to follow are greatly appreciated.

THE  
INDIAN TERRITORY:

ITS CHIEFS, LEGISLATORS AND  
LEADING MEN.

ILLUSTRATED.

H. F. & E. S. O'BEIRNE.

SAINT LOUIS:  
C. B. WOODWARD COMPANY.  
1892.



H. F. and E. S. O'BEIRNE.

WILLIAM S. HARSHA  
Transcribed from  
MUSKOGEE AND NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA  
By John Downing Benedict  
Vol. II page 146

William S. Harsha, who since 1907 has continuously engaged in the real estate business in Muskogee and who at different periods in his life has been connected with various business enterprises which have constituted factors in the commercial development and upbuilding of the state, was born in Albia, Monroe county, Iowa, February 8, 1857, and is a son of Samuel and Martha (Harrison) Harsha, who were native of Pennsylvania and Virginia respectively. The father was a shoemaker by trade and in 1855 went to Iowa, settling at Keokuk, where he remained for one winter. He next removed to Albia, Iowa, where he worked at his trade until 1857. He then engaged in general merchandising in Kansas, becoming a resident of that state in 1857. In 1864 he established a general store at Greeley, Anderson county Kansas, and devoted his remaining days to conduct of the business, his death occurring in 1867, while his wife passed away in 1865.

William S. Harsha was reared and educated in Kansas and was only ten years of age when left an orphan. He worked upon farms to the age of eighteen years and during the winter months attended school, thus acquiring his education. In the school of experience he has learned many valuable lessons and, possessing an observing eye and retentive memory, he has constantly promoted his knowledge. He started out in the commercial world as a clerk in a store at Richmond, Kansas, where he was employed for two years, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 1876 he came to Muskogee. Later, however, he obtained a position in a store at Okmulgee and there continued until 1880, when he again came to Muskogee and here entered the employ of J. E. Turner, purchasing an interest in the business a year later. During his first year's connection with Mr. Turner he did not know what his salary was to be, but at the end of the year he was paid one thousand dollars for his services. With no written agreement or declaration of partnership other than verbal, he and Mr. Turner continued in business together for seventeen years under the style of J. E. Turner and Company. At the end of that time Mr. Turner's health failed and he retired, his interest being acquired by H. B. Spaulding, after which the business was carried on under the firm style of Harsha and Spaulding for three years. In 1901 Mr. Harsha disposed of his interest in the business to his partner and acquired an interest with C. W. Turner in a business at Choska, Oklahoma, in 1902, and his son Hoy became secretary and treasurer of the company, the business being carried on under the style

of the Choska Trading Company, with William S. Harsha as president and C. W. Turner as vice president. In 1903 they removed the business to Porter, Oklahoma, and there remained until 1907. During the same period Mr. Harsha was also engaged in the cattle business, devoting his time to both interests. In 1907 he turned his attention to real estate activity in Muskogee and he was also at one time president of the Canadian Valley Trust Company of Muskogee, which failed, however, in the panic of 1907. For a period of more than fourteen years Mr. Harsha has devoted his attention and energies to real estate dealing and has gained a large clientage, negotiating many important property transfers.

In September, 1878, Mr. Harsha was married to Miss Laura Newcomb and they have become the parents of nine children as follows; Hoy. L., who is cashier of the Haskell National Bank at Haskell, Oklahoma, and is mentioned elsewhere in this work; Rex S., a carpenter of Muskogee; Frances WA., the wife of Dr. W.V. Ryan, a dentist of New York city; W. N. who is engaged in the oil business at Haskell; Anna, the wife of J. F. Brandon of Benton, Kentucky; Truman V., who is residing in Muskogee and is employed as bookkeeper by Armour Company; Isora E. and Roscoe, both deceased; and Edith N., who became the wife of R. W. Bigby of North Carolina and died leaving three children.

Mr. Harsha has always voted with the republican party since age conferred upon him the right of franchise and he has served as a member of the city council of Muskogee for two years but is always content to do his public service as a private citizen. He is counted upon to further any plan or measure for the general good and he is interested in every effort for the city's betterment. Fraternally he is connected with the Knights of Pythias and with the Masons and exemplifies in his life the beneficent spirit and purposes of these orders.

Submitted by Barbara Downs

<p><b>FUNERAL IS WEDNESDAY FOR MRS. LAURA HARSHA</b></p> <p>Funeral services for Mrs. Laura E. Harsha, 85, widow of William S. Harsha, a pioneer Muskogean, who died at the home of her daughter in Seattle, Wash., will be held from the chapel at 904 West Okmulgee avenue Wednesday at 2:30 p. m.</p> <p>Burial will be in Greenhill cemetery.</p> <p>Mrs. Harsha was widely known in eastern Oklahoma. Her husband, who died less than a year ago, was a member of the first Muskogee city council, and the first council's last member to die.</p>
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INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS  
VOL. 4 page 433

EXPERINCES OF A PIONEER WOMAN  
INTERVIEW WITH LAURA E. HARSHA  
By Miss Ella Robinson, Field Worker

Transcribed by Barbara Downs

My grandparents on both sides of the family come from old puritan stock. My grandmother was English and grandfather was a Hollander. My father's name was Luther Newcomb. My mother's name was Elizabeth Kelsey Newcomb. My grandparents emigrated to America in the early part of the seventeenth century coming directly from Holland where many people had gone to seek protection and prepare for sailing to the western country across the sea in search of a place where they could establish a home and worship God according to the dictates of their own hearts. They were young people with a real pioneer spirit.

They settled in western New York. My mother was born at Napoli, New York. My father and mother were married there and that is where I was born eighty years ago.

Just after the close of the Civil War my father, who was a Congregational Minister, was sent to Kansas as a missionary. I was near ten years old at that time. We located near Ottawa, Kansas, in the little town of Pamona.

I grew up there and finished high school and began teaching there. I taught the same school for four consecutive years.

In 1877 I came to Okmulgee, Creek Nation, to visit the Parkinson girls, who had lived in our town and who were also teaching there at the time. Their father, Jonathan Parkinson, had a Dry Good Store there. I only expected to make a short visit. Mrs. Pleas Porter, afterward Chief Porter, was living in Okmulgee then. As he was a progressive, intelligent young man he was very much interested in the Creek schools. When he heard I was a successful teacher in Kansas, he came to see me and asked if I would like to teach in Okmulgee.

As the salary in the Creek schools was \$40.00 a month for a ten month term and I was receiving \$35.00 for a nine month term, I was not long in making a decision.

I resigned my place in Kansas, preparing to teach in Okmulgee the next fall.

Reverend and William McCombs was superintendent of the Creek schools at that time.

It was necessary that I go to Eufaula to take the examination and get my certificate. Mr.

McCombs asked me if I had ever crossed a river when the horse had to swim. I replied that I had not but I thought I could do most anything anyone else could. In company with Mr. McCombs and Captain Belcher we made the trip, and did swim the Canadian River. The trip was made in three days to Eufaula and back.

After I began teaching Mr. McCombs would come to by school so often that I became worried for fear that something was wrong. Finally I got up my courage enough to ask him if I was not doing the work satisfactorily. He said yes and that he was taking notes on my work so that he could pass it on to other teachers. Miss Edith Hicks, now Mrs. Walker of Muskogee, was also teaching there. I had one little negro boy in my school. He came and I allowed him to stay. Every time Mr. McCombs came he would send him home and told me he could not attend school with the Indian children. The little fellow was persistent and would return each time. I told Mr. McCombs that I would be at loss without him as he was my interpreter, understanding the Creek language and I did not. "On these conditions he may stay", Mr. McCombs said.

I had two white pupils. Minnie Fryer, now Mrs. C. H. Finnegan of Muskogee, and her little brother Johnnie. Their father paid tuition which was required by the law and they were allowed to attend.

I taught the school for one year only, and at the close of the term went home to be married. That was in 1878.

Although Mr. Harsha had lived in Ottawa so near my home I had never met him until I went to Okmulgee. He was working at that time for Mr. C. W. Turner, who had a dry goods store there.

Captain Severs had a store and Mr. Parkinson's store made the three that were there at that time.

During the first year of our married life we lived in Wetumka and then moved back to Okmulgee where my two older children were born. Becoming tired of a dusty, struggling little Indian village in 1881 we moved to Muskogee.

Muskogee was a little more like a town and there were white people living here that would be more companionable for me.

Mr. Harsha was employed by Mr. J. E. Turner, father of Mr. Clarence Turner, in his dry goods store. In 1882 Miss Frances Willard, National President and organizer of the C. T. U.,

came to Muskogee and organized the first union in the Territory and I was made it's first President.

My little children attended a kindergarten school conducted by Mrs. Phoebe Riddell. The classes were held in the little Presbyterian Church on the corner of Second and Okmulgee Avenue. Miss Alice Robertson opened a girls school and as the children graduated from the kindergarten they entered her school. As the boys reached the age of twelve years they were barred from Miss Alice's school as they also were from Harrell Institute as they were both exclusively girl's schools, but were allowed to take boys as day pupils up to the age of twelve years. When my oldest boy, Hoy, came home crying because he had been sent home from school on account of having reached the mature age of twelve years I thought it was time to do something about the boys. Little boys of twelve being turned loose on the street did not exactly suit me. I went to see Reverend T. N. Brewer, president of Harrell, and he agreed with me about the matter and pledged his hearty support in any undertaking I might sponsor, but just how to get the money to start was to be the problem first to be solved. As professor A. C. Bacone, a man of wide vision and great faith had been my good friend I took my problem to him. He asked to be given a day or two to think the matter over.

I went back to him and told him we must have \$5.00.00 to erect a building to be used for a school. He immediately gave me the money payable in \$100.00 notes at our own convenient time. Mr. C. W. Turner sold us the lumber on time with the same understanding. We had the house erected at once and it stood on North "C" Street just off of Okmulgee Avenue.

We engaged two teachers; Professor Crane as principal at a salary of \$50.00 a month and a lady assistant at a salary of \$35.00 per month.

We secured pledges from the members of our union of so much per month. These pledges were collected personally, by going from house to house. As I had a horse and buggy of my own which I pressed into service, with the assistance of our efficient treasurer, Mrs. Ella F. Robinson, we managed to get the collecting done. Mr. J. K. Turner, with whom my husband was associated in business, gave me \$25.00 a month.

Professor and Mrs. Crosby, teachers at Bacone, gave great help to our work. He was the first Pastor of the Baptist church in Muskogee at that time, but always had time to help us.

When the orphans home at Pryor was established it was not a public institution as it now is. They were in need of everything for the children. We contributed clothing, food, books,

**HOY HARSHA**  
Transcribed from  
**MUSKOGEE AND NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA**  
By John Downing Benedict, 1922  
Vol. II page 210

Hoy Harsha, mayor of Haskell, also figures prominently in financial circles as cashier of the Haskell National Bank and in both connections his record is such as to secure for him the respect, confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens. Oklahoma is proud to number him among her native sons, for his birth occurred in Muskogee, this state on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 1881. His parents are William S. and Laura E. (Newcomb) Harsha, the former a native of Iowa, while the latter was born in New York. The father came to this part of the country in pioneer times, casting in his lot with the settlers of Indian Territory in 1877. He first located at Okmulgee, whence he subsequently removed to Muskogee, where he engaged in merchandising as a member of the firm of J. E. Turner & Company. Later Mr. Turner sold his interest in the enterprise, at which time the firm style of Harsha & Spaulding was adopted, Mr. Harsha retaining his connection with the business until 1901, since which time he has lived retired in Muskogee in the enjoyment of well earned rest, and the mother also survives. Mr. Harsha is one of the oldest and most highly respected residents of Muskogee and served as one of the first aldermen of the city.

In the public schools of his native city. Hoy Harsha acquired his education and after laying aside his textbooks he assisted his father in ranching for a time, while later he was employed in a store for four or five years. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 1902 he became secretary-treasurer of the Choska Trading Company of Choska, Oklahoma, and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April, 1905, the business was removed to Porter, this state. In 1907 the enterprise was taken over by the Clarksville Trading Company and in February of the following year Mr. Harsha organized the Porter State Bank, of which he was made cashier, the institution having the financial support of D. M. Fink, who is now serving as president of the Commercial National Bank of Muskogee. In July, 1909, the Porter State Bank absorbed the interests of the American State Bank, at which time D. M. Fink was chosen president, with J. W. Capps as vice president and Mr. Harsha as cashier. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of November, 1909, the Porter State Bank was sold to Walter Howard and his business associates, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same month Messrs. Capps and Harsha bought the controlling interest in the First National Bank of Porter, the former becoming president of the institution, while the latter was made cashier.

In 1911, in association with Mr. Fink, they purchased the First Bank of Haskell and changed its charter, converting the enterprise into the Haskell State Bank. Mr. Harsha was elected president and Mr. Capps cashier and later the institution was nationalized. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, 1919, Mr. Harsha sold his interest in the First National Bank of Porter, Oklahoma, to A.W. S. Vernon and associates, and on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 1920, he increased his holdings in the Haskell National Bank, of which he was chosen cashier, and took up his permanent residence in Haskell. J. W. Capps is filling the office of president, and this is now regarded as one of the most substantial banks in Muskogee county, the business being conducted in a fine modern building which is owned by the stockholders. The capital stock has been increased from twenty-five thousand to fifty thousand dollars, while the deposits now average three hundred thousand dollars. With keen insight into business affairs

and situations and with a thorough understanding of every phase of banking, gained through long experience, Mr. Harsha is promoting the success of the institution by conscientious and efficient work and is recognized as one of the progressive and trustworthy financiers of his part of the state. He also has farming interests in Wagoner County. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 1904, Mr. Harsha was united in marriage to Miss Mollie Goldsborough and they now have four children; Virginia, who was born August 28, 1905, Frances, born May 28, 1907; Ruth, March 24, 1910; and William, May 7, 1914.

Mr. Harsha is a Presbyterian in religious faith and in his political views he is a staunch Democrat, deeply interested in the welfare and success of the party. His fellow citizens, recognizing his worth and ability, have called him to public office, and in April, 1921, he was elected Mayor of Haskell. He brings to his official life the same shrewdness, intelligent grasp of conditions and executive ability which have gained him success in business and is seeking earnestly to advance the interests of the town through a progressive and capable administration. Fraternally he is identified with the Masonic order at Haskell, and since 1903, he has been a member of the Elks Lodge at Muskogee. He is doing effective service for the public good, and his influence is at all times on the side of those things which are a matter of civic virtue and civic pride. His interests and activities have touched various phases of life which are factors in public progress and improvement, and he is recognized as a man of strict integrity whom neither fear nor favor can swerve from the course which he believes to be right.

Submitted by Barbara Downs



## J. F. STANDIFORD

PENDLETON & CO., Muskogee, I. T.

**P I C T U R E S.**

J. F. STANDIFORD,  
THE PHOTOGRAPHER.  
Muskogee, Ind. Ter.

Finest Work in Territory.

LARGE PICTURES FOR FRAMING  
OPEN EVERY WEEK DAY EXCEPT MONDAY.

NEW FIRM! NEW GOODS! NEW PRICES!

J. F. Standiford is a native of West Virginia, part of his life having been spent in Illinois and Kansas. He came to Muskogee, Indian Territory, in the spring of 1878, and there erected his art gallery and residence, engravings of which will be found in the grouped illustration. Mr. Standiford is the only licensed photographer in the Indian Territory, and has, without comparison, the neatest and best equipped gallery in the na-

tion. He is ably assisted in his work by his wife and sister, the latter doing all the negative retouching, etc. A novel feature in the finishing department a revolving printing room, a most complete addition to his gallery, and wholly and invention of his own, there being not another of the kind in existence. Another original device – his own recent invention – is an ingenious electric retouching apparatus, which is novel and useful. Mr. Standiford is, unquestionably, on of the finest photographic artists in the Southwest. A large number of the best engravings in this volume have been made from photographs taken by A. J. F. Standiford.

“Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men”  
By H. F. & E. O’Beirne  
(St. Louis: C. B. Woodward Co., 1892). Transcribed by Barbara Downs



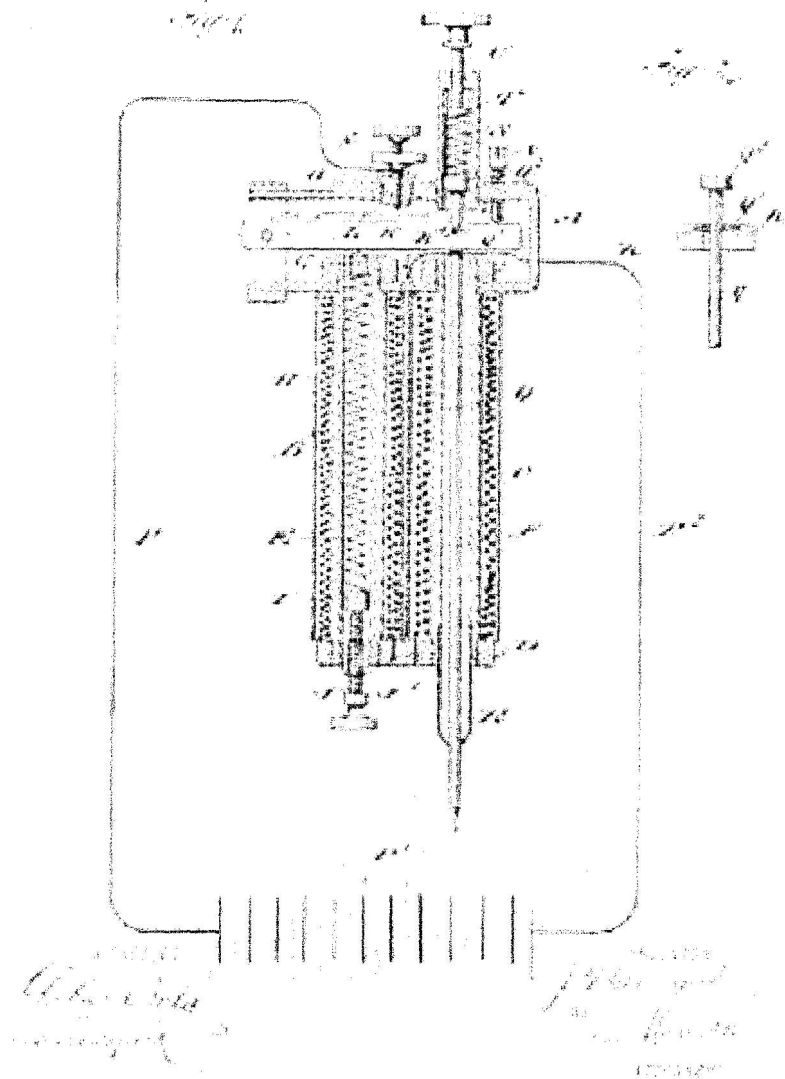
In addition to his occupation of photographer, J. F. Standiford was also an inventor, receiving several patents, including the one below.

(No. 492,245)

J. F. STANDIFORD.  
MACHINE FOR TESTING

No. 492,245

Patented Feb. 21, 1895.



Patent image from "Google Patents" online



## GILBERT W. PASCO



The subject of this sketch was born in Fond u Lac, Wisconsin, April 20, 1848, and is the son of Cyrus W. Pasco and Marilla, daughter of William Dilts, of Ohio. Gilbert was educated at Fond du Lac, graduating at the High School, and commenced reading law with Charles Eldridge, of the same place. He finished his legal education under J. L. Lowe, of Washington, Kansas, after which he was elected County Clerk of Washington, Kansas, which office he held for four years. After practicing two years in that town, he moved to Sherman, Texas, in 1878, and there remained until 1888, when he went to Dallas. Here he practiced until 1890, when, owing to ill-health, he was forced to move to the Indian Territory. The United States Court being opened at Muskogee, Mr. Pasco moved his family to that town, where he soon began to enjoy a lucrative practice. He is at present associated in business with Mr. W. M. Harrison, also a prominent lawyer. Mr. Pasco married Miss Eunice M. Walker, daughter of C. W. Walker, of Worcester, Mass., by whom he has one boy, named Ben, aged eight hears. Although the subject of this sketch possesses the elements necessary for the qualification of a grand criminal lawyer, yet he has bestowed his attention almost wholly to civil law, making a specialty of real estate and commercial cases. He has been successful in some of the largest legal transactions in the Southwest, involving thousands of acres of land. His cases involving real estate practice extended over the counties of Lamar, Fannin, Dallas, Denton, Hunt, Grayson, Collins and Clay, Texas. During the was Mr. Pasco served in the Federal Army under Colonel C. C. Washburne in the early part of the campaign, and later on joined Custer's expedition in pursuit of Kirby Smith. G. W. Pasco is a tall, well-built man, possessing a remarkably handsome face, as well as a good cheerful countenance. His magnetism is above the average, but he is modesty personified, and from lack of appreciation of his own personal merits, is relegated to a seat with his professional contemporaries, instead of being at the head of the bar, or somewhere in its vicinity. He is, however, a young man, and has time to achieve a great deal before his prime of life has passed.

“Indian Territory: Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men”

By H. F. & E. O'Beirne (St. Louis: C. B. Woodward Co., 1892)

Transcribed by Barbara Downs

## JOHN O. COBB

Born June 4, 1842, the seventh son of Sylvester Cobb, of Tennessee, the subject of our sketch attended public school until seventeen years of age, when he commenced railroading, and continued the business for three years, when the war broke out and he joined the Federal army, holding the positions of private second and first lieutenant, and finally, captain of his company. After the close of the war he came to the Cherokee Nation with Colonel John J. Humphrey, at that time agent for the Cherokees. In 1867 he established a trading post at Webber's Falls, Canadian District, under the firm name of Cobb & Hutton. Here he remained until 1874, when he went to Gibson



Station, where he sold goods, and in 1877 moved to Claremore, where, in the same business, he had a large trade and a good stock ranch. In May, 1880, he started in the livery business at Muskogee, purchasing Hammer & Cunningham's interest. Here he remained until the spring of 1882, when he again embarked in the cattle business, near Muskogee, continuing the same until 1886. After the big fire in the before mentioned town, Mr. Cobb purchased Dr. Williams' old stand, where he erected a good frame building and furnished it with a large and varied assortment of

**JOHN O. COBB,**  
Wholesale and retail dealer in  
**DRUGS, - AND - MEDICINES,**  
**Paints, Oils,**  
 And Druggist's Sundries a Specialty.  
Prescriptions Carefully Compounded Day or Night by an Experienced Pharmacist.  
 School Books and Supplies, Etc.  
**MUSKOGEE. I. T.**

drugs, school books, stationery, jewelry, paints, etc., together with a fine display of toilet ornaments and other fancy goods. He carries on hand a stock of from \$7,000 to \$10,000. Mr. Cobb owns a farm of 300 acres in cultivation, with an orchard containing about 6,000 fruit trees, two and a half mile from Muskogee. He is also owner of 150 to 200 head of cattle and about forty-five head

of stock horses of a superior grade, many of them bred from is fine Hambletonian horse Felix, which stand sixteen and a half hand and weighs nearly 1,500 pounds. Mr. Cobb married Miss Eudora Moffett, March 4, 1869, eldest daughter of Robert Moffett, a white man, who married a Cherokee citizen.

By this marriage he has four living children, named Henry, Lulu, Eudora and Belle. Mrs. Cobb died May 30, 1881, after giving birth to twins, who only survived their mother a couple months. Mr. Cobb is a gentleman of refinement, highly educated, and a thorough business man withal. He is five feet ten inches in height, and weighs 150 pounds. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church and of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Transcribed from:

“Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators, and Leading Men”

By H. F. & E. S. O’Beirne; (St. Louis: C. B. Woodward Co., 1892)

### A ‘Skeleton’ in My Closet

By Ann Gardner

When I was growing up, I loved to spend summers with my grandparents, here in Muskogee, in the house where I now live. Being the oldest grandchild I was spoiled rotten, but got to hear all the old stories my grandparents used to tell. When my younger brother and sister were also at the farm, it wasn’t half as much fun. I had too much competition. But there was one story I remember vividly and it sounded pretty wild. Then when I heard my mother tell my daughter the same story it sounded pretty far out. My sister and I both said Mother embroidered the fact really well. Then in later years, I got into genealogy and some of stories Mother embroidered turned out to be true and this was one of them.

My grandmother told me that when she was a very young child, her mother’s uncle used to visit on occasion. His name was Kinch West. When he came, he always slept on the front porch with his gun at his side and his horse tied to the porch post. When the family got up in the morning, Uncle Kinch would be gone. As the story went, it seemed that Kinch West had witnessed his father hung in front of all the family by Jay Hawkens during the Civil War and he vowed vengeance. Not only was his father killed, but also two younger brothers. According to Mother’s story, he turned to murder and took out his revenge when and where he could. Then one day, at the Grant Foreman Room in the library, I overheard Virginia Perry talking about someone she knew, by the name of West and my ears perked up. With Virginia’s help, I found that my mother’s story was true. William Y. West and his wife Nancy Wiley Perry were the parents of fourteen children. The oldest was Emaline West Yount, born 1829, and the eighth was Perry Kinchion “Kinch” West, born in 1842. The first seven children were born in Tennessee, but Kinch and the rest were born in Dade County, Missouri. During the Civil War, the family was in Dade County, where the killings took place on April 5, 1863. Emaline West married H. H. Gaunt and they had Sarah Elizabeth Gaunt in Oregon in 1860, plus others. Sarah Elizabeth married Conrad Slagle in 1876 and they were the parents of my grandmother “Dot” Slagle Thomas. There is a criminal case file on Kinch West in Ft. Smith, from Judge Isaac Parker’s court in the National Archives in Ft. Worth, for the crime of murder. I don’t have a copy, but I do know he was not hung. In 1880 he was in the U. S. Federal Prison in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. He was married, white at age 38 and was born in Missouri. He died 6 Jun 1896 at Catoosa, I. T. and was buried 10 Jun 1896 in Grove, I. T.

Kinch West seems to have led one of his sons, Bill down a sorry path also. In the Pioneer Papers in the Grant Foreman Room, I found an interview done with George Mount of Miami, Oklahoma in February, 1938. George tells of his witnessing Bill West, son of Kinch West murdering Kenny, the town marshal in Miami, I. T. Kinch West was with his son when they did the dastardly deed. Sometime later, George Mount says a federal officer came across Bill West asleep in the hills about 25 miles east of Eureka Springs and he killed him.

That's the story of the skeleton in my closet, right out of the Grant Foreman Room closet!

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### WILLIAM T. HUTCHINGS

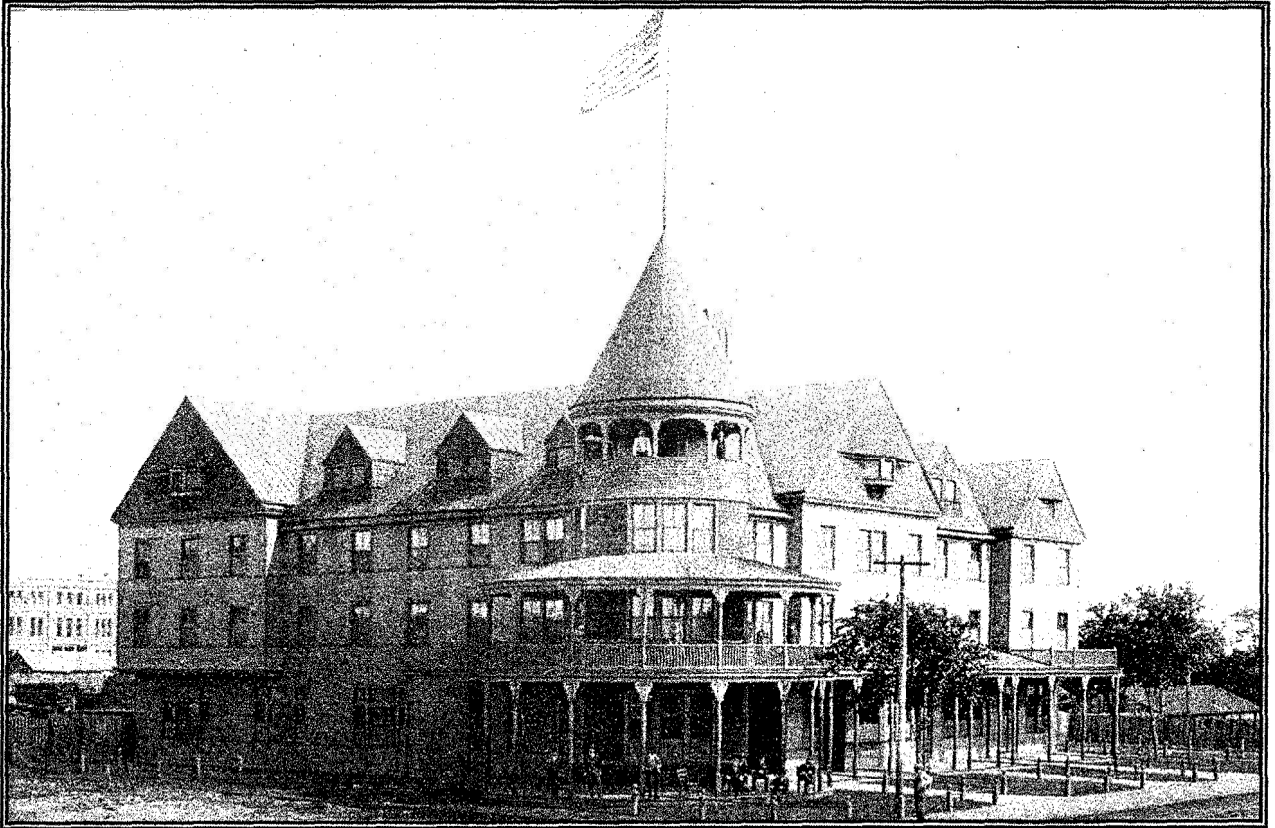
Wm. T. Hutchings was born in September, 1858, in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, the third son of Dr. John M. Hutchings, a man of considerable prominence in his State. His mother was a Miss Sallie White, daughter of Dr. Richard White, of Chatham, Virginia. After a preparatory education at a village school, William was sent to the Bingham School, North Carolina, at the age of fourteen years. Here he remained two years, when he went to Richmond College, Virginia, and studied at that institution for two and half years, but was obliged to leave during the middle of a session, owing to ill health. Shortly after his return home he began reading law in the office of E. E. Boulden, at Danville, Virginia, and there remained two years. In 1880 he went to Eastman's National Business College, at Poughkeepsie, New York, and graduating, entered at Yale, New Haven, where in June, 1881, he graduated in law. Immediately afterwards he began the practice of his profession, at Danville, Virginia. In February, 1886, he was elected index clerk of the House of Representatives at Washington, which position he held until December, 1887, when he returned to Danville, and continued the practice of law. Remaining there until 1889, he moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas, and practiced in that city till 1889, when he came to Muskogee, Indian Territory, where he is at present located. Mr. Hutchings was married in May, 1885, to Miss Mary E. Key, second daughter to Dr. John P. Key, a leading physician, of Brenham, Texas. By this marriage they have two children, Nellie Blair, aged over five years and Mamie, aged three. Mr. Hutchings is about five feet ten inches in height and weighs 140 pounds, is a man of fine education and, as a lawyer, is rapidly making his mark. He has a good practice in the United States courts, which practice is considerably on the increase. Mr. Hutchings is pleasant and affable and quite popular with the profession.

“Indian Territory: Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men”

By H. F. & E. O'Beirne

(St. Louis: C. B. Woodward Co., 1892)

Transcribed by Barbara Downs



## HOTEL ADAMS

Compiled by Joyce Street

In 1889, Mr. John Adams moved to Muskogee, Indian Territory, from Eufaula. In conjunction with others, he built the magnificent Hotel Adams in 1889 on the site of the extinct Mitchell House, a popular and successful hotel which faced the M. K. and T. tracks on Okmulgee Avenue.

According *The INDIAN TERRITORY; Its Chiefs, Legislators and Leading Men* by H. F. & E. S. O'Beirne, John Adams was born October 16, 1844, at Cleveland, Ohio, the second son of Ezekia Adams. At the age of seventeen he began railroading, becoming first a conductor on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad and other roads for twelve or fifteen years. He also spent eight or nine years in the eating business.

On completion in January, 1890, Mr. Adams assumed the management of the hotel until 1898. This fine hotel, known as the pride of Indian Territory, had 50 elegantly furnished rooms, equipped with electricity, steam, bath rooms, some with folding beds and others in antique oak suites, and again others in the XVI Century style. It had a dining room with seating capacity for 185 persons, fine offices, waiting-room, lunch-room, ticket office, barber shop and bath-rooms on the first floor along with a large kitchen. The parlor was an elegant room which was richly and tastefully furnished.



In the January 16th, 1890 *Muskogee Phoenix Weekly*, on page 5 appears the following article:

## GRAND OPENING

OF THE FINELY APPOINTED HOTEL ADAMS

### A Gay Throng of Invited Guests Participate

The music has ceased. The dancing is over. The troops of gaily dressed visitors from abroad have returned in the special cars to their respective homes and the Hotel Adams has been formally opened. The grand ball was no less a success in its particular line than was the famous Ward McAlester New Year ball. The room was ample, the music charming, the supper sumptuous and the lovely ladies were bedecked in handsome gowns.


Tuesday evening at 5:15 the special train from the north, under charge of Gen. Manager Frye, arrived at Muskogee and the first delegation of guests to the opening, arrived. At 7:05 the north bound train pulled in at the depot and a large number of guests from the south was added to the already large assemblage. Ample provisions had been made for all however.

The management of the hotel had taken particular pains to have everything ready. There was an abundance of assistants and the crowd numbering between two and three hundred was served with supper in the dining room.

At 9 o'clock the musicians took their places and the dance began with a grand march. After this the dancing continued without an intermission until 3 o'clock when the dining room was cleared and preparations for the banquet made. As there could be but 100 seated at a time in the dining room the intermission was somewhat long, it being necessary to spread the table twice in order to accommodate the large number present. Tables were arranged the full length of the room and parties were seated on either side. The tables were set with handsome service and the dining room was decorated with mistletoe and evergreen. The guests who came from the north were given the first seat as their train left on the return at 4 o'clock, and the remaining portion devoted themselves until their time at the banquet came, to promenading the in the halls and rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> story and listening to some excellent piano recitations and singing by different ones in the parlor.

**HOTEL ADAMS.**  
MUSKOGEE, IND. TER.

JOHN ADAMS, Manager.



ALL M. K. & T. TRAINS STOP FOR MEALS.

Lighted with Gas, Heated with Steam, Electric Elevator,  
Barber Shop, Bath and Laundry in the House.

—EVERYTHING ENTIRELY NEW.—

J. A. BERRY AND J. H. THORPE, CLERKS.

## MENU

### OYSTERS

Stewd, New York Counts. Fried.  
Raw,

“The man had sure a palate covered o’er  
With brass or steel, that on the rocky shore  
First broke the oozy oyster’s pearly coat,  
And risked the living morsel down his throat.”

Celery, Chow-Chow, Olives  
Cold Roast Turkey, Cold Roast Chicken.  
Cold Ham, Cranberry Jelly.

### SALADS.

Shrimp, Potato Chicken,  
Celery, Moyanaise Dressing. Salmon.

“After Salads, Claret take  
And avoid dyspepsia’s ache.”

Pickled Ox Tongue, Cardinal Punch. Spiced Sheep Tongues  
Pressed Corn Beef, Aspic Jelly, Boned Turkey,  
Muskogee Flip.

### CONFECTIONS.

Assorted Wine Jellies, Boiled English Pudding, Assorted Fruit Jellies,  
Fruit Cake, Englishman’s Sauce, Pound Cake,  
Gold Cake, Macaroons, Lady Fingers,  
Vanilla Ice Cream, Silver Cake,  
Grape Fruit, Lady Locks, Strawberry Ice Cream,  
English Breakfast Tea, Nuts, Assorted Tropical Fruit,  
Raisins,  
French Coffee,  
Chocolate.



"Night Wears away, and morn' is near, the stars  
 Are high, two thirds the night are past;  
 And scarce a third remains.  
 On with the dance let joy be unconfin'd;  
 No sleep till morn' when youth and pleasure meet."

Besides the many home folks who were there, the attendance at the opening was very large, and the following list embraces only a portion of the folks who came from distant points. Among the distinguished M.K.&T. officials we noticed Col. J. J. Frey, general manager; B. P. McDonald, treasurer; C. Hale, Assistant general freight agent; L. Welch, Lyon and Maxwell, division superintendents.

### OSWEGO

W. W. Kingsburry and wife.  
 S. B. Miller and wife.  
 Miss Kress.  
 C. A. Wilkins and wife.  
 Miss Grace Sawyer.  
 Fred Perkins and wife.  
 W. H. Hagerty and wife.  
 Miss Genevia Condon.  
 F. W. Keller and wife.  
 Henry L. McCune and wife.  
 F. D. Allen and wife.  
 F. A. White and wife.  
 O. K. White and wife.  
 B. F. Harrison and lady.  
 Pete Carpenter and lady.  
 Miss Hattie and Nellie Lough.  
 Miss Kate Clover.  
 N. S. Sandford and daughter Annie.  
 Miss Sallie Blackledge.  
 J. M. Landes and daughter Winniford.  
 W. W. Gardner and lady.  
 Ed Mills.  
 A. B. Kegg.  
 J. E. Ross.

### PARSONS

I. Welch and lady.  
 Mr. Peters and two ladies.  
 Angell Matthewson and wife and Miss Lambertson  
 W. K. Maxwell and wife.  
 Mrs. U. S. Utley, Mrs. Jno. Farr and Miss E. June.  
 J. A. June and wife.  
 John Schmitz and lady.  
 Geo. Lyon and wife.  
 O. L. Hall and wife.

S. F. Lewis and lady.  
 J. C. Cereel and lady.  
 John Tierney and lady.  
 E. L. Green and wife.  
 C. A. Lamb, editor of *Eclipse*.  
 W. P. Talbot, Jr. and wife.  
 Mrs. LaMonte and Miss Vian Standiford.  
 C. P. Rector and wife.  
 C. B. Hotchkiss and Miss Simmons.  
 Webb Malone and lady  
 Wm. Busby and lady.  
 Guy Brown and lady.  
 Frank W. Frye, editor of *Palladium*, and wife.  
 Harry Gabriel and lady.  
 Geo. J. Shepards and lady.  
 A. O. Brown and wife.  
 R. C. Dunbar and wife.  
 Ben Allen and wife.  
 Kirby Smith.

### DENISON.

J. W. Maxwell, Supt. M.K.& T. , South.  
 Miss Woodlief.  
 Miss Anna Reynolds.  
 A.P. Henderson.  
 W. J. Scott.  
 S. French.  
 Chas. Redwood.  
 A.B. Mare.  
 Miss Mamie Kane.  
 Miss G. Derby.  
 Miss Jessie McCray.  
 Miss Jessie Newton.  
 Miss Alice Hanna.  
 J. L. Munson.  
 Miss Hiednell.  
 Miss Alexander.  
 Harry Lingo.

A.H. Hawley.  
Miss Carrie Ellsworth.

E. T. Hathaway and  
wife.

A. E. Perry.  
B. Casey.

L. Lingo.  
Col. C. Wirt.

### MANY HANDSOME GOWNS.

Following is a description of the gowns of some of the ladies:

Mrs. Engart—Elegant black lace with China silk drapery, coiffure high with an ostrich pom pom; ornaments Roman gold.

Mrs. C. W. Turner—Old rose silk brocaded with black, Persians bands and side panel, coiffure high, diamonds.

Mrs. Ross Shackelford—White silk, with tulle drapery, décolleté, coiffure high.

Mrs. Owens—Handsome black silk, beaded wraps with bonnet to match.

Mrs. William Illsley—Rich street costume, hat to match.

Mrs. Charles Illsley, of St. Louis—Lovely China silk, neck V, with frill of rich lace, gloves to match, coiffure high.

Mrs. F. S. Genung—Beautiful blue brocaded silk made with full train, neck cut pompadore, high coiffure, diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Herbert Sanson—Elegant white silk, very stylish, corsage bouquet, coiffure high; diamonds.

Mrs. W. W. Miller—Elegant black lace net over silk décolleté; diamonds.

Mrs. Arthur Berry—Beautiful brown surah richly trimmed in beaded passementrie, corsage bouquet, coiffure high; ornaments diamonds.

Miss Shackelford—White tulle over silk, cut round neck, fall of lace over shoulders, coiffure high.

Miss Shackelford—White nuns veiling cut round neck, with garniture of pink, crushed roses, low coiffure.

Miss John Adams—Black Ottoman silk, trimmed in silk cord passementrie, high coiffure; diamonds.

Miss Bessie Severs—Cameo pink cashmere, trimmed in black velvet, high coiffure.

Miss Lulu Casey, Clinton, Mo.,--Was charming in cream albatross, made princess with orange plush front, high coiffure, gold beads; diamonds.

Miss Minnie Casey—Was exquisitely attired in shell pink, China silk, V neck, full drapery, high coiffure; gold beads and diamonds.

Miss Fay Adams—Blue surah silk and plush combined, "décolleté," corsage bouquet; pearl necklace and diamonds.

Miss Gurtrude Adams—White alapaca combined with pink and white striped silk, sash at one side, finished with deep white silk fringe, coiffure high; diamonds.

Miss May Green, of St. Louis,—White embroidered Swiss over dress, with gamp of lettuce green surah, knots of green and white, moiré ribbon on shoulders, lovely sash, hair worn Faunteroy.

Mrs. Williams—Rich street costume.

Mrs. Burdette—Lovely pink silk, trimmed elaborately in blue and pink ribbon, high coiffure; diamonds.

Mrs. Perryman—Handsome old rose silk, trimmed with same, high coiffure.

Miss Foley—Lovely garnet silk, trimmed with bands and side panel of Persian silk; beads and diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Maxwell—Black lace over buttercup satin, amber necklace and Merchal Neil roses.

Mrs. Stanley—Cream albatross cloth, rich passamentarie trimmings; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. Farr—Handsome cream brocade, V neck with ostrich trimmings; diamonds.

Mrs. Henson—White lace skirt over lavender silk, white silk coat, half high neck with ostrich trimming, garniture of Roman pearls; diamonds.

Mrs. E. L. Green—Pink silk costume with pink crepe de chene combination, black velvet dog collar and gold beads, and gold side combs.

Mrs. A. O. Brown—Handsome black silk, lavender sabot; diamonds.

Mrs. Busby—Black silk with jet trimming.

Mrs. Hall—Rich black silk passamentarie trimmings, point lace sabot; diamonds.

Mrs. W. P. Talbot—Black silk, jet trimmings; diamond ornaments.

Mrs. R. C. Dunbar—Handsome black silk, white surah fichu edge with rich lace.

Miss Boyle—Black lace skirts, corsage of pink silk; diamonds.

Mrs. Allen—Handsome black silk, lace trimmings; pearl ornaments.

Mrs. C. P. Rector—Stylish Eiffel red reception costume, with astrakhan panel and black passamentarie, Van Dyke border, bonnet to match.

Mrs. James A. June—Ashes of rose cashmere; diamond ornaments.

Miss Emma June—Mahoney cashmere, rich passamentarie trimmings; diamonds.

Mrs. Utley—Wine colored silk combined with velvet same shade; elegant cameo ornaments set with pearls.

Mrs. Frank Frey—Electric blue silk gown; gold side combs and broach.

Mrs. George Lyons—Handsome black gross grain silk with moiré trimmings; diamonds.

Miss Mathewson—Black lace and jet trimmings; diamonds.

Miss Emory—Black surah sleeveless corsage, cut V back and front, necklace of gold beads, a stylish costume.

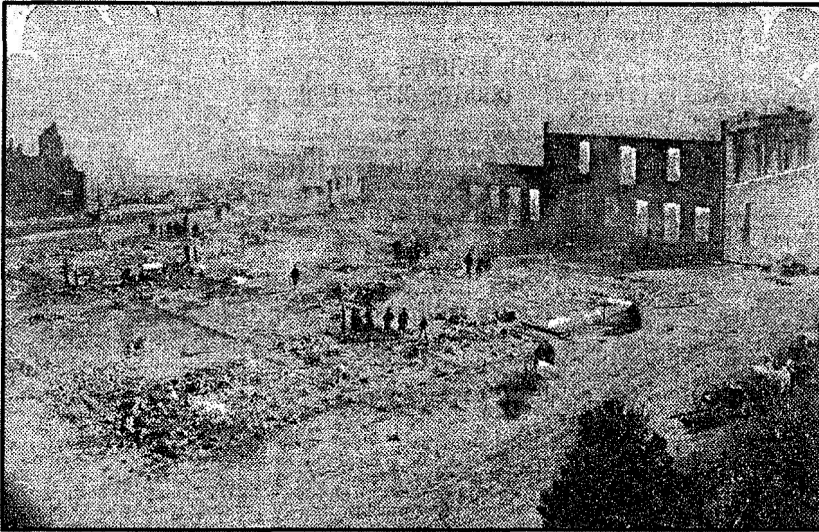
Miss Simmons—Handsome black silk with rich jet garniture.

Miss Reed—A very handsome cream silk gown, pavel and corsage decoration of Roman striped brocade.

Miss Lambertson—Coral colored surah with velvet combination in dark shade, coral necklace and bracelets.

Miss Smith—Cream albatross cloth with light blue garniture, black velvet dog collar.

Mrs. Southwick—Cream nuns veiling over red colored slip, Crecian drapery edged with rows of rose colored satin ribbon.



Remains of the Hotel Adams and Turner Hardware 2 days after the fire.

The sad end of this elegant hotel came during Muskogee's Great fire, on the 23rd of February, 1899, when most of the entire business portion burned. The following, from an article in the *Twin Territories*, Vo. 1, No. 3, March, 1899 describes the fire:

"The fire which wrought such havoc broke out at 5:30 a.m. Almost a hurricane of icy wind was at that time sweeping from the northwest.....In the Meantime the Turner building was a seething mass of fire and forked tongues of flame were reaching out hungrily toward the roof of the Hotel Adams-- the big hotel which for years had been the pride of Muskogee. The firemen fought like demons, but it was no use; the great frame building was soon past rescue, and in a half-hour on the tall chimneys were left as silent monuments to its beauty. Capt. Shadbolt, now of Hillsboro, Texas, was manager of the hotel at the time of the fire."

"When the south-bound passenger train came in at 6:30 she merely slowed up, deposited her mail below the depot and pulled on through. The engineer dared not stop, as the Hotel was then burning, and, as the train-crew afterwards said, 'it was like running a train through the infernal regions.' Passengers aboard that morning, instead of stopping for a nice breakfast, caught only a passing glimpse of a burning town, half-hidden by dense volumes of sooty smoke, pierced here and there in brilliant flame-jets."

The *Muskogee Phenix Weekly*, February 22, 1899 stated the Adams Hotel's loss was \$40,000 and it was insured for only \$18,000.

John Adams remained in Muskogee until his death at the age of 67. He is buried in Muskogee's Greenhill Cemetery.

**Indian Journal**  
Transcription by Wally Waits

“Local News,” 3 Jan 1884, p. 5, c. 1-2

Capt. Severs was in town for a short time.

Billy Hamilton fell from a car in the yards Tuesday and was badly bruised.

Dr. E. Poe Harris, well known all over the territory, passed south on Sunday last.

Gen. Pleasant Porter has been spending a number of days in town the past week.

J. M. Brown, of Tishomingo, I. T., was registered at the Mitchell house on Thursday last.

Mrs. W. Harvison, of Eufaula, came up Monday morning to visit her mother, Mrs. Fryer.

Gid. Morgan came up from Fort Smith, Tuesday evening, for a short stay in the territory.

Leroy Neale, a prominent lawyer and real estate man of Chetopa, Kansas, was in the city last week.

Henry Thompson, Speaker of the Creek House of Warriors, came in from the west Tuesday.

Mrs. Clarence Turner and Miss Emma Shortess went to Eufaula yesterday to visit friends and relatives there.

Several new scholars have arrived for [H]arrell Institute since the holidays, and [the] roll now numbers 115 names.

Mrs. James Mitchell returned from a vi[sit] of some weeks with friends and relat[io]ns at her ole home in Illinois.

Considerable of the material for rebuilding of the J. E. Turner cotton gin is on the ground and work will go right on.

Miss Fulton returned from her visit at Butler, Mo., yesterday morning and resumed her place at the Presbyterian school.

Miss Della Alexander, of Parsons, Kansas, is stopping at Mr. Baird's, visiting her brother who is railroading at this place.

G. W. Stidham and Sam and G. W. Grayson, were in town yesterday attending the investigation of the election troubles.

Gus Ivey came in Monday from Parson, Kas., where he spent the holiday week, and says he had a first-rate time in the states.

A restaurant has been started in the building just north of the Journal office, lately occupied by Mrs. Wade's millinery establishment.

Dave Andre has opened a cigar and refreshment stand on Pavilion avenue, just back of his harness shop. Success to him in his new venture.

Prof. A. C. Bacone, of the Indian university at Tahlequah, was in town long enough to write his autograph on the Mitchell house register last week.

Louis Newcomb enjoyed a weeks's hunt near Judge Moore's last week. He leaves for St. Louis to take a course in a commercial college in a few days.

Last week Frank Manahan advertised three stray horses in the Journal, and before the paper had been out four days found them. The power of advertising.

The cold weather of the past week froze ice sufficiently thick on New Year's day to hold the skaters, and a good number took advantage of it to have a good time.

Hargrave Lipscomb enjoyed a two days' trip into the interior, to Wetumka, last week. Enjoyed it, especially as he had to miss the party at the Mitchell house.

Tars Harjo, the Inspector General, and Tom Adams, his attorney, came in Tuesday and will spend some days in town investigating the right of the white population here.

Mr. Henry Jeffries, with his family contemplates moving to Vinita, I. T., in the spring, to engage in farming and raising stock. Mr. Jeffries is one of our best farmers. —*Oswego Independent*.

Special Agent Townsend came in last Saturday from a visit to Wealaka Mission and other places in that neighborhood, and will probably stay in this vicinity until the commission settles the election troubles.

A regular meeting of the Cherokee Protective and Detective Stock association will be held at Vinita on the second Monday in January, the 14<sup>th</sup>. Important business is before the meeting, and all members are earnestly requested to attend.

If our paper comes out a day or two late next wee, and very short of reading matter, we hope our readers will bear with us for our new press is expected daily and it is no small job to get such a piece of machinery in running order.

The ferryman refused to take across the mail to Fort Gibson, on Tuesday morning, owing to the cold and ice, and in the evening none of the dancers from this side of the run could get across to attend the ball given by the Knights of Honor.

A fireman named Hudson was crushed just below the knee, by slipping between the engine and tender on New Year's night, between this place and Gibson Station. The bone was injured but not broken, and it is likely he will soon be around again.

Hens Ridenhour, Marshal of Marks posse, was shot at on Christmas evening by parties unknown while on his way to arrest John Sherwin, the party who has been wearing the iron bracelets around town. The party who did the shooting has so far escaped arrest.

Miss Emma Shortess, of Joplin, Missouri, is visiting her cousin, Mrs. Clarence Turner, at this place. Miss Shortess is a native of the territory, having been born at Old North Fork town, and she intends visiting what there is left of the place of her birth, before she returns to her Missouri home.

Chief Bushyhead and Capt. Sixkiller returned from Decatur, Texas, Saturday morning, where they had been to recover the chief's stolen mules. The thieves are safely jailed and will get what they so richly deserve. Chief Bushyhead deserves great credit for the energetic way in which he caused them to be brought to justice.

"My love, how came that hair on your coat?" asked a Muskogee woman of her husband. He turned pale, stammered a little, slipped out the door and went down to J. Brasel's, where he had a dozen of his best photographs taken to appease her wrath when he returned home. It will do it every time.

A. A. Engart, our insurance man, has left the rank of bachelors and arrived in Muskogee on last Friday night from his old home in Virginia with his estimable young wife.

The dance at the Mitchell house [hotel] Friday night last was one of the best affairs of the kind Muskogee has ever seen. Thirty-four couples and about ten strays occupied the floor and kept time to the music of the Muskogee string band. Among those present from Eufaula were C. E. Foley, J. F. Wrightman and J. Berdett; from Fort Gibson, Judge Sanders and wife, J. S. Hammer and wife, Mr. Percival and wife, R. O. Trent and wife, the Misses Ross, Jeanette Star, Rose Percival, and Messrs. Tux Brown, E. H. Webber, U.S.A., H. R. Gill, Percy Hicks; from Tahlequah, Mrs. Bettie Taylor; from Gibson Station, Miss Florence Add and Miss M. E. Woods. These, with a good number whose names we did not learn, made a large party and all seemed to enjoy to the fullest extent both the dance and elegant supper provided by Messrs. Farmer and McQuarie.

## REV. MASON FITCH WILLIAMS

The subject of this sketch was born February 18, 1851, at Louisville, Kentucky, the only son of the late Rev. Mason D. Williams and Caroline M. Fitch. Rev. Mr. Williams was organizer and pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, Louisville, and died in 1852.



His son, Mason Fitch, graduated from Princeton College, New Jersey, in 1871, and came to the Creek Nation, Indian Territory. In 1875 he took his degree as doctor of medicine from the University of Louisville, KY., and commenced the practice of medicine in Muskogee, Indian Territory. In 1881 he took charge of a drug store at that place, the business being his own, and also continued his professional practice until the fire of 1887, in which he lost his stock of goods. After that he entered the ministry and took charge of the Presbyterian Church, of which he is at present the pastor.

Mr. Williams married Mrs. Mary E. Worcester Mason, widow of Dr. Charles Y. Mason, of Mississippi, March 9, 1872. By this marriage they had three children, two of whom are living – Henry Cummings, born October 4, 1873, and Leonard Worcester, born July 8, 1875. Mrs. Williams is the youngest daughter of Samuel Austin Worcester, D. D. (prominent in Cherokee history) and sister of Mrs. A. E. W. Robertson, of Muskogee. Rev. Mr. Williams is a man of fine physique, about five feet eight inches in height and weighing 175 pounds. His address is courteous and his manners refined and affable. His education is varied and extensive. Before joining the ministry, his reputation as a physician was such as to insure him the largest practice in the country, while he undoubtedly was among the few most skillful practitioners in Indian Territory. Since taking charge of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Williams has increased the membership from fifty to eighty-five. He has also been instrumental in the many improvements and remodeling and seating of the church. He is local surgeon for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, and his ministerial work covers a radius of about eight miles. His medical practice is now chiefly confined to the poor, and to the inmates of the Presbyterian school and United States jail.

Transcribed from:

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By H. F. & E. S. O’Beirne (St. Louis: C. B. Woodward Co., 1892)

Transcribed by Barbara Downs

## HEIRLOOM STORIES

MCGS Christmas Party 2006

By Randy Painter

Imperium Neptuni Regis reads the top of the yellowed certificate. When it was new, it came from the USS Ochlockonee, a Coast Guard tanker headed to Canton Island of Phoenix Group. Here, with rumors of enemy subs in the area, the ship stopped on the equator at Latitude 00000 and Longitude 169 degrees, 40 minutes. It



was initiation time for the Slimy Polliwogs to become Trusty Shellbacks of the Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep. One of those included was Leslie E. Painter, Seaman First Class (680-244). But the Order knows no rank. From the lowest deckhand to the captain of the ship were to stand the trials of initiation if this was their first equator crossing. Many continued with their war time remembrances, including this day of June 12, 1945, with pride as they "had been inspected and passed" so that "all ye Sailors, Marines, Land Lubbers and others...may be honored by his presence" certificate signed by Neptunus Rex, Ruler of the Raging Main and King Neptune, His Majesty's Scribe.

By Marlene Leahey

I brought an old ice bucket that belonged to my Grandmother, given to her by her father, Frank New. It saw many years of use to break up block ice for iced tea and lemonade. When they lived in Mustang OK, they



would drive a wagon to Oklahoma City to the ice dock and buy a large block of ice and bring it back and sell ice to Mustang families for their iceboxes. My grandmother's father was a blacksmith by trade. He had also been a lawman, broke horses and played the fiddle at entertainments. The New family was from West Texas, Llano County. They lived at Ft. Griffin for a few years and then they came up to Comanche OK about 1891. Later they moved to Mustang, OK. My grandmother wrote with a lead pencil on the bottom of the bucket. "Alice Henry, July 1, 1927, From my father, A. F. New".

I also brought a sun bonnet made by my mother from the original bonnet pattern my great grandmother Frances Morris Henry used in 1889. She used such a bonnet when she and her husband Elijah L. Henry participated in the Land Run of 1889. They settled in Canadian County near Mustang. Both of their families were from Dade Co. MO.



## Book Review

This article was originally written for the Library's 'Books 'n More' column in the Muskogee Phoenix

Published 7 Jan. 2007

### Oklahoma's Historical Atlas

By Sue Tolbert

As a native Oklahoman I've always been interested in Oklahoma's unique history. My grandparents and great grandparents came to Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory both before and shortly after Oklahoma became a state in 1907. How did they get here? River boat? Railroad? Wagon? How did they get the land they settled on? Land Run? Lottery? Allotment? What was the climate like? The terrain?

In my quest for more information about my ancestors than just names and dates, searching for answers to my questions about their lives and their experiences in a new home, I've often referred to my tired and tattered third edition of the Historical Atlas of Oklahoma. The Historical Atlas of Oklahoma has long been one of the most helpful sources for researchers and others interested in our history. The first edition was published about the time of Oklahoma's fiftieth birthday and updated editions followed in 1976 and 1986. The new fourth edition, released in December 2006, which was scheduled to coincide with Oklahoma's centennial year of statehood, was published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Co-editors Charles Robert Goins, OU professor emeritus of regional planning and architecture, and Danney Goble, OU professor of letters drew upon the talents of seventeen contributors, each a respected scholar in his or her own field, and produced a 286 page volume which explores 119 important aspects of Oklahoma history examining each topic with an interpretive essay and one or more maps that include explanatory legends, tables, and graphs, charting Oklahoma's rich and varied history complete to 2005. Cartographer James H. Anderson, manager of cartography at the Oklahoma Geological

Survey, and Charles Robert Goins created the 173 full color maps.

Chapters describe Oklahoma's landforms and natural resources and trace the state's geographic history from the earliest hunter-gatherers to today's urban inhabitants. Other chapters explore aspects of the state's economy, diverse society, politics, and culture. The final chapters are short biographies and photos of musicians, writers, and artists identified with Oklahoma.

Scenic photos by John Elk II of places like the Black Mesa in Cimarron County, the Nature Conservancy's Tall Grass Prairie Preserve in Osage County, and the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in Comanche County accompany the beginning of each chapter. The Western History Collection of Oklahoma State University provided many interesting historical photographs and artwork as well.

This new edition of the Historical Atlas of Oklahoma will be an invaluable resource for researchers, teachers, students, and anyone who wants to know more about the history of our state.

Happy Birthday Oklahoma!

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From the *New York Times*, "Death List of the Week," 22 Jun 1902, p. 32, c. 2. This is the first Muskogee death reported by this newspaper.

DYER.—At Muskogee, Indian Territory, June 14, Mrs. Anna Dyer and her twelve-year-old daughter.

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## Our MCGS Cookbook Muskogee County Genealogical Society General Information

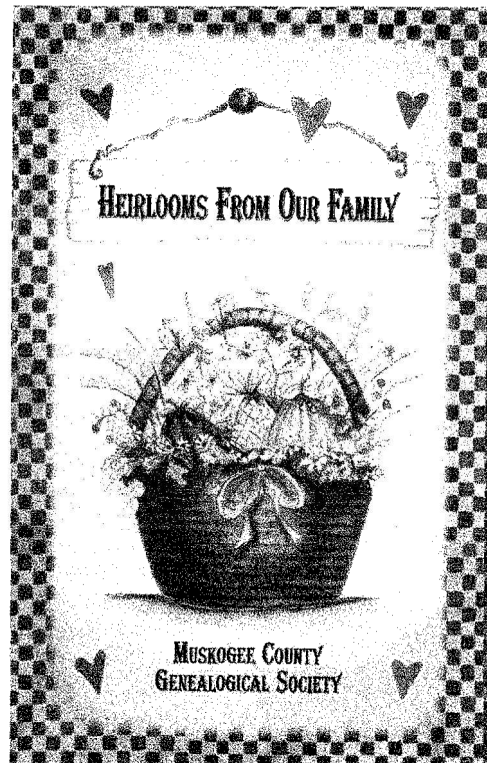
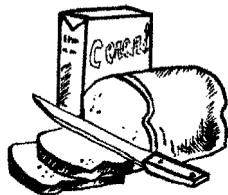


**Our cookbook has arrived! Get yours today!**

164 pages of tempting recipes passed down through the generations, as well as those of more recent times, contributed by our members and friends. Included are cooking tips, herbs & spices, hints for baking breads and desserts, tips on napkin folding, measurement & substitution chart, equivalency chart, food quantities for large servings, microwave hints and a calorie

The cookbook committee spent many long hours collecting, typing and organizing these recipes. We thank them for all their hard work.

Cookbooks are available for purchase in the Grant Foreman Room, at Society meetings, or by mail. Cost is \$11 if purchased locally, \$13 if purchased by mail.



The Foreword to our cookbook was written by George G. Morgan, author of "How To Do Everything With Your Genealogy".

George is coming to Muskogee March 23, 24 & 25, 2006 to present a Writer's Workshop and Genealogy Seminar. Mark your calendars now!

**Order from:**  
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The Editors invite contributions of public records, articles, Bible records, and transcripts from members and non-members. Contributions should be those focused on the history of Indian Territory and Muskogee County and its families. Neither the Editors nor the Board of Directors of the Muskogee County Genealogical Society take responsibility for errors of fact/data submitted. The views expressed in articles and reviews are those of the authors concerned and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editors, the Board of Directors, nor the Members of the MCGS. The Editors retain the right not to publish material that is inconsistent with the policies of the MCGS.

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