



Muskogee County Genealogical and Historical Society Quarterly

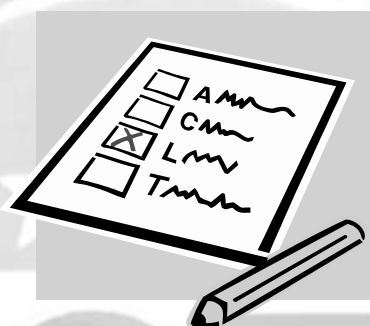
Volume 25 Issue 4

October—December 2008

Oklahoma's First Presidential Election 1908

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>One Hundred Years</i>	109
<i>Editor's Letter</i>	110
<i>Membership Update</i>	111
<i>Oklahoma's First Vote</i>	112
<i>Election Night 1908</i>	114
<i>Election Results</i>	115
<i>Milly Francis</i>	118
<i>Pioneer Newspaper</i>	120
<i>Muskogee's Trolley</i>	124
<i>Bacone & The Trolley</i>	128
<i>Fake Coins</i>	132
<i>DNA Wins</i>	133
<i>William C. Jackson</i>	134
<i>New Book List</i>	136
<i>Indian Journal</i>	137
<i>Nothing But A Shirt</i>	140
<i>Jail Goes up in Smoke</i>	141
<i>Gift Suggestions</i>	142
<i>Membership Application</i>	143



ONE HUNDRED YEARS



Oklahoma's Latest Presidential Election 2008

WINTER



About the Muskogee County Genealogical & Historical

Our 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

MCGS meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July and August) at 6:00 PM at the Muskogee Public Library, 801 West Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK. The Board of Directors meetings are held the third Tuesday at 5:30 PM at the library. All members are invited to attend the Board meetings.

Membership

Membership in MCGS is open to anyone promoting the purpose of the Society. Individual or family membership is \$21 per year and includes the Quarterly publication. An \$11 per year membership is available for those that do not wish to receive the Quarterly.

To defray the cost of postage, we ask that members pick up their Quarterly at the March, June, September and December meetings whenever possible.

Members may also choose to have an elec-

Publications & Research Requests

OUR RESEARCH 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

Or visit our website at:

<http://www.okgenweb.org/~mcgs/>

Manuscript Submission

Persons wishing to submit manuscripts or material for publication in the MCGS Quarterlies are requested to send their electronic files in Rich Text format to the following email address:

mucogeso@yahoo.com

All other material may be mailed to the address listed above. Material that has been previously published must be noted.

1-Dec-15

Dear Members,

In light of the recent historical election, regardless of the winners, in this issue we attempt to take a look back one hundred years to the first presidential election in the new state of Oklahoma.

The last issue dealt with those brave persons who have served and died to make sure we continue to have the freedom of choice. I thank them for their sacrifice.

Whether your 2008 candidate won or lost, be thankful we still have the right and freedom to make our own choices. Thank you to those that exercised their right to vote.

Enjoy the read,

Nancy Lasater, Editor



2008 MCGS Board

Wally Waits—President
Stacy Blundell—Vice President
Linda Stout—Secretary
Barbara Downs—Treasurer
Randy Painter—Past President

Members at Large:

Sherry Jackson—Publications
Joyce Street—Library
Carol Payne — Publicity
Alissa Hill —Workshops
& Education
Nancy Lasater—Editor
Nancy Calhoun—Library Liaison
Sue Tolbert— Museum Liaison

MCGS Member Information

NEW MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER

Sheryl Thygesen, Muskogee, OK
Brenda Swearingen, San Pedro, CA

OCTOBER

Ronald C. Smith, South Holland, IL

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

SEPTEMBER

Lula Boggs
Pete and Mickey Hagan
Kathryn M. Swearingen

OCTOBER

Marlene Leahy
Marjorie Barton

ILLNESS

Jackie Rutledge

The Muskogee County Genealogical Society would like to welcome our new members and thank those of you who have chosen to renew your membership.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR MUSKOGEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 16 5:30 p.m. MCGS Board Meeting

December 18 6:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Party -"Christmas Memories", Bring a friend, a covered dish, a good caroling voice, a story or show & tell item from your family's Christmases.

Come join the fun !

And to keep everyone in suspense, we will announce the Spring & Summer Calendar of 2009 at the Christmas Party!



ROSS THE OLDEST FIRST VOTER

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD AND CASTS HIS FIRST VOTE FOR A PRESIDENT

The oldest first voter in Muskogee yesterday as Joshua Ross, 617 East Broadway, a Cherokee Indian, 75 years old. It was the first time in his life he voted for a president and William H. Taft was his choice.

Standing in line on Okmulgee avenue yesterday afternoon was a long line of voters, old,

young and middle aged men. Conspicuous in the line were beardless young men, who owned that they had never voted before. When R. Ross walked along the sidewalk toward the polling place the aged Cherokee immediately attracted attention.

“Boys, Mr. Ross is too old a man to stand in line for hours,” said one of the voters. “Does anyone object to him going in now?”

“No,” chorused those in in.

“Vote for Taft,” shouted one.

“Vote for Bryan,” yelled another.

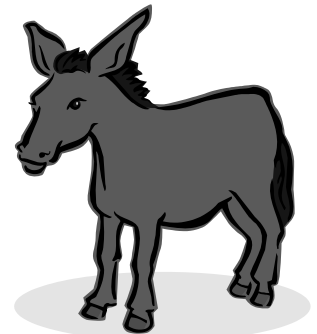
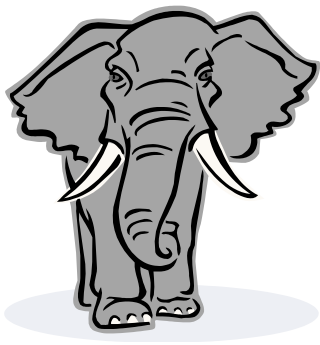
There was a break in the long line and the aged Cherokee was allowed to enter the polls ahead of the others.

Mr. Ross came to Muskogee 36 years ago when the M. K. & T railroad entered the city. His homestead was in the east part of the city, a portion of the town now dotted with fashionable residences.

Transcribed from the
MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX

dated 4 November 1908

By Barbara Downs



INSTRUCTIONS TO FIRST VOTERS

HOW TO PROCEED IN CASTING

A VOTE IN THE GENERAL

ELECTION ON NOV. 3

How to proceed in casting a ballot for the president in the general election November 3 may be a puzzling question to thousands of Oklahoma voters who will on that day be given their first opportunity to exercise their fight of franchise in the selection of the head of the nation.

Oklahoma having been admitted to statehood the right has been conferred upon her citizens to have voice in the election of state and national officers. In this state there are men of mature years comprising whites, Indians and freedmen who have never voted for a president, and there is a class of first voters who have just turned 32 years, the age defined by law as marking the time when a young man emerges from youth and enters manhood and is, therefore, entitled to exercise the civil rights of a man.

How Tickets Are Made Up.

To the voters of Oklahoma who will on November 3 cast their first ballots on the national ticket it is pointed out that THE NAMES OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATED WILL NOT APPEAR UPON THE TICKETS. There will be printed a ballot containing four tickets presented to each voter upon entering the booth - the republican, democratic, socialist and independence league tickets.

At the top of each ticket will appear the emblem of the party and beneath the emblem will be a little circle. Then will come the name of the presidential electors and following that will be the name of the nominee for representative in congress from the district, after which will follow the names of the various nominees for state offices and the names of the state legislative candidates.

Straight Ticket

The voter should distinctly bear in mind that the name of the presidential candidate does not appear upon the ticket.

In the third congressional district, for instance, a voter desiring to vote the "straight" republican ticket simply stamps within the little circle below the eagle, the party emblem which will appear at the top of the ticket,

folds the ballot and hands it in the judge to be placed in the ballot box.

Mixed Ticket

If he wishes to vote "mixed" ticket that is to day, if he wishes to vote for Taft for president, and also vote for a candidate named on one of the other tickets for some other office, he should not stamp the circle at the top of any ticket. He should stamp within the square opposite the name of Bruce L. Keenan, the presidential elector, heading the list on the ticket, and stamp within the squares in front of the names of all other candidates for whom he desires to cast his ballot, no matter on which tickets their names may appear. Then he folds up his ballot and hands it to the judge to be inserted into the ballot box.

Mutilation of Ballot

No lead pencil or other marks should be made on the ballot. Any marking on the ballot, either in the column of the party for which the voter is casting his vote, or any place on the entire ballot is designated as mutilation and the ballot will not be counted. To insure absolute secrecy concerning the vote cast and to comply with the law, the ballot should be handed to the election judge, folded in a manner so as to prevent him or others present from telling how the vote was cast.

In the Polling Place

For the information of the first voters it is explained that upon entering the polling place the voter, after convincing the judges of his right to vote, will be handed the ballot and will then step into one of the booths to prepare his vote.

A voter qualifies by stating his name and address. If he has registered and his identity is not challenged he is permitted to vote without further preliminaries.

Registration

All persons qualified to vote and who desire to do so at the general election must be registered with the Inspector of election of his precinct. The coming week ends the time permitted for registration. All voters whose names are not on the registration books by the end of the week cannot vote on November 3. This is however, is not required of the voters outside of the cities.

Transcribed from the
MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX

dated 29 October 1908

By Barbara Downs

ELECTION NIGHT IN OLD MUSKOGEE, KID IS TICKLED

New State Casts Its First Vote for a National President

GOOD CHEER PREVAILS

Little Trouble Reported – How Phoenix Bulletined the News for the People

The kid was tickled to death with its new rattle. Muskogee with all of Oklahoma cast its first vote for a national president yesterday. And Muskogee with all of Oklahoma was tickled.

Everything worked better than the old wine in **grandpa's cellar and everything was as quiet as Mr. Bryan** the morning after. Scarcely a fight, a row, or even the usual election disputes were reported. Peace was supreme in Muskogee. The police made but two arrests throughout the day, two men who were taken into custody on the charge of drunkenness. Police headquarters were more serene than on the ordinary 364 other days in the year. Muskogee hung up on the calendar an election day that would make a staid New England town blush for shame.

At night everybody celebrated, noisily but peaceably. Men and women, and girls from the ranks of high society paraded the streets shouting and yelling and tooting horns made of red, white and blue cardboard. Everybody laughed and cheered. All seemed satisfied with the outcome. Theatres were crowded and people applauded when the returns went against their favorites and laughed and clapped when they thought the acts were rank. It was election night.

People thronged the Lyric air dome, where the **Phoenix gave returns and Milo's place and everywhere** that returns were read or posted. Newbies ran here and there up and down the streets with their cry of "Extra." As early as 8 o'clock the dyed-in-the-wool Times-Democrat conceded the election to Taft and the democrats who had been hoping against hope, realizing that it was at least of all off as far as the national issue was concerned, dropped their frowns and joined in the fun.

The kid certainly was tickled.

Transcribed from the MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX dated 4 November 1908 By Barbara Downs

Where to Vote

First Ward

First precinct – **In tent at Murphy's store.**

Second precinct – At Labor Temple

Third precinct – At Callahan and Cherokee streets

Second Ward

First precinct – Between Okmulgee and Baltimore on Cherokee street

Second precinct – Vacant house, K and Okmulgee streets

Third precinct – Vacant house, Geneva and Cherokee streets

Third Ward

First precinct – Vacant house near Elgin and Fifteenth streets

Second precinct 0 Jefferson school building

Third precinct – West side fire station

Fourth precinct – **Bailey's hall South Third street**

Fifth precinct – City hall

Fourth Ward

First precinct – **Bombeck's building on Fon du Lac street**

Second precinct – **John G. Lieber's justice of peace office**

Third precinct – Near corner of Fifth and Girard

Fourth precinct – Franklin school building, Denison street between Eighth and Ninth

Fifth precinct – 13th and Okmulgee

Sixth precinct – **Muskogee Vitrefied Brick Co.'s yard**

Seventh precinct – Corner Sixteenth and Broadway

Polls open 6 a. m.; close 7 p. m.

Transcribed from MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX 29 October 1908 By Barbara Downs

TONIGHT'S ELECTION RETURNS

The Phoenix has arranged for the most complete reception of the returns of today's election, both national and state, to be had in the city.

The Associated Press

In addition to the regular Associated Press report daily received by the Phoenix we will be furnished with special bulletins from this most reliable of all news-gathering agencies with an authentic recapitulation of the presidential vote just before going to press.

American Telephone and Telegraph Special Service

Through the courtesy of the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph company a special wire has been installed in our office, in charge of a thoroughly competent operator, with direct connections to New York, Chicago, Washington, St. Louis and other political centers.

The long distance and metallic service wires of the American Telephone and Telegraph company will be used exclusively tonight for the dissemination of the election returns and the reports will be full and complete emanating directly from the headquarters of the great political parties.

Stereopticon Service

The management of the Lyric theatre has kindly tendered the Phoenix the use of the airdome on Third street near Court where the returns will be displayed by means of a stereopticon machine. The Lyric management, the Pioneer Telephone and Telegraph company and the Phoenix join in a hearty invitation to the public to avail themselves of this means of learning the result.

Extra Editions

The regular edition of the Phoenix will go to press tomorrow morning at 4 o'clock with complete reports received up to that hour. An extra edition will also be issued at 7 o'clock with the result up to that hour with possibly a later edition in the event of the receipt of additional authentic information.

Owing to the great amount of extra work entailed in handling election news, no telephone calls will be answered after 8 o'clock this evening or information given out from the Phoenix office except by the displayed bulletins at the Lyric airdome.

THE MUSKOGEE MORNING PHOENIX



THE PHOENIX
ELECTION EXTRA
WILL BE ISSUED
ABOUT EIGHT
O'CLOCK

Muskogee DAILY Phoenix

ESTABLISHED
1891
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
BY THE PHOENIX PUBLISHING CO.
MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA
TERMS: \$5.00 PER ANNUM
SINGLE COPIES 10 CENTS
ADVERTISING RATES
ON APPLICATION

SEVENTH YEAR

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1908

NUMBER 1

TAFT AND SHERMAN SWEEP THE COUNTRY GREAT REPUBLICAN VICTORY

OKLAHOMA NOT SO DEMOCRATIC---CREAGER, MORGAN AND M'GUIRE ARE PROBABLY ELECTED

**GENERAL RETURNS
SHOW ROOSEVELT
POLICIES HOLD**

Taft the First Deputy and Vice
President of the Nation
New York

CANNON IS RE-ELECTED
Just one and from Republican
—Hagler, United States
House of Representatives

NEW YORK—The world's great
election returns showed a landslide
victory for the Republican ticket.
William H. Taft is elected president
and Charles E. Sherman vice president.
The House of Representatives is re-elected
and the Senate is re-elected.
The President-elect, Taft, is expected to
take office on March 4, 1909.
The Vice President-elect, Sherman, is
expected to take office on the same day.
The House of Representatives is re-elected
and the Senate is re-elected.
The President-elect, Taft, is expected to
take office on March 4, 1909.
The Vice President-elect, Sherman, is
expected to take office on the same day.

NEXT PRESIDENT



WILLIAM H. TAFT

**CREAGER WINS
OVER DAVENPORT
IN THE THIRD**

House of Representatives
—Hagler, United States
House of Representatives

BEST CHANDLER'S CLAIM
House of Representatives
—Hagler, United States
House of Representatives

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The House of Representatives is re-elected
and the Senate is re-elected.
The President-elect, Taft, is expected to
take office on March 4, 1909.
The Vice President-elect, Sherman, is
expected to take office on the same day.

NEXT VICE-PRESIDENT



CHARLES E. SHERMAN

**ELECTION NIGHT
IN OLD MUSKOGEE,
KID IS TICKLED**

New States are the First Vote
for a National
President

GOOD CHUCK PREVAILS
Little Boy's Report on the
Election Night and the
News for the
People

THE KID'S REPORT
The election night was a very
interesting one. I went to the
ball game and saw the game
between the Muskogees and the
Oklahomans. The Muskogees
won the game and I was very
happy. I also saw the election
returns and saw that Taft and
Sherman were elected. I was
very happy and I hope to see
them in the White House.

Front Page of MUSKOGEE PHOENIX Election Day, 4 November 1908 -- 100 Years ago

1908



HISTORIC DEMOCRATIC VICTORY

'Change has come'

Obama makes history with election



Photo Courtesy: <http://www.barackobama.com/index.php>

President –elect Barack Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden.

2008

Milly Francis

Submitted by Linda Stout

Malee “Milly” Francis is one of history’s unsung heroines. She was the daughter of Josiah Francis, also known as Hillis Harjo, or the Creek Prophet. He was forced to leave his home in the Alabama Territory at the end of the Creek War of 1813-1814 and established a new town on the Wakulla River near Fort St. Marks in Florida. It is said that his mother was Creek and his father was a white man but he always considered himself to be Indian and was an advocate of war against the white man.

In 1818 Andrew Jackson led his army into Spanish Florida to campaign against the Seminoles. While near Fort Gadsden in the spring of that year one his soldiers, a young Georgia militia private named Duncan McKrimmon, got lost while fishing. He was captured by members of the Prophet’s group and taken to their town to be executed. The Prophet’s daughter, Milly, took pity on him and pled for mercy from her father. He reluctantly agreed and instead of being killed, Private McKrimmon was sold to the Spaniards for seven and a half gallons of rum and later released.

The Prophet was captured by General Jackson’s forces and hanged in April of 1818. The rest of his band, including Milly, became refugees at Fort Gadsden. Private McKrimmon traveled there to offer marriage in gratitude for saving his life, but she would not accept his proposal. She and her family were eventually removed to the west during the Trail of Tears and found themselves near Fort Gibson, Indian Territory, in January, 1837.

Col. Ethan Allen Hitchcock was visiting the Creeks and Cherokees in 1842 for the purpose of investigating frauds. He had heard Millie’s story and was able to locate and interview her prior to her death. By that time she was widowed with only three of her eight children still living, and was destitute. Col. Hitchcock was convinced of the truth of the stories he had heard about Millie and solicited the U. S. House of Representatives to grant her a \$96 annual pension for the remainder of her life. The House finally passed the legislation and also authorized a gold medal for Millie to commemorate her deeds in saving Pvt. McKrimmon. She was the first woman voted a special Medical of Honor by the U. S. Congress. Unfortunately, it took four years for the pension to be issued and she received it on her deathbed. The medal was never struck.

Millie died in 1848 and is buried in an unmarked grave, possibly in the Jobe family plot north of Muskogee. Bacone College has a commemorative stone marker on their grounds placed there by the students May 7, 1934. The inscription reads:



“Milly Francis was the daughter of the Creek chief Hillis Hadjo. During the Florida War of 1817 fifteen year old Milly by her pleas saved the life of a young military officer Duncan McKrimmon whom they were about to kill. She later declined his offer of marriage. Congress by special act in 1844 awarded her a pension and a medal. She came with the Creeks to this country. She died in poverty in 1848 and is buried somewhere in the vicinity. In appreciation of her compassion and humanity this stone is erected by the senior class of 1933.”

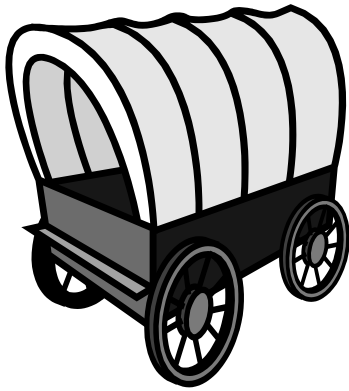
Sources:

Hitchcock, Ethan Allen, Fifty Years in Camp and Field, (G.P. Putnam's Sons 1909), pp. 151-155.

White, Rev. George, Historical Collections of Georgia, (New York, 1855), Baldwin County, Georgia Historical Website.

Muskogee Phoenix & Times-Democrat, Sunday, June, 8, 1997, Page 3, Section C.

Francis Donelson of the Bacone College Library



**Pioneer Newspaper
transcription by
Helen Lemley**

June 24, 1898 Volume 1 #1



The Pioneer[.] Published Every Friday By The Pioneer Printing Company, Muscogee I. T.

REV. J. A. WADE. . . President,
R. S. NANCE. . . . Vice President,
Wm. RAGSDALE . . . Secretary
JULIUS COATS . . . Treasurer,
W. H. TWINE. . . . Editor and Manager,
H. A. BROOKS . . . Associate Editor, [Advertisement] p. 2 col. 1

Subscription Rates

Per Year \$1.00
Six Months70
Three Months50 p. 2 col. 1

Address all communications and make all remittances to W. H. TWINE, Genera [sic] Manager,
Muscogee I. T. p. 2 col. 1

Correspondence or Communications for publication must reach the office not later than Tuesday at
noon. p. 2 col. 1

Advertising Rates made known on application to the General Manager. p. 2 col. 1

Subscribers not receiving their papers promptly will please notify the General Manager. p. 2 col. 1

Entered at the Post office at Muscogee I. T. as second class mail matter. p. 2 col. 1

GOOD MORNING!!

With this issue THE PIONEER steps into the journalistic arena and bids the craft and the public a
pleasant GOOD MORNING. We don't come to fill a long felt want, but with us this is purely a business ven-
ture. We have not taken this step on account of our health, as we were enjoying the best of health prior to this
time. Our aim is to be fair and impartial with all, not forgetting our friends, or, enemies either if we have any of
the latter. In politics we shall be Republican but not hide bound. We shall hew to line let chips fall where they
may.

We shall use political parties as [a club] to beat down the prejudices in our way, should we have to re-
sort to "13 inch guns" to accomplish the desired end. We believe in the present Single Gold Standard and are
opposed to the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1.

To the brethren of the Craft, Let us dwell together in peace and harmony, and work for the [upbuilding]
of our city and Territory[.] p. 2 col. 1

Stand [Together]

In the present divided state, the Colored man is powerless to resist opposition coming from out side sources. If the present conditions do not tend to unite colored men in this country, his case is indeed hopeless. All forces and [classes] of people resist his efforts to advance; and if one succeeds in breaking through his environments, and start in life, all the little pop guns of petty jealousy, spite and envy in command of his own race are leveled against him. From that time forward he finds the point of greatest resistance in his own race. Before we can succeed in getting others interested in us, we must manifest some interest in ourselves. We must get together and regard an insult, or, an injury to one, an insult or injury to all, the success or advancement of one, the success or advancement of all. p. 2 col. 2

INDIAN TERRITORY BILL

Agreed on in Conference About as the House had Drafted It

Allotment of Land and Mineral Deposits incorporation of Towns by Local commission of Three Agreements Between Dawes Commission and Chickasaws and Choctaws confirmed. Other provisions. p. 2 col. 3

They are building a gallows down at the U. S. jail, to execute two condemned criminals, **Brooks** and **Perkins**. It seems a refinement of cruelty to build this relic of barbarism within the hearing and sight of the condemned men, when at every stroke of the hammer they can hear their death [knell].

These men are Negroes, and were found guilty of the crime of rape and murder respectively [and] were sentenced to die: yet there were other men who were found guilty of murder and rape, but they were sentenced to imprisonment for life. Is there a cause for this? If so, what? Is there a remedy? If so, what? Incognito. p. 2 col. 4

[Prof. **Hill** of Waco, Texas, was in] the city Monday. He is advocating the establishment of an Independent School at this point. He claims to have \$1500 promised as donation for the school. We trust the Prof. will be successful in this laudable undertaking. p. 2 col. 4

This is the beginning of the end, and all parties interested should prepare for the inevitable. In a short time, property holders in cities can have title to their homes and the day is not far distant when each citizen of the various Tribes will own his share of the soil in fee simple. It is no doubt better for [all] concerned. p. 2 col. 4

It seems that a city Marshall [sic] is soon to be selected. Among the many applicants for the position we know no better man for the place than Geo. R. **Davis**. We have known Mr. **Davis** for a number of years, have always found him to be a good straight-forward honest man. We [believe] he will make a splendid officer, and will treat all men right. In fact Geo. **Davis** will do his duty and we hope he will be selected as city Marshall [sic] for the ensuing year. p. 2 col. 4

Muscogee Grocery Co[.] Carry a Complete Line of Fine Staple & Fancy Groceries[.] Remember We Pay Cash for Produce[.] Flour and Feed a Specialty. A Fine line of Tobacco and Cigars. **Austin & Whitmore Prop'rs** Muscogee I[.] T[.] [Advertisement] p. 2 cols. 5 & 6

THE PIONEER, The Only publication of the kind in the I. Ter. THE PIONEER is published in the interest of the colored people and if they want an Enterprise in their midst that will work for their interest and to uphold them in all Emergencies they should subscribe and work for the maintenance of it. W. H. **TWINE**, Editor and manager. H. A. **BROOKS**, Associate Editor[.] [Advertisement] p. 2 cols. 5 & 6

NOTICE[!!!]

The Inter-National Afro American League will hold the First Annual Meeting at Wewoka Indian TY On the 19th day of JULY 1898.

All local leagues are expected to send one delegate for each ten members-W. A. **Rentie** Chairman of Ex. Com. I. A. A. League p. 2 col. 7

Every member of the I. A. A. League should subscribe for The Pioneer and keep posted on [League] affairs and matters pertaining to the race in general. p. 2 col. 7

PICNIC! JULY the 4th between the two rivers near Gebriel Jimison Spring Every body invited. Refreshments and Amusements of all kinds[.] p. 2 col. 7

There are about 100,000 Negroes in the boundaries of the Indian Ty. 20,000 voters and every one will become a member of the I. A. A. League and should subscribe for The Pioneer, as this paper is the official organ of the League at least until the July meeting. p. 2 col. 7

The local I. A. A. League at Muscogee has elected Rev. A. R. **Norris** President, Rev. D. **Morgan** 1st vice President, C. S. **Hurd** 2nd vice President, D. **Nat** secretary and Dr. **Flinn** Treasurer[.]

This league aspires to be the banner league of the Territory. p. 2 col. 7

Wm. H. **Sims**, Physician & Surgeon[.] Muscogee, Ind. Ter. Office, North Main Street, opposite **Brad-ys** Call answered day and night, Medicine furnished. [Advertisement] p. 2 col. 7

W. H. **Twine**. J. O. **Lowery**. Lawyers[.] Office-Room 4. Upstairs, Garrett Building. Muscogee, Ind. Ter [Advertisement]. p. 2 col. 7

M. L. **Flinn** Physician and Surgeon[.] Muscogee I. T. Office, Western Hotel, opposite United States Court House. All calls answered day and night[.] [Advertisement]p. 2 col. 7

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Several new buildings in the city. p. 3 col. 1

Dr. M. L. **Flinn** of this city is making his mark as a [practicing physician] and he is busy day and night. p. 3 col. 1

Wybark[.] Indian Ter. June 21. Business is dull in our town at present but I think there is a better day coming, as crops in our surrounding neighbor hood are extra fine. When in our town, and needing groceries, call and examine T. J. **Green[s]** stock before you buy. p. 3 col. 1

Thomas **Brewer** is running a ferry boat on the Virtagris river [sic], half mile East of Wybark. This being the best route from Muscogee to Wagoner and from Choska to Fort Gibson. Mrs. Sifie **Sander's** funeral was preached at Union Grove church by Rev. **Cannon** of Muscogee. His sermon was interesting on the [occasion]. p.3 col. 1

There was quite a lively tilt at the Norris Local League meeting last Monday night. There seems to be quite a difference of opinion as to what the name of the local league is. After the storm came sunshine and all is quiet as the Potomac. p. 3 col. 1

Mr. and Mrs. John **McBeth** of Tahlequah were in the city this week and were the guests of Mrs. [McClendon]. p. 3 col. 1

Mr. [sic] and Dr. J. M. **Mosely** children, accompanied by her sister, Mrs. **Bates** of Denison Texas passed through the city last Sunday on their way to visit their parents, Mr. [and] Mrs. J. **Watson** at Tahlequah. p. 3 col. 1

The entertainment given at the C. M. F church by the C. Y. P. U. last Thursday night was quite a success. The proceeds being \$8.00. p. 3 col. 1

Prof. **Brown** of Tahlequah was in our city Monday. p. 3 col. 1

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. **Sango** spent Sunday in the country visiting relatives [sic] and friends[.] p. 3 col. 1

Messers [sic] Julius **Coats** and **Ward** visited Wagoner last Sunday. p. 3 col. 1

Mr. Thomas **Brewer** of Wybark visited the city this week. p. 3 col. 1

The Dawes Com. will return at once and go to work taking the census of the various Tribes.

The Commission will begin work at Wewoka on July the 1st 1898. We hope our people who are entitled to be enrolled will not lose any time in reporting to the Com. This is the last chance. p. 3 col. 2

Mrs. P. B. **Austin** has gone to Texas on a visit, we wish her a pleasant journey and a safe return home. Poor P. B. will wander far and wide during the hot summer days looking for what he wont find until the return of his better half. p. 3 col. 2

All persons who desire to make application for citizenship before the Dawes Com., or appeal their cases should communicate with **Twine** and **Lowery** attorneys [at] Muscogee. [Advertisement] p. 3 col. 2

DIRECTORY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Regular services every Sunday at 11 a. m. Sunday school at 9 a. m. Bible band 3 p. m. Prayer meeting Wednesday nights. Official meeting Friday night before the 3rd Sunday in each month S. S. **Solo-mon** Pastor. p. 3 col. 2

O. M. E. CHURCH

At Measles Hill 1 2 miles West of Muscogee, Services Sundays at 11 a. m. Sunday School at 10 a. m. D. J. **Morgan** Pastor. p. 3 col. 2

ODD FELLOWS

The G. U. O. O. F lodge 4402 of Muscogee meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday nights, each month. J. A. **Wade**—N. G. M. L. **Flinn**—P. S. p. 3 col. 2

OAK HALL LODGE

4107 meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday nights in each month. G. W. **Colden**—N. G. **R. S. Curtis**—P. S. p. 3 col. 2

Transcribed and submitted by Wally Waits

MUSKOGEE ELECTRIC TRACTION COMPANY

Submitted by Linda Stout

Good transportation is important to any growing city and Muskogee in 1904 was no exception. Settlers were streaming in and statehood was looming. The Katy railroad already ran through town but there was no city transportation. The Muskogee Electric Traction Company was incorporated May 14, 1904, to fill that void. It was the territory's third system behind Oklahoma City and McAlester. The President of the company was Ira L. Reeves, secretary was N. A. Gibson and the manager was R. D. Long. Principal investors were Louis K. Hyde, R. D. Benson and W. S. Benson.

The trolleys began service March 15, 1905, and the streets along the track were lined with cheering citizens. Several notable Muskogee citizens were on the initial trip including Mr. & Mrs. Tams Bixby, Mr. & Mrs. Ira Reeves and son Louie, and Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Turner. There was a terrific rainstorm early that day and some of the city's streets were in poor condition, so the new convenience of the traction cars was greatly appreciated. Proceeds from the first day's fares were held in a fund for a YMCA to be built in Muskogee. The cars were described as combinations, or could be made into either summer or winter cars. The seats were arranged as in a passenger coach and the cushions and backs were made of cane. They weren't luxurious but it was a great improvement over walking or horseback riding.

Operation of the traction line was not without incident. In October, 1909, Rufus Connella, a school supply salesman, was killed by a streetcar conductor named Gilbert Smalley. Connella was traveling with his wife and sister and somehow got into an argument with the conductor. Connella took his family home and then returned to take the same car back to town. As soon as he got on, Smalley shot him. Must have been some argument.

In 1918, some horses got loose from Edward Doering's pasture and roamed onto the trolley track where a car hit them, killing one. The judgment required the traction company to reimburse Mr. Doering \$85.00 as compensation for the value of the horse. And in 1922 Mrs. Jenny Elsing was stepping off one of the cars when it started up again, dragging her several feet. The trolley company was not found to be at fault in this case.

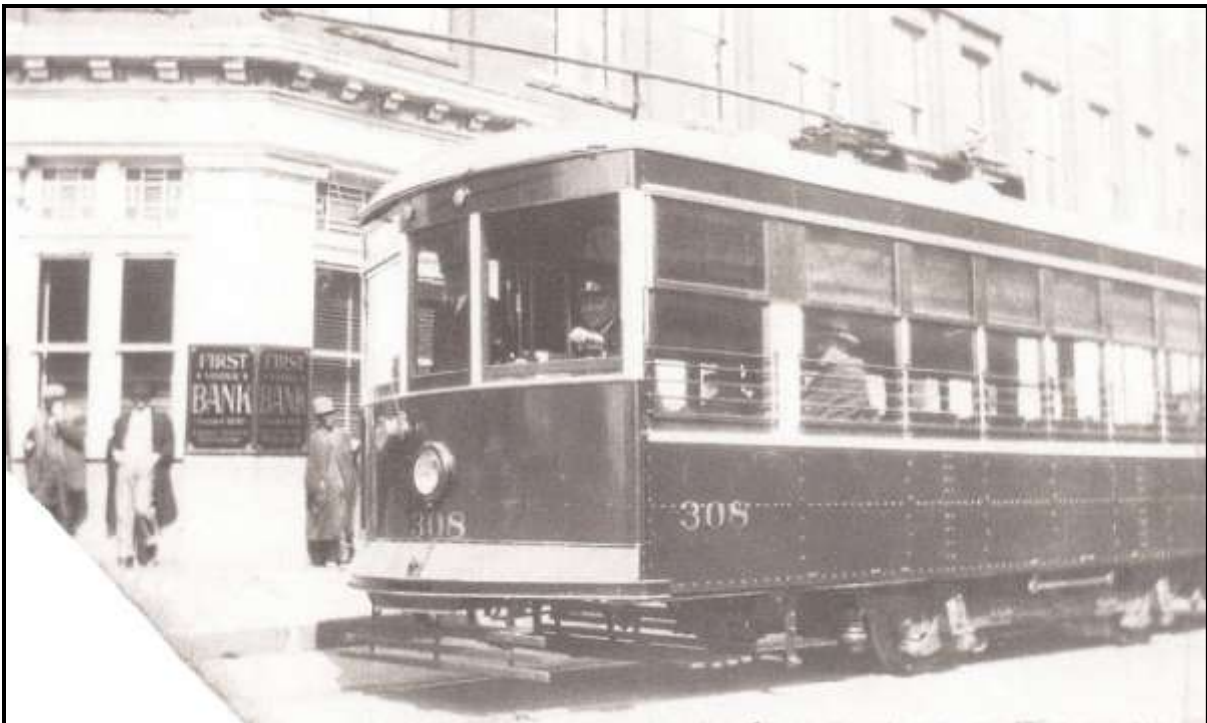
Reflecting the times, there was resentment among the African-American population in 1910. The Jim Crow laws were in effect and Muskogee's African-American citizens refused to sit in separate sections of the cars. Police refused to ride the cars to enforce the law. On February 1, 1913, the City Council passed an ordinance requiring the traction company to establish separate waiting rooms for whites and African-Americans at the downtown station. There is no information as to whether the law was enforced.

By 1919 the Muskogee Electric Traction Company operated 16 motorcars plus four freight, mail and express cars over 14 miles of track. The system increased to 32 passenger cars plus one combination car, one electric locomotive and 11 work cars. In 1913 it even included a snowplow, making our traction company one of the southernmost streetcar systems to have one.

On March 18, 1911, newspapers declared Muskogee to be the Hub of All Interurbans with expansion predicted to Tulsa and paralleling the Arkansas River to the southeast toward Fort Smith. On October 31, 1912, six new cars arrived plus four more on the way to make a total of 55 cars in Muskogee's traction system. The new arrivals put an end to the open cars in use on the Hyde Park line and consequently to the occasional serious accident due to overcrowded cars on special occasions.

The system reached maximum capacity in 1916 with 31 miles of track including the line to Fort Gibson that also served Bacone Indian College. Principal service lines offered included West Broadway, Fond du Lac, Hyde Park, E. Okmulgee, the Fairgrounds, Midland Valley shops, Monticello, Elgin and Reeves Addition.

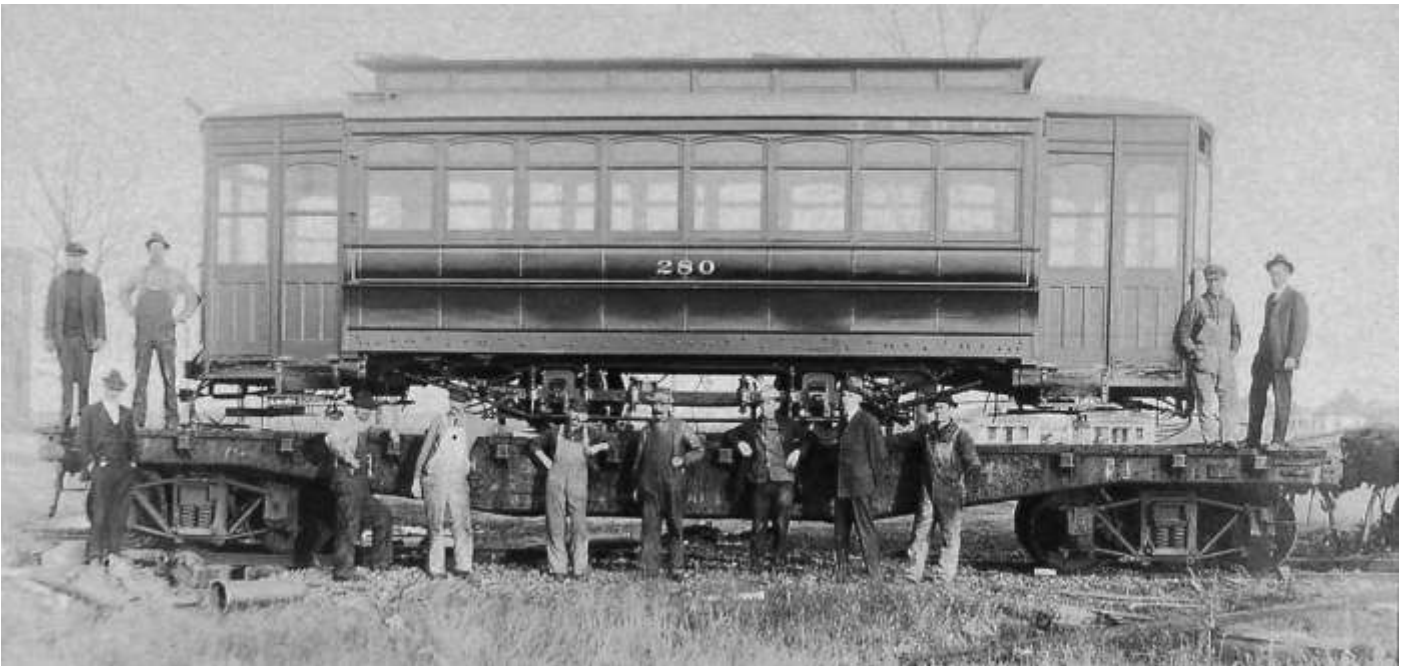
Continues Page 127



Traction Employee, Emory Pennington on his first job in Muskogee. Corner of First National Bank.
Photo courtesy of personal collection of Jere Harris



Muskogee Electric Traction street car in traffic.
Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Museum



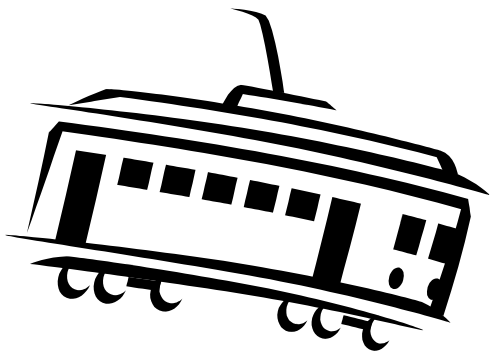
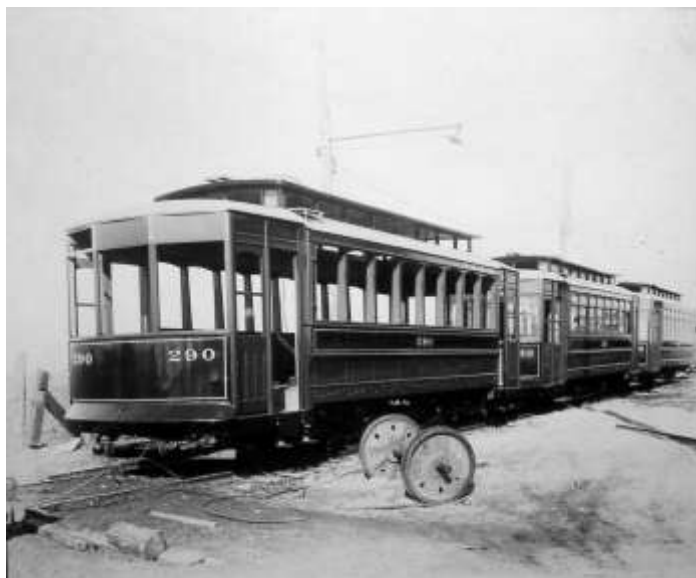
Upper: Trolley 208 on railroad flatcar

Left: Traction Company shop

Lower: Street Car being installed.

All photos courtesy of:

Three Rivers Museum



On September 30, 1916, streetcar men threatened to strike for increased pay and shorter hours. The men demanded a 10 cents per hour increase, two man crews on all cars, an 8 hour day, and air brakes on all cars. The actual strike began October 4 but ended on October 9 after conferences between R. D. Long, W. G. Ashton, State Labor Commissioner, and the employees. A provision of the agreement was that a grievance committee would be established. The pay increase, hours and two man crews were not addressed. All striking employees were reinstated and cars again operated on regular schedules.

Because of the war, October, 1917 found the draft had hit the male population hard and the traction company could no longer obtain men to act as motormen and conductors. As a result, girls between the ages of 18 and 25 were recruited. The first offer of a conductor's job went to Lucille Smith, daughter of O. A. Smith of Muskogee. She was previously a station agent on the MK&T Railroad at Onapah.

THE STRIKE

This was a low point in Muskogee's history. A second, major strike occurred May 24, 1919, again for higher wages. The current pay rate was from 30 to 36 cents per hour but employees were asking for 40 to 46 cents. By June 1 motorists were turning their passenger cars into free jitneys to help those who lived "far out." Public transportation was at a standstill. Mayor Wisener announced that the City Council would authorize the operation of jitneys unless the trolley company attempted to work with its employees. The City asked the State Corporation Commission to rule but it declined to intervene and asked the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation to get involved instead. Charges and counter charges flew between the various parties. The City asked the corporation commission to appoint a receiver and discharge R.D. Long. Muskogee Electric Traction Company charged the union was violating its own contract since the current one did not expire until October, 1919. It seemed that the strike was settled by June 5 with a wage increase of 30%.

Streetcar service resumed June 10 after 11 days on strike, but was discontinued immediately due to violence. Lt. Gov Trapp denied help from the state militia. Cars were mobbed and five conductors and motormen were badly beaten and stabbed by gangs of strike sympathizers. Three were sent to hospitals in serious condition. The next day businessmen and county officials met to swear in 250 officers to guard the streetcars and keep order. They would be kept on duty until service was permanently established and the strike broken. Warrants were issued for the arrest of 12 men including J.J. Green, president of the Muskogee Carmen's union.

State Labor Commissioner C.E. Connally failed to bring a settlement to the strike as did J. B. Lawson, national union organizer. C.M. Smith, president of the central labor union, seemed to side with the traction company saying the local union did not keep the agreement made by its representatives. Deputy sheriffs continued to guard the traction lines and on June 13 Police Chief James Robbins gave orders to his men to shoot anyone entering a car with "hostile intent." Cars were being stoned and the motormen driven away. One thousand union labor men, including railroad trainmen and shop men, marched through Muskogee's streets with banners urging the public to support the strikers.

By June 22 everyone was tiring of the strike. The eastern owners of the trolley arrived to help reach a temporary settlement. The carmen were restless and wanted to go back to work and the Unions are tired of paying benefits. Everyone was tired of walking to and from work. An agreement was signed July 16 to leave the settlement of the strike to arbitration. Finally an agreement was made with wages set at 35 to 40 cents an hour. All strikers were reinstated and non-union men were retained.

On August 2 motormen and conductors said the company failed to grant the men their seniority and struck again. That was the last straw and the central labor union and four railroad brotherhoods withdrew their support from the local carmen. They felt that the traction company had made enough concessions to make the contract a fair one. Five hundred citizens were commissioned as special police in an effort to resume streetcar

Bacone and the Trolley

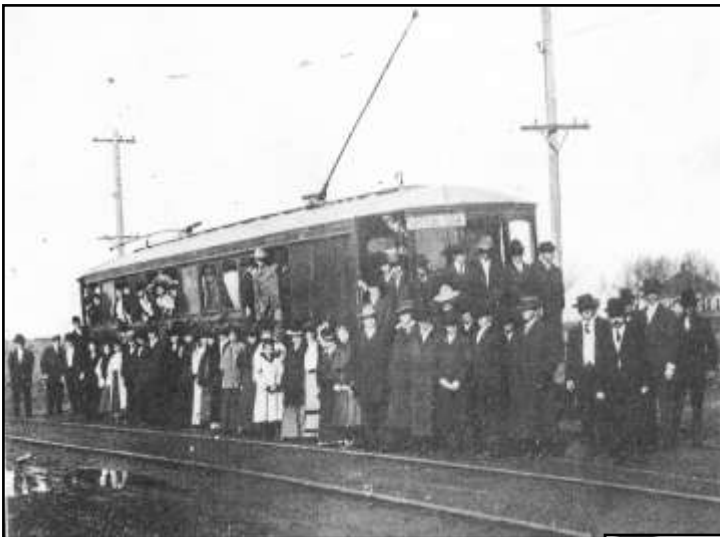
A paragraph from the student Newspaper, The Baconian, May, 1906

Indian University, Bacone, Indian Territory

"Bacone takes the trolley line north from the beautiful city of Muskogee, with its tens of thousands of busy people, its wide and thronging streets, its tall and stately buildings, and its numerous railroads and factories; he cannot but notice a cluster of buildings situated on a gently rising eminence to the north. This cluster of buildings is Bacone, the home of Indian University."

In the Muskogee Phoenix, May 28, 1947

"In the lower picture a group of Bacone faculty members and students of the 1905-1906 are shown as they prepared to board a trolley to attend services at the First Baptist Church in Muskogee. The special trolley did not go to Toonerville, as its appearance may suggest, but regularly ran to Hyde Park, a popular site for holiday excursions in early-day Muskogee."

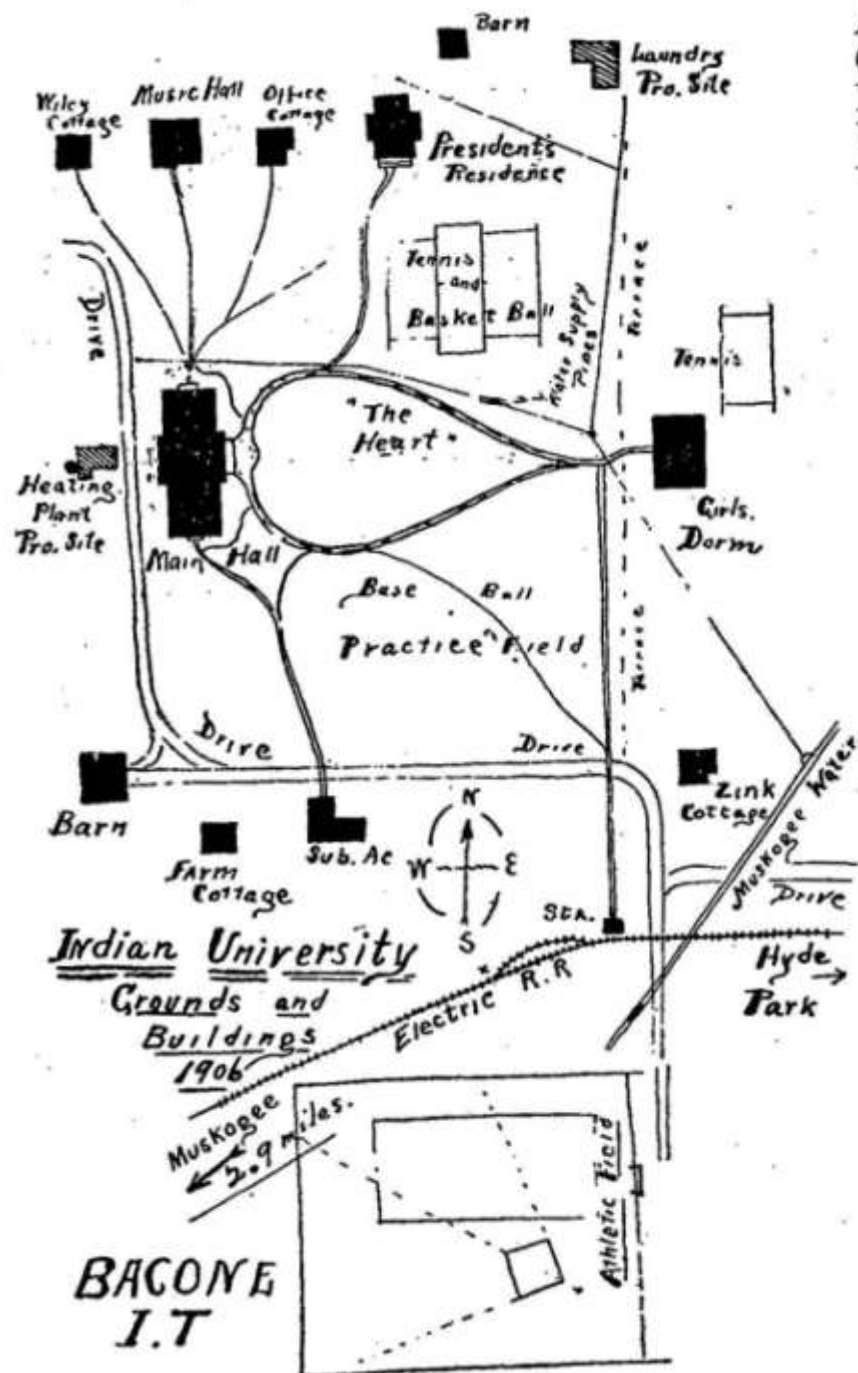


Student at Indian University, Bacone, Indian Territory

"Going to Church" Trolley destined for First Baptist Church, Muskogee.

Photos Courtesy of the
Bacone College Library





A View of
Our Campus—
Indian
University.

Sketch of
Buildings and
Grounds.

Photos these pages
Courtesy of:

Frances Donelson,
Librarian

Bacone College
Library

'Limpin' Lena' Deserts Track For Smoother Path on Ties

City-Bound Students Terrified As Car Narrowly Escapes Being Wrecked

We have read of great tragedies, of the wreck of the Hesperus and the sinking of the Titanic, but now we meet with the greatest tragedy of the ages. If Shakespeare could but return he would undoubtedly be able to produce his masterpiece on the subject of which we now write.

Arrayed in their most colorful garments the Bacone lads and lassies clambered confidently aboard "Limpin' Lena" on a soggy afternoon, having in view a hilarious time in the city of their pale-face brothers. But, alas! "The last-laid plans o' mice and men, gang aft agley." There is always some bitter to flavor the sweet. As the time-honored, battle-scarred veteran of better days rounded the first curve, rocking merrily from side to side, there was an "almost" surprising bumping and lurching at the back end of the car, which rapidly became terrifying. Wild shrieks rent the air. Those who thought that the last hour was at hand seemed bent on releasing all their pentup energy in one final yell. Redskins suddenly became palefaces. Rufus Paxton, calm in the face of certain death, proved his worth by saving Geraldine Ticeahkie from suffocation by extracting her hand from her mouth. When finally the transport was brought to a halt it was found that the rear wheels, tiring of the narrow path, had forsaken the rails for a somewhat smoother trail, the ties. The more curious Americans disembarked to see for themselves the cause and effect of the terrible catastrophe. As opinions differed, on the chances of the speedy recovery of the hapless wreck, several of the hardier braves went by the two-legged route to arrive in town before the young gallants who thought best to wait with the fair damsels for the rescue car.

When this finally came the Baconians piled joyously in and sped toward the waiting movies.

We have often been told that only the brave deserve the fair. Well and good. Anyway, Buck Simms contrived to reserve a date for the afternoon—we decline to say with whom. Although endowed with supreme courage we hope that we will not soon be enforced to undergo another such nerve-wracking experience.

MUSKOGEE ELECTRIC TRACTION CO.

20 Rides for \$1.50

School Tickets
Good between the
hours 7 A. M. and
5:00 P. M. on
School Days.

No. 3536

LAMENT FOR THE LOST LEAPING LENA

Listen, my children, and you shall hear

The saddest tale in many a year:

On the tenth of March, in thirty-three,
Occurred a great moment in history,
When the Toonerville Trolley, on
Friday night,

Lurched for the last time out of sight
With its deafening screech and rumble
and roar,

Its rattle and squeak from ceiling to
floor,

That terrific groan of each window
and door,

The noisiest noise in heaven or earth.
Alas! but this is no time for mirth,
For Lena was dear to each Bacone
heart,

With its busted springs like a farmer's
cart.

Alas! When it rains we can hardly
live

Without that roof that leaked like a
sieve,

And those drops that dripped down
our shuddering back

At each of the million bumps in the
track.

We hear no more the friendly toot
Of that whistle that ended all dispute
As to whether or not we could get
there in time

To ride to town for three-fourths of
a dime.

And so, all friends of that battered
bus,

Come shed a tear with the rest of us,
And join in the sad and mournful note
That swells from every loyal throat,
That question that rises from every
heart—

How Leaping Lena could stop and
start

For all these years without falling
apart.



Copies of newspaper articles submitted by Linda Stout; Photo of Traction Co. ticket courtesy of Three Rivers Museum; Photo of token courtesy of Jere Harris

HUNDREDS OF BAD COINS ARE BURIED

Muskogee Traction Company Receives Lots of Spurious Money.

MUSKOGEE, Okla., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—The office force of the Muskogee Traction company has just completed the yearly inventory of fake coins which a generous public frequently bestows upon the company in lieu of five cent fares. Since Jan. 1, 1913, the company has accumulated a shoe box half full of Mexican coins, Chinese money, counterfeit nickles and dimes, coins with holes punched in them, coins with pieces cut off them, slugs, cigar store tokens, brass buttons and various other imitation money, good, bad and indifferent.

In the collection there are 1,000 pieces of fake money, representing about fifty dollars in street car fares. Not all of the amount, however, represents a loss to the company. After a would-be deceiver of the street car company coyly drops a fake nickle into the pay-as-you-enter box and the conductor, cocking a wary eye on the coin, detects the fraud and calls on the passenger to dig up a genuine nickle. Then the fake remains in possession of the company. About five times out of ten the conductor is quick enough to detect the fraud. So the thousand coins in the collection represent a loss of about twenty-five dollars in fares.

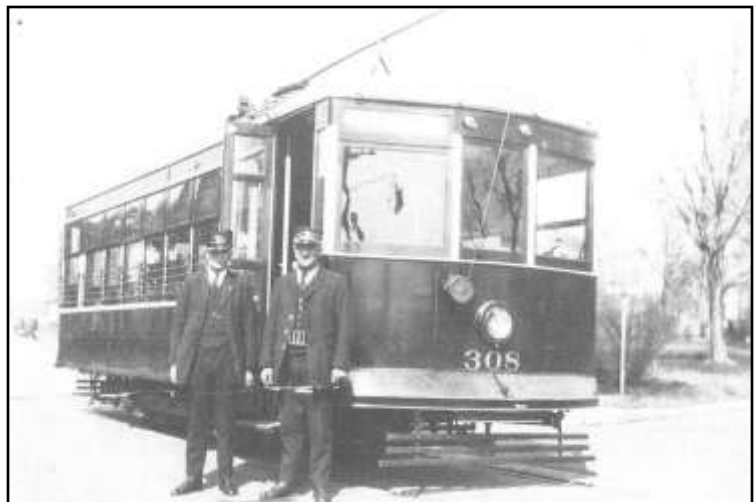
It is a serious offense to have counterfeit money in one's possession, but the fellow who gets a free ride on the strength of a brass button wrenched from him suspenders cannot be accused of attempting to pass counterfeit coin and often get by.

After the inventory was completed the shoebox with all of the worthless counterfeits was turned over to Bill Jenkins, the ancient negro who keeps the street car tracks oiled and who is easily, in his opinion at least, the most important employee of the traction company. Bill took

an hour off duty and with the shoebox and a spade buried the fake coin. Years hence, perhaps, some one may dig up the buried treasure and the wise men will go into consultation over the slugs and cigar tokens in the effort to determine the value of the find. The brass buttons were not interred with the remainder of the coins. They were portioned out among the various employees for present use.

genealogybank.com;
21 Dec 1921,
Daily Oklahoman

...More Electric Traction Company pics...



Photos courtesy of the
personal collection of
Jere Harris



service and all were heavily armed.

After three months of transportation chaos, businessmen resolved to take matters in hand and voted to start the cars. Citizens urged a grand jury investigation of the city administration. Some thought the situation was aggravated by men who had invested in motorbuses and wanted the cars kept idle so that jitneys could run instead. On September 26 **Jesse Greene, president and G. W. Ritchie, secretary of the carmen's union, were ousted and replaced by C. B. Burk and W. H. Cluck.** Greene and Ritchie had refused to sign the contract approved by the central labor union. On October 27 the streetcar strike was officially called off by labor leaders.

Ridership began to decline after World War I. There were long interruptions in service caused by continued problems with the condition of the Court Street bridge that connected the five west side lines with the two suburban **lines on the east side and the car barn. Muskogee's trolleys had survived the Great Depression, but the entire street car** system was finally abandoned on March 9, 1933, with the exception of the Fort Gibson tracks that were kept until 1934 for freight service. Buses took over the West Broadway, East Okmulgee, Elgin, Reeves Addition and Car Barn lines the day after the streetcars were abandoned. Muskogee Electric Traction Company served Muskogee as a bus company until a strike closed the company permanently in 1958.

Photos Courtesy Of:

Sue Tolbert, Director, Three Rivers Museum, Muskogee, Oklahoma

Frances Donelson, Librarian, Bacone College, Muskogee, Oklahoma

Jere Harris, Librarian, Muskogee Public Library, Muskogee, Oklahoma

Sources:

Allison Chandler and Stephen D. Maguire, When Oklahoma Took The Trolley (Interurbans, 1980), pp. 97 – 103.

Donovan L. Hofsommer, Editor, Railroads in Oklahoma (Oklahoma Historical Society, 1977), pp. 103 – 104.

GenealogyBank.com, multiple articles dated August, 1903 through October, 1919.

Multiple articles from the Muskogee Democrat, Muskogee Times-Democrat, and Muskogee Daily Phoenix dated March, 1905 through November, 1912.

Multiple articles from The Daily Oklahoman dated September 1916 through October, 1921.

HOLIDAY DIVORCE

A man in Jacksonville calls his son in San Diego the day before Christmas and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough.

"Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this. Call your sister in Denver and tell her."

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this,"

She calls Jacksonville immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, "They're coming for Christmas and paying their own way."

Copied and modified from an email received by Nancy Lasater

DNA Wins

By Ann Gardner

After many years of searching the paper files for my family genealogy, plus the years in which many others have also been involved, science has won out. Even Wally Waits' class on *Preponderance of Evidence* didn't help. An assumed cousin has done it and now he is no longer an assumed cousin but a real cousin.

My family for several generations, all lived in Muskogee so after retirement I moved back to the house my grandfather built and there was time for me to work on genealogy. I hoped to follow the family back to when they immigrated to this country. My father was born right here after his parents emigrated from Sweden so that was easy. Then I went to work on the other side of the family. I had heard stories all my life about my ancestors but they were just names, not real people. One of those names was Severs. My mother and her father often spoke of "Uncle Fred" Severs.

Off I went citing my findings on my mother (Dorothy Thomas), her father (Walter Thomas), his mother (Mary Helen Trent), her mother (Basima Severs) and her father (Charles Jackson Severs). There the brick wall went up. Family history said he was born in Tennessee "near Knoxville" and that he came from Tennessee to Alabama then to Arkansas. I could document his arrival in Cincinnati, Arkansas and marriage in 1834 at the age of 23 years. Try as hard as I could, I still could not document his parentage.

There are so many people in this country by the name of Severs/Seavers/Seivers and most would like to be related to Frederick Ballard Severs of Muskogee, Oklahoma. Most could not make the connection except by family history, if at all. Then DNA came along, but still it was difficult. Charles Jackson Severs had five daughters and only one son, Frederick B. Severs for us to follow the male descendents for DNA testing. Fred Severs had three daughters. Again, family history came into play which said that Uncle Fred had an illegitimate son whom the family accepted. Research turned up on Samuel Berryhill Severs right here in Muskogee. There were a couple more from other liaisons that I could not document, but there was documentation that Samuel was the son of Fred Severs and an earlier Cherokee wife. Sam Severs married and had a family in Muskogee. There were seven children, three of which were male. One died very young, one I could not follow and one whose son came to see my mother here in the 1970's from California where he and family lived and he had only one son.

My assumed cousin who is a retired physician in Kentucky had been working on this genealogy earlier than I had and still had the same problems I did. Then he got the idea of DNA testing, if we could follow the male line of Fred Severs as he could follow his male line back to the Tennessee Severs. After my mother died I found the old address of the California Severs and wrote to them. They were still there and had one living son. It took a year or so to get this guy to agree to the testing but he finally did and it was a near perfect match to the DNA of the Kentucky Severs.

Never give up and happy hunting.

INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS

Vol. 31 – 28 December 1937

Interviewer, Jas. S. Buchanan

Interview with Mr. William C. Jackson

407 N. K Street, Muskogee

I was born August 8, 1894, on what was known as the J. O. Cobb place two miles east of Muskogee. My father was William S. Jackson who came to the Indian Territory in 1887, He returned to Illinois, his native home, and later came back to the territory, eventually settling near Muskogee. Shortly after I was born, the family moved from the Cobb place to the Clint Hardishell place, one and one half miles south of the Cobb place, where they resided until father bought from Jim Conley four Cherokee claims consisting of three hundred and twenty acres, the land being a part of the old Conley ranch which was situated just east of the Reed ranch across Coody Creek south of Muskogee.

Father retained possession of the ease on the Conley land and engaged in farming and stock raising until his death in 1909. In the later years of his life he also engaged in the contracting business with C. N. Haskell. In this connection he had the contract and built the grade for the Ozark and Cherokee Central Railroad, (which is now the Frisco) from Muskogee to the Arkansas River. He was also associated with Mr. Haskell in the development of additions to Muskogee and the construction of paving.

In his farming activities, he was the first farmer to bring a steam thrashing machine into this part of the country.

In 1900 there was quite an area between Frozen Rock and Brushy Mountain schools in **which there was no school. Father, with the cooperation and assistance of neighbors, namely** Lige Kelly, John Kelly, George Crittendon, George Price, Morg Compton, Sam Montgomery and Bill Moth built the little school house known as the Sally Brown School located on the old Texas Trail about 12 miles east of York Street and one half mile south of Coody Creek. This school was built by personal donations from citizens of the community and started as a subscription school, my sister, Etta Jackson, being the first teacher. The Cherokee children of the community attended the school and their tuition and the cost of books were paid by the Government. My first term of school was at this little school. The school was situated on the opposite side of the Texas Trail from our home and one quarter of a mile north. I remember one evening about time for school to be dismissed a herd of cattle started to pass the school, being driven from the Nip Blackstone ranch to Muskogee for shipment and all we children were compelled to remain in the school house until long after dark before the last of the herd has passed and we could go home. That was the last large head of cattle I remember being brought into Muskogee over the old trail for shipment.

There has been much discussion of late as to the exact location of the Old Texas Trail past Muskogee. The old trail leaving the junction of the roads from the Nevins and Sullivan ferries ran mostly south through the valley east of Bacone and the Blind School and crossed Coody near where I was born. That was for years the only ford on Coody Creek in that community

nearly one mile east of York Street. The old stage line between Muskogee and Fort Smith, leaving Muskogee ran in a southeast direction and passed just north of where the old iron post stands on the Wade place and came into the Texas Trail at the ford on Coody Creek, then followed the Texas Trail about three miles to a point where it branched off the trail in a southeast direction on its way by McClain and on to Webbers Falls where it crossed the Arkansas River. I remember there was an old sign that stood in the south junction of these roads when I was a boy directing travelers on the Texas Road and the state line road and it had a large pile of rocks around the base of it to support it and to keep the prairie fires from burning it down. At the south junction of the Texas Trail and stage line, the Texas Trail bore a little to the west and passed the town of Oktaha about one half mile to the east. The reason I remember this road so well we traveled it in hauling cotton to the gin at Oktaha because we received more there for the cotton than we would be paid in Muskogee.

In 1900 I was married to Edna Adams of Buffalo, Missouri. Two girls, twins, were born to us. My wife died in 1932. In 1934 I married Elsie Roff, daughter of John and Marmie Roff of El Reno.

My mother dies in 1936 she and father are both buried in Greenhill Cemetery, Muskogee.

Submitted by Barbara Downs

DRINK FAN-TAZ THE DRINK THAT HELPS YOU THINK

DRINK OF THE "FANS"

Here's to FAN-TAZ, the drink of all drinks, Sparkling, exhilarating, the drink that helps you think. Delicious at fountains, in bottle or glass. Red and rich glorious FAN-TAZ.

Accept No Substitute

IT'S RED—IT'S RICH

Manufactured by

Puro Manufacturing Co.

Only active-alive, hustling dealers considered. Write us **TO-DAY** for agency in your city.

ROSENDORF & KOCH, Distributors for Oklahoma, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

SPARKLING — EXHILARATING

Submitted by Barbara Downs

Library Book list for 4th quarter 2008

Arkansas:

Poinsett County

Izard County

Lawrence County

Kentucky:

Bell County

Marshall County

Fulton County, pictorial history

Christian County

Lincoln County

Crittenden County

Tennessee:

Montgomery County

Rover and the 10th District of Bedford County

Robertson County

Warren County, pictorial history

Lewis County

Lawrence County

Van Buren County

Houston County

Missouri:

Polk County

New York:

Schuyler County

North Carolina:

North Carolina Naturalization Index, 1792-1862

Oklahoma:

Oklahoma Rural Settlers in
Woodward County, Oklahoma, 1893-1910

Texas:

Sons of the Republic of Texas

Texas Panhandle Forefathers

Virginia:

Smyth County History and Traditions

Pioneer Settlers of Grayson County

The German New River Settlement, Virginia

Submitted by Nancy Calhoun
Local History and Genealogy Department
Muskogee Public Library

Joseph Sondheimer has brought with[*in th*]e past sixteen days, three thousand, [*___*]undred and sixty-four poverty hides [*and*] skins. This gives proof of the im[*men*]se loss of cattle in Indian Territo[*ry*] this winter.

Millet seed at J. A. Patterson & Co's.

Board and loding (sic) at Dining.

Sam Peel has been pardoned by [Presid]ent Arthur.

[*_.*] F. Hutchinson, of Gibson Station, [*___*]tered here Sunday.

J. H. Thompson, of Tahlequah, was [*in*] the city last week.

Oysters 65 cents per can at the Din[*ing*] Hall.

Mr. H. Erwin came in from Tahle[*quah*] on Saturday.

Apples, oranges and bananas at the [Din]ing Hall.

Wm. Harvison and Johnnie were in [from] the west.

Best table in town set at the Dining [Hall.]

[J]no. Burt, of Okmulgee, was a visi[*tor in*] or city Saturday.

[R]egular meals 25 cents at the Dining [Hall.]

[L]egus Perryman was attending to [busi]ness in town Monday.

[R]obt. Ross, one of Tahlequah's citi[*zens*] was in the city on Saturday last.

New boarders can find good rooms [at the] Dining Hall.

[Dr.] D. N. Robb, of Atoka, was visit[*ing his*] brother at this place on Monday.

[Jn]o. Robinson, of Okmulgee, was [list]ed at the Mitchell House, Sun[*day*].

[A c]ar load of cow ponies came in [from T]exas on Monday evening for Capt. [Severs?]

[O. H.] P. Brewer, a citizen of Locust [Grove,] Cherokee Nation, was in town [*___*].

[*___*] N. B. Moore has been visiting [with] Mrs. Jas. Elliott at Oswego, [Kans.]

[Mr.] Waite, the well known cattle [buyer of] Pauls Valley, was in St. Louis [*___*].

[*___*]les wanting Sunday dinners will [*___*]e notice the day before at the [Dining] Hall.

[*___*] T. Lyons, the Ft. Gibson attor[*ney was on*] this side of the Arkansas a short [time last] week.

[*___*]olander has moved to the new [*___*] by Mr. Meaghers opposite O. [*___*]s place.

[Robt.] L. Owen came in from Missou[*ri*] and made a short stay here [on hi]s way to Vinita.

[Those] wanting a harness for spring [will] call on O. E. Hindes and see [*___*]ent he has for sale cheap.

[C. W.] Turner took a run to St. Louis [*___*] last. Mrs. Turner visited [*___*]he same time at Eufaula.

[*___*]g of stockmen to arrange for [*___*], south of the Cherokee [*___*]n called to meet on March [*___*].

[*___*]a Fair will be held on the [*___*] 19th of September and not [*___*]00 to be devoted to pre[*___*].

[*___*]town, a "leader among the [*___*] Seminole Nation, passed [through Musk]ogee last week on his way [home.]

[F]on't forget to plant for big [*___*]s year as a fair will be [*___*]ce and a big showing is [*___*].

[*___*] Ash, an earnest Sunday [*___*] has been spending some [*___*]itory and was at Musko[*gee* *___*].

Mr. H. Gibbs, an old merchant at the Sac and Fox Agency, was registered at the Mitchell on Wednesday last while on his way north.

Strayed—A three year old black mare pony, brand W. T. A reward will be paid for her return by W. W. Millar, Muskogee.

Miss Jennie Lamonte, of Parsons, Kansas, and Miss Rose Brinks, of Pennsylvania, were the guests of Mrs. M. P. Roberts, Monday night.

The Chiefs of Hickory Grond (sic) and Tuckabache towns were guests of the Dining Hall Wednesday.

A young man from Atoka who lost an arm by a saw mill, collected \$10 in town yesterday to help him on his way to a good doctor at St. Louis.

Charles Clinton returned from a trip south to Abilene and other Texas points where he had been buying cattle. He succeeded in getting a good number.

Mr. McCombs of the law firm of McCombs, McIntosh & Co., who practice in the Creek Nation and have their card in the Journal was in town last week.

A convention of the prominent men of the Creek Nation will be held to-day, Thursday, at Okmulgee, to hear the report of the returned Creek delegates.

O. E. Hindes has his shop full of saddles, bridles, whips, spurs, etc., and is all ready for the spring round up, Cattle men should go to him for their outfits.

Mr. Thomas Adams has ordered new furniture from St. Louis for his lodging house. Each room will be carpeted and neatly furnished. The house is finished,

Mr. and Mrs. Gamble, our operator and wife have gone to housekeeping just south of Col. Robinsons. The Journal family are glad to have them for neighbors.

Onion sets, top sets, under sets, shellots, at J. A. Patterson & Co's. They have garden seeds of all kinds warranted to be reliable and gardeners should patronize them.

Prof. A. C. Bacone came down from Tahlequah last week on business connected with the Indian University. The plans have been submitted to different parties for figures.

A private letter from Econtuchka, Seminole Nations, says cattle are dying fast in that country and that losses will be very heavy. A good many ponies are being lost.

We received a communication from a Cherokee at Alluwee, I. T., but it is hardly suitable for our columns. We would be very glad however to get items of news from the same party.

J. S. Davis, of Leroy, Kansas, called Tuesday. He has been visiting his son, G. R. Davis, the merchant at Wetumka, and carries home a good impression of the Territory.

Mrs. C. F. Howell left Muskogee on Wednesday morning last, to meet her husband at Deming, N. M., when their home will be in the future. Mrs. Howell has many friends here all whom regretted that fortune takes her so far away.

A. B. Cass is still selling that patent flour sent to him by mistake and the housewives are delighted it makes such nice white bread. You had better get two or three sacks, enough to keep you supplied for awhile before it is all gone.

J. A. Patterson & Co. have received the first installment of their spring day goods and have everything a buyer could wish. They always carry a large stock to select from and their large capital enables them to give bottom prices.

Col. Robinson brought in 280 hogs Saturday, brought to the vicinity of Wetumka and Okmulgee, 97 of them being corn fed by Capt. Severs. Seventy one head were shipped to St. Louis Sunday evening in charge of W. R. Robinson. One hundred were sold to Mr. Jourdan, of Coffeyville, Kansas, and the balance, about sixty head, will be held to be sold.

E. Laupheimer has bought at this place, this winter, 45,701 pounds of cow hides, or 2500 by count. J.

Sondheimer has purchased 3,500 making about 6000 in all up to date. This from one town supports our statement of heavy losses in the Creek Nation, and in all other towns, though we have no figures, yet we know that immense quantities of hides have been brought in.

Last Saturday night as a well known Muskogee merchant entered his house, after his work for the week, his wife uttered a succession of piercing shrieks. He rushed to learn the trouble and found they were shrieks of gladness at seeing one of J. Brasels photographs at seeing one in his pocket. Any wife would be pleased to get such a picture of her husband.

Strayed—The editorial pony took his usual spring departure on Thursday the 7th. Any one finding him will hold him and notify us. Black; branded W on left shoulder, dim brand, little white on left hind foot, collar marks. Old range in the vicinity of Eufaula.

L. H. & R. M. Roberts, Muskogee, I. T.

The Journal was pleased to receive a call Wednesday from W. F. Rasmus, of Tahlequah.

Bills have been introduced granting the right of way to the St. Louis and Baxter Springs railway and the St. St. Joseph and Rio Grande.

Stolen—A gray horse, 14 hands high, Spanish brand resembling J F connected. Saddle and harness marks, lump on left pastern joint. Liberal reward for animal or information. T. F. Adams', Muskogee.

--ooOoo—

A Small Wreck.

Sunday morning the south bound passenger struck a broken rail this side of Vinita. The engine, postal and baggage cars passed over all right, but the rear passenger car and sleeper both went off, but fortunately they did not turn over. The trucks of both cars were badly broken, so much so that they were left at this place and the train proceeded without them. They were at this place Sunday, the broken pieces replaced and they were taken on south by the evening train, Fortunately, no one was injured.--ooOoo—

A Sad Accident.

One of the saddest accidents that we have had to write for some time occurred Friday, about eight miles north [of] Tahlequah. Mr. Berry on his way to Webber Falls, became tired of riding and got out with his little child in his arms, a mere baby, to walk beside the wagon leaving his wife to drive the team. By a jolt of the vehicle a shot gun lying inside was discharged, the contents striking the baby in the thigh terribly mutilating it. It lived however until some time after reaching Tahlequah, to which point they turned back. The shock seemed to paralyze the little one's feelings for it suffered none, though fully conscious. As it was lying on the bed it reached out and took up a little doll, smiled, and put it down to its lips as if to kiss it, and then with a long sigh passed peacefully to rest.

--ooOoo—

Dead on the Prairie.

Movers coming in from the south, Saturday evening, reported passing the corpse of a man lying on the prairie about seven miles south of town. They were too much scared to bring in the body, On hearing of it Sunday morning, Policeman Henry Sixkiller, Simp Bennett and several others went down to investigate. They found the body 100 yards east of the switch at Hall's Summit. He was about 35 years of age, dressed in a rough pair of boots, a pair of jean pants, a blue checkered shirt and had part of an old red quilt wrapped around him. The body had evidently been lying some days for on picking it up green grass had started under it. Simp Bennett though he recognized him as a tramp seen around the depot just before the storm last week and it is supposed he was stealing his way south and either got off or was put off at the switch and wandered around until he froze or was starved to death. He was much shrunken and emaciated. The body was brought to this place and was buried Monday by the police.

Later—Doc. Casey, of Savanna, identified the man as having worked at that place for some time. He was subject to fits and it is supposed died while in one[.] When he left there he had on a coat and in the pocket was a bundle of papers. He has a brother somewhere north who is well fixed and it is thought his identity can easily established.

Concluded on Page 140

--ooOoo—

Notes from Gibson Station.

Gibson Station.

March 10, 1884.

Editor Indian Journal:

The sound of the anvil can be heard in our midst.

Wm. O. Harrell returned Monday.

Messrs Bill Brewer and Dick Sutherlin came to town the first of the week.

Mr. Paris came in town Tuesday with a thousand pounds of fish, caught out of Grand river.

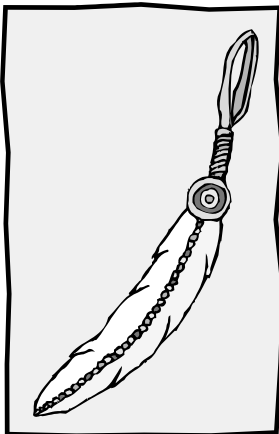
Another store or two would do a good business here. Why don't some of our capitalists try it?

Miss Belle West left for Fishertown several days ago, where she expects to attend school.

Put green specks on your cattle and feed them on shavings, that might keep them from starving till grass comes.

The boys passed last Sabbath evening trying to ride a Bronco. They had better been studying the New Testament.

Transcribed and submitted by Wally Waits



NOTHING BUT A SHIRT WHAT INDIANS USED TO WEAR

Alabama Chupco Tells of Early Day Hardships Among the Creek Indians.

Summoned as a witness before the grand jury, Alabama Chupco, a typical full blood Creek Indian renowned in the tribe as a prophet and medicine man, came to Muskogee yesterday from his home in the woods four miles east of Wetumka.

Chupco has not been in Muskogee before since he was discharged from the regular army at Fort Gibson at the close of the Civil war.

There was no Muskogee then," the old Indian said. "It was called McIntosh Town." A colony of Indian soldiers who were discharged from the army settled with their families at a little place just across the Arkansas river from McIntosh Town. The Indians then called the Arkansas the Little Red River. The Indians talk of poverty now," the old Indian said. "Then I saw poverty. The Indian families, on the Little Red River were so poor that the young men had only long shirts made of white domestic and dyed brown with walnut juice to wear. Let me tell you that we are living in times of plenty these days, compared with those old times."

Chupco talked through an interpreter. The old Indian is well preserved and active for his age and is a man of much importance in the affairs of the full bloods.

Submitted by Nancy Calhoun

THE JAIL GOES UP IN SMOKE

Muskogee Has Another Fire—Uncle Sam's Boarding House in Ruins.

Tuesday afternoon about 4 o'clock the alarm of fire was given and it was soon discovered that the United States jail, located just back of the court house, was on fire. The fire started in cell No. 6 and as some six or eight prisoners were in this cell there seems but little doubt but that the building was deliberately set on fire by some of them and the fact that no efforts were put forth by them to either check the flames nor give the alarm until the destruction of the building was assured, leads additional proof to the theory.

As soon as the fire was located all the prisoners in the jail and there were some sixty or more of them, were marched into the court building by the officers and deputies and a guard placed over them to insure their safe keeping. The flames spread rapidly and it was apparent to those who first appeared on the scene that the jail could not be saved nor the small buildings around the jail. The attention of the crowd was called to the neighboring buildings. The Wellington House, located on the lot south of the jail, was saved only after a desperate effort as were also the buildings west of the jail. The heroic efforts of our citizens in defending against the flames the surrounding property is worthy of great commendation.

The jail building was constructed of heavy timber and iron railings, windows and doors. It was a two story building containing six large rooms and surrounded by a high plank wall. The building was the property of P. Porter & Co., and was lessed (sic) by them in conjunction with the Court house to the United States. There was no insurance on the building or contents. The loss will amount to about \$1500.

The prisoners who were in the jail at the time of the burning of the building were transferred to the court room and temporary quarters for their accommodation fixed up. The excellent order in which the prisoners, many of whom doubtless would have grasped any chance to escape, were handled in the crisis, shows that Jailer Hisey knows what he is about under all circumstances. A new jail will be erected at once.

--ooOOoo--

In our report of the burning of the jail in this city on Tuesday last we heaped a good deal of praise on Jailer Hisey for the excellent manner in which he corralled the prisoners and marched them to a place of security. The fact of the matter is Jailer Hisey was sick in bed at the time and while he is a man who in such a crisis would do exactly the right thing in this instance the right thing was done by another, namely, Mr. Chambers Adams, one of Marshal Needles' efficient deputies. The boys who were present say that Col. Adams did the heavy work and did it in a hurry and to him should be accorded the praise.

Muskogee Phoenix, 23 Feb 1893, page 5, col. 2.

Muskogee Phoenix, 2 Mar 1893, page 5, col. 1. The jail was built after 1886 as it does not appear on the Sanborn Fire Insurance map of that year.

Transcribed and submitted by Wally Waits



HEIRLOOMS FROM OUR FAMILY

Do you like to cook? Do you know some who does and would love to receive a new cookbook as a gift? Well, the Muskogee County Genealogical Society has just the thing for you, or your friend.

We have arranged for the publication of the ***“Heirlooms From Our Family”*** cookbook of recipes that have been submitted by our members. It is a total of 164 pages with an index for easily locating a particular type of recipe you might need.

The cost of each cookbook is a mere \$11.00 and you may purchase it at any of the MCGS monthly meetings, *mail order or from the Muskogee County Genealogical Society, 801 W. Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK 74401.

*Please add \$3.00 per book for shipping and handling

Muskogee County Genealogical & Historical Society ***12 Scenes Per Box*** ***\$10.00***



In an effort to preserve the history of our town, the Muskogee County Genealogical Society has created the first in a line of note cards depicting early Muskogee. There will be other offers, but this premier set depicts some the city's earliest scenes and buildings. You may purchase the note cards for \$10.00 per box by mail*, at any of the MCGS monthly meetings or the Muskogee Public Library, 801 W. Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK 74401.

*Please add \$3.00 per box for shipping and handling

Muskogee County Genealogical Society

801 W. Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK 74401

Application for Membership

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email Address: _____

_____ 1 Year Membership with a Quarterly Subscription \$21.00

_____ 1 Year Membership without a Quarterly Subscription \$11.00

Membership shall begin with payment of dues and shall continue for the calendar year thereafter.

Make check payable to: MUSKOGEE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY or MCGS.

Quarterly back issues are available at \$5.00 each. Queries are free to members and \$1.00 for non-members. Articles and contributions for the quarterly should be sent to the above mailing address.

MCGS meetings are held on the 4th **Thursday of each month at 7:00 p. m.** There is also a “How-to” session at 6:00 p. m. which focuses on instructions for genealogy research.

SURNAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING: _____

I hereby release this information for a surname exchange or publication by the MCGS.

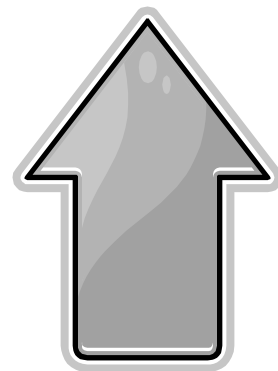
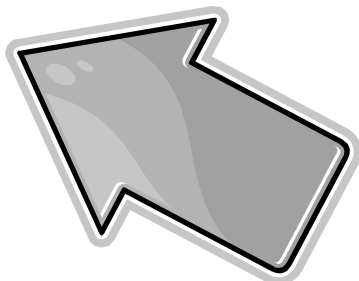
Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit an ancestor chart with your application.

EASY SHOPPING

COOKBOOK and/or

NOTE CARDS?



*GIVE A FRIEND AN MCGS
MEMBERSHIP*

**Muskogee County Genealogical
& Historical Society**
801 W. Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK 74401

Return Service Requested

**Quarterly Publication
October— December 2008**



MCGS Quarterly

Publication Information

Editorial Policy: 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 & Historical 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.

Quarterly Copies: The MCGS Quarterly is published four times a year: Mar, Jun, Sep and Dec. Back issues of the Quarterly are available for \$5 each plus \$1.50 for postage.

BOOKS

MCGS 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://www.okgenweb.org/~mcgs/>
or write or email us for a list.

Thanks to all the members who contributed to this Issue:

Nancy Calhoun • Barbara Downs

Jere Harris • Nancy Lasater • Linda Stout

Sue Tolbert • Wally Waits

Do you have a history, family tree, story or picture to share?

See page 74 for instructions to submit your articles.