

Muskogee County Genealogical Society Quarterly

Volume 27 Issue 3

July—September 2010



School Days...school days ...Good Old Golden Rule Days



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Muskogee Area Education

There are two primary public school districts in the city of Muskogee: Muskogee Public Schools, which include the vast majority of the city limits and a large portion of Muskogee County, and Hilldale Public Schools, which covers a small southern portion of the city limits and some parts of the County must south of Muskogee. Additional smaller school districts serve the smaller communities of Muskogee County.

Muskogee is home to four institutions of higher education: the public four-year Northeastern State University, the public two-year Connors State College, the public Indian Capital Technology Center and the private four-year Bacone College, which is the oldest college in the state of Oklahoma.

County School Districts

- Ataloa Lodge Museum
- Honor Heights Park
- Five Civilized Tribes Museum
- USS Batfish (SS-310)
- Three Rivers Museum
- The Castle of Muskogee
- Azalea Festival
- Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame
- Spaulding Park
- farmes market
- Port of Muskogee
- Muskogee Public Library
- Civic Center
- Douglas Maxey Park

Other Places to Learn

- Boynton-Moton
- Braggs
- Fort Gibson
- Haskell
- Hilldale
- Muskogee
- Oktaha
- Porum
- Wainwright
- Warner
- Webbers Falls

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 electronic version (.pdf) sent to them via email.

Publications & Research 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.

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/>

2010 MCGS Board Officers

Nancy Calhoun, President
Sue Tolbert, Vice President
Linda Stout, Secretary
Barbara Downs, Treasurer

Members at Large

Tim & Jere Harris, Publications
Mary Downing, Library & Research
Randy Painter, Publicity
Stacy Blundell, Workshops, Education
Nancy Lasater, Editor
Nancy Calhoun, Library Liaison
Sue Tolbert, Three Rivers Liaison

And

Membership Information

On Page 108

Check out the website for Lots of New Things Going On

Muskogee County Genealogical Society

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

Society Blog: <http://muskogeecountygenealogicalsociety.blogspot.com/>

Please visit these Muskogee County Websites

[Muskogee County-UsGenWeb](#)
[Muskogee County History and Genealogy](#)
[Three Rivers Museum](#)
[Five Civilized Tribes Museum](#)
[USS Batfish](#)
[Boynton Historical Society](#)

Webmaster: Sue Tolbert

Contributors this Issue

Marjorie Barton
Nancy Calhoun
Barbara Downs
Jere Harris
Nancy Lasater
Linda Stout
Sue Tolbert

Would love to add your name to here. Please share your family memories or your ancestor charts.

Letter from our Society President, September 2010

Dear Society Members,

I'm back from the **Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference** held in Knoxville. I have the CD with the syllabus of the presentations, plus a printed copy. As usual, you're all welcome to look at them. I also picked up other resources while there and they'll be available.

The same is available for the **National Genealogical Society Conference** in the States held in April in Salt Lake City, plus past years. I received a film of the wonderful evening in Salt Lake City held in celebration of family history. It featured stories, music and special presentations. We may want to view it as a group.

I also have two recorded lectures by **Mark Lowe**. They're nice to listen to while driving.

The society's next meeting will be Thursday, September 23, upstairs at the library. The board will meet on Monday, September 20.

Tulsa City-County Library is offering one of their **free workshops** on Saturday, September 18, at Hardesty Library. National speaker Paula Stewart Warren will be the speaker. Her topics will be "WPA Records," "Genealogical Goldmine: The Records of old settlers organizations," "Organizing Your Genealogical Material," and "Railroad Records."

In lieu of the fall workshop, members are planning to attend the **Heritage Day** being held at the **Oklahoma History Center** in Oklahoma City. The event will include lots of booths available browsing, presentations, researching in the library, and a big book sale. Let us know if you want to car pool.

The library will be holding special events during **Family History Month**.

Other items of interest may include:

The library is holding a **Third Thursday Book Club**. It will be held on the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. through April, except December. Brochures are available. You don't have to attend every session or read every book.

Oklahoma Books and Authors Showcase will be held October 8 and 9 in Tulsa. A dinner on Friday night, August 8, will benefit the Oklahoma Historical Society Research Library. It is \$30.00. But the showcase featuring Oklahoma authors and books is free for readers and browsers from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the Embassy Ballroom, 3332 S 79th E. Avenue. Information is available in Genealogy and Local History.

Muskogee Public Library and Muskogee Area Literacy Council is holding the 2nd Annual **Writing Contest for Adults** (18 and over). It begins September 1 and writings are due September 16. Rule and guideline sheets are available at the library.

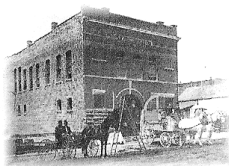
Nancy Calhoun

Muskogee Public Library
801 W. Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK 74401
918-682-6657
e-mail: history@eok.lib.ok.us
web: www.eok.lib.ok.us

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



Federal Jail



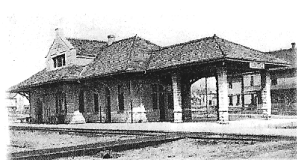
Fire Department



Fite Rowsey Building



W. H. New Livery



Frisco Depot



M K & T Depot



Second & Broadway



Second Street Looking North



Second Street Looking South



Severs Block



Spaulding Cotton Mill



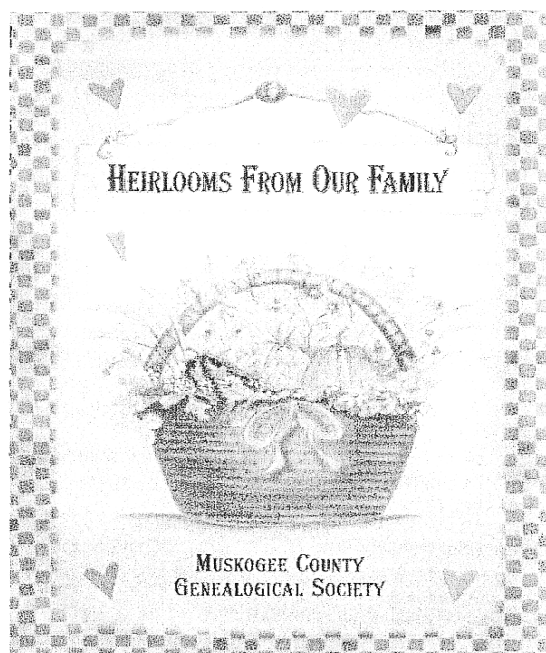
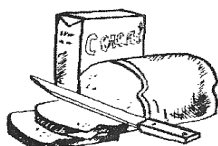
West Okmulgee From Main

Order from:
Muskogee County Genealogical Society
c/o Muskogee Public Library
801 W. Okmulgee
Muskogee, OK 74401

Our MCGS Cookbook

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.



MUSKOGEE AND NORTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA

INCLUDING THE COUNTIES OF

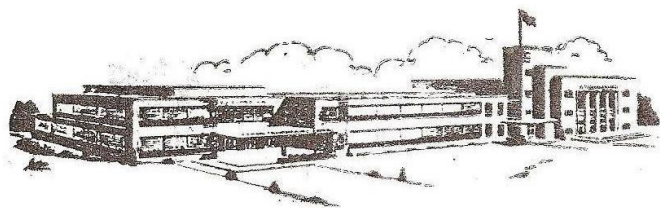
**Muskogee, McIntosh, Wagoner, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Adair, Delaware, Mayes, Rogers, Washington,
Nowata, Craig and Ottawa**

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JOHN DOWNING BENEDICT

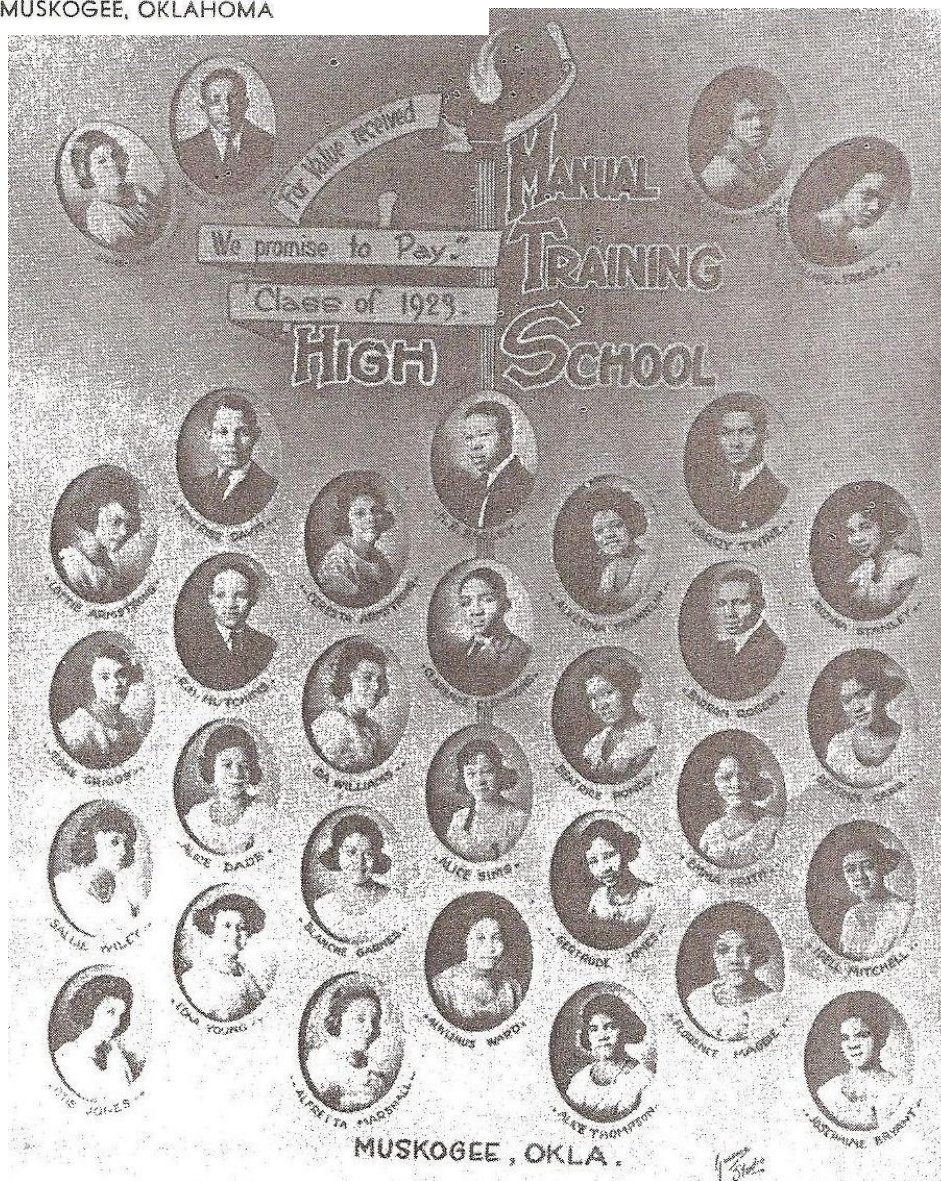
John Downing Benedict was born in Clermont, a suburb of Indianapolis, Indiana, on the 27th of May, 1854, and there began his education in the common schools. Accompanying his parents on their removal to Vermilion county, Illinois, he there worked on a farm during the summer months, while the winter seasons were spent as a student in the Rossville high school. When eighteen years of age he took up the profession of teaching, which he followed through the succeeding five years in the country and village schools. Subsequently he attended the University of Illinois for one year and then began the study of law in Danville, Illinois. In 1881 a vacancy occurred in the office of county superintendent of schools of Vermilion county and his love of educational work prompted him to accept it. He was a pioneer, in the work of grading the rural schools of his state and was a member of the first commission appointed to prepare a uniform course of study for the rural schools of Illinois. This course of study was afterward adopted by several other states, including Kansas and Oklahoma and Indian Territories. After serving as county superintendent of schools for eight years, he was appointed assistant state superintendent of Illinois, with headquarters in Springfield. In this position he was required to write all the official opinions upon questions of school law that arose in the one hundred and two counties of the state, compile the school statistics of the state and conduct meetings of county superintendents in various sections of the state of Illinois for the purpose of explaining the system of grading rural schools. In 1891 his health became impaired from overwork and he was compelled to abandon educational labors for a time. He then returned to his old home at Danville, where for four years he held the position of master in chancery of the circuit court. In 1898 he was asked by the secretary of the interior to undertake the organization of the vast forest reserves of the territories of New Mexico and Arizona, which had just been created by the United States government but which had not yet been surveyed nor organized. While exploring the rugged, mountainous regions of those two territories he encountered many thrilling experiences, but the climate and out-of-door life proved very beneficial to his health. The weird Petrified Forest of Arizona was taken over by the federal government and converted into a National Reserve upon his examination and report. The vast Gila River Forest Reserve of western New Mexico was also created upon his recommendation. While on a trip to Phoenix, Arizona, he received a telegram from Washington, D. C., tendering him the position of superintendent of schools for Indian Territory. He accepted this offer and two weeks later arrived in Muskogee, where he continued in charge of the Indian schools for ten years and where he has since resided. While residing in Illinois Mr. Benedict served the city of Danville as a member of its board of education for five years and was a member of the state board of education of Illinois for six years. Soon after coming to Muskogee he was elected as a member of the city board of education, in which position he served for ten years and in which capacity he assisted in building the first ten school buildings and in formulating the splendid school system of which the citizens of Muskogee are justly proud. When Oklahoma became a state, Governor Haskell appointed Mr. Benedict as a member of the first state board of education and as a member of the first state textbook commission to select the books to be used in the public schools of the state. When, in 1910, the citizens of Muskogee voted to adopt the charter form of government, Mr. Benedict was elected as one of the eight freeholders to write the city charter. Mr. Benedict has also been an active member of several secret societies, being a Master Mason, a past exalted ruler of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and a past grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias. While residing in Illinois he served the state for six years as a member of the state militia, retiring with the rank of captain. Not many men have given as much of their time to the service of the public, without compensation, as has Mr. Benedict.

Transcribed by Barbara Downs



MANUAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL
MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA

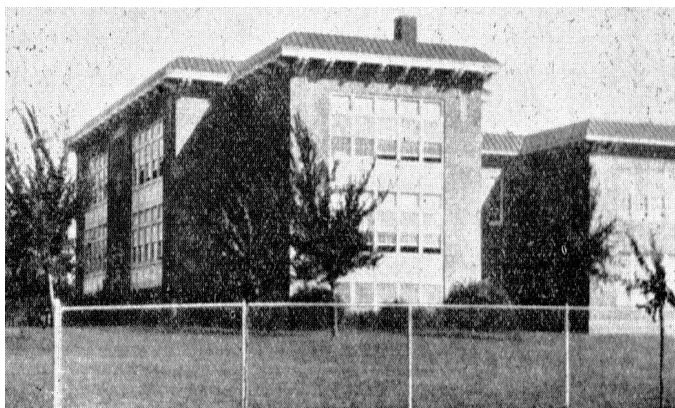
Class of 1923



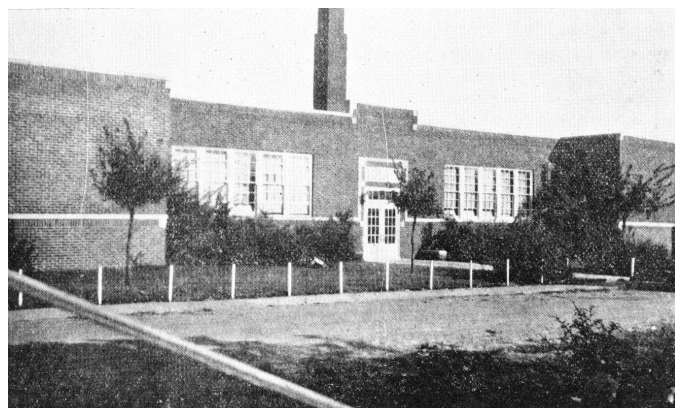
Armstrong, Lottie (Busby)
Arnwine, Ceresta (Thomas)
Bagley, Henderson
Bryant, Josephine (Galloway)
Carr, Beatrice (Calhoun)
Clemons, Clarence
Davis, J. Fentress
Dade, Alice (Minter)
Franklin, Alvernia (Hill)
Frith, Emma
Garner, Blanch (Whittaker)
Griggs, Bessie (Collins)
Harrison, Jesse
Henry, Jane (Douglass)
Hutchins, Roosevelt
Jones, Gertrude (Tolbert)

Jones, Otis
Joseph, Minnie L.
McNamee, Rosetta
Magbie, Florence (Edward)
Marshall, Alfretta (Rouse)
Mitchell, Idell (Brown)
Phillips, Hazel
Ponds, Beatrice
Rogers, Baron D.
Sims, Alice (Onque)
Stanly, Rozina (Dials)
Thompson, Alice (Ward)
Twine, Harry T.
Ward, Aluwishus (Huff)
Wiley, Sallie
Williams, Ida (Roberts)
Young, Edna (Churchill)

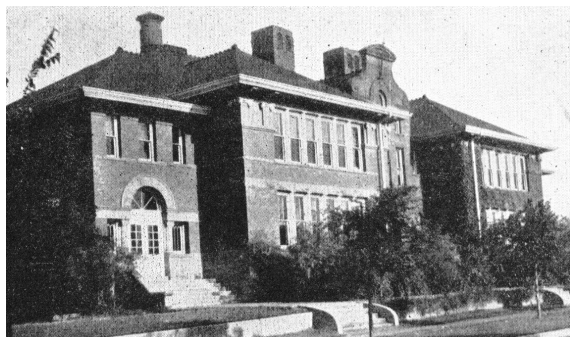
MUSKOGEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AS THEY WERE 1898-1919



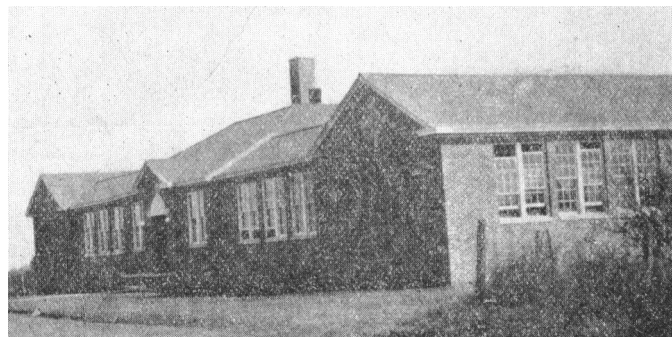
LONGFELLOW



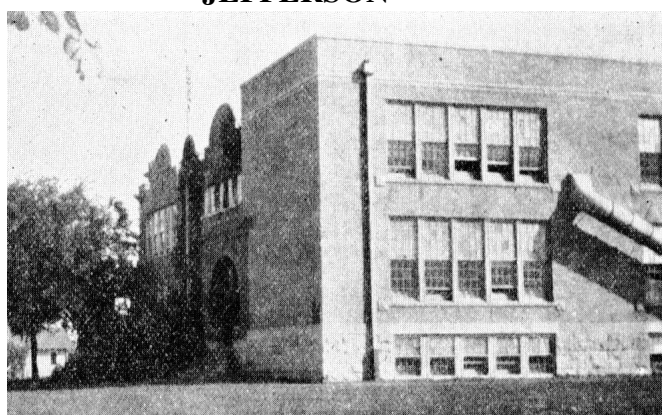
EDISON



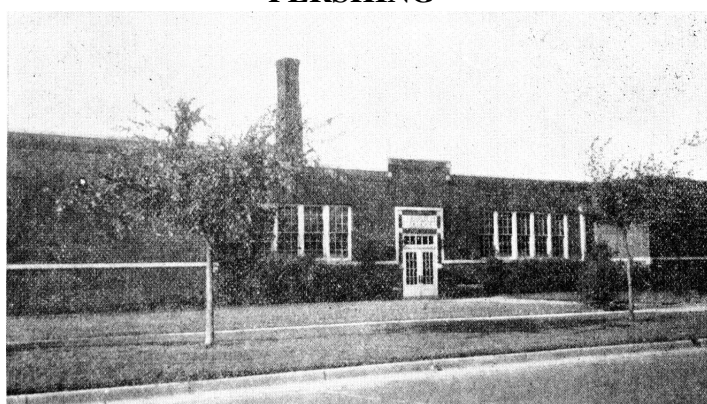
JEFFERSON



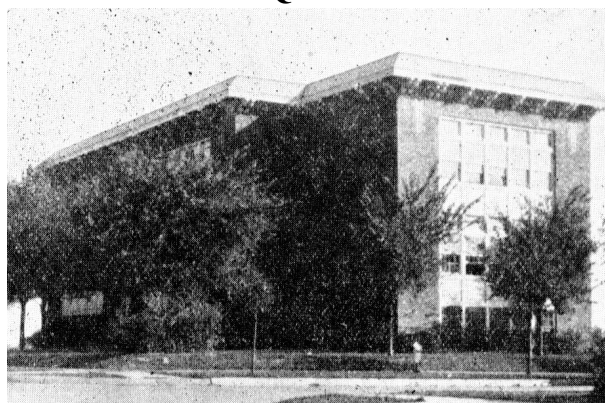
PERSHING



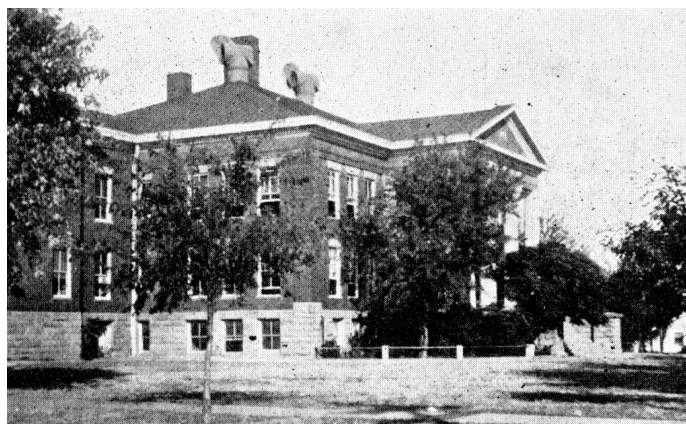
SEQUOYAH



HOUSTON



WHITTIER



WASHINGTON

Images on this page are reproduced from an original publication: "Three Decades in Muskogee City Schools, September 1898– May 1929." Source located at the Muskogee Public Library, History and Genealogy Department.



1930

THE FLOUR SACK

BY COLLEEN B. HUBERT

**IN THAT LONG AGO TIME WHEN THINGS WERE SAVED,
WHEN ROADS WERE GRAVELED AND BARRELS WERE STAVED,
WHEN WORN-OUT CLOTHING WAS USED AS RAGS,
AND THERE WERE NO PLASTIC WRAP OR BAGS,
AND THE WELL AND THE PUMP WERE WAY OUT BACK,
A VERSITILE ITEM, WAS THE FLOUR SACK.**

**PILLSBURY'S BEST, MOTHER'S AND GOLD MEDAL, TOO
STAMPED THEIR NAMES PROUDLY IN PURPLE AND BLUE.**

**THE STRING SEWN ON TOP WAS PULLED AND KEPT;
THE FLOUR EMPTIED AND SPILLS WERE SWEEPED.
THE BAG WAS FOLDED AND STORED IN A SACK
THAT DURABLE, PRACTICAL FLOUR SACK.**

THE SACK COULD BE FILLED WITH FEATHERS AND DOWN,
FOR A PILLOW, OR T'WOULD MAKE A NICE SLEEPING GOWN.
IT COULD CARRY A BOOK AND BE A SCHOOL BAG,
OR BECOME A MAIL SACK SLUNG OVER A NAG.
IT MADE A VERY CONVENIENT PACK,
THAT ADAPTABLE, COTTON FLOUR SACK.

BLEACHED AND SEWN, IT WAS DUTIFULLY WORN
AS BIBS, DIAPERS, OR KERCHIEF ADORNED.
IT WAS MADE INTO SKIRTS, BLOUSES AND SLIPS.
AND MOM BRAIDED RUGS FROM ONE HUNDRED STRIPS
SHE MADE RUFFLED CURTAINS FOR THE HOUSE OR SHACK,
FROM THAT HUMBLE BUT TREASURED FLOUR SACK!

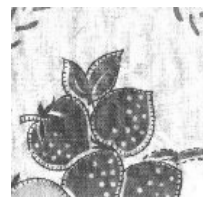
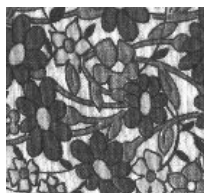
AS A STRAINER FOR MILK OR APPLE JUICE,
TO WAVE MEN IN, IT WAS A VERY GOOD USE,
AS A SLING FOR A SPRAINED WRIST OR A BREAK,
TO HELP MOTHER ROLL UP A JELLY CAKE,
AS A WINDOW SHADE OR TO STUFF A CRACK,
WE USED A STURDY, COMMON FLOUR SACK!

AS DISH TOWELS, EMBROIDERED OR NOT,
THEY COVERED UP DOUGH, HELPED PASS PANS SO HOT,
TIED UP DISHES FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED,
AND FOR MEN OUT IN THE FIELD TO SEED.
THEY DRIED DISHES FROM PAN, NOT RACK
THAT ABSORBENT, HANDY FLOUR SACK!

WE POLISHED AND CLEANED STOVE AND TABLE,
SCOURED AND SCRUBBED FROM CELLAR TO GABLE,
WE DUSTED THE BUREAU AND OAK BED POST,
MADE COSTUMES FOR OCTOBER (A SCARY GHOST)
AND A PARACHUTE FOR A CAT NAMED JACK.
FROM THAT LOWLY, USEFUL OLD FLOUR SACK!

SO NOW MY FRIENDS, WHEN THEY ASK YOU
AS CURIOUS YOUNGSTERS OFTEN DO,
"BEFORE PLASTIC WRAP, ELMERS GLUE
AND PAPER TOWELS, WHAT DID YOU DO?"
TELL THEM LOUDLY AND WITH PRIDE DON'T LACK,
"GRANDMOTHER HAD THAT WONDERFUL FLOUR SACK!"

ALL THESE GIRLS' DRESSES WERE MADE FROM FLOUR SACKS...



Submitted by Barbara Downs



New Titles in the Grant Foreman Collection 3rd Quarter 2010

Heraldry

Foreign-

Knights of England Vols. 1 & 2 – Wm. A. Shaw, Litt.D.

Kingdom of Prussia-Province of Hanover II-Map Guide to German Parish Registers Vol. 31- Kevan M. Hansen

United States: General

They Went That-Away - Charles Hamlin

History of the United Daughters of the Confederacy 1956-1986

-Mary Barnett Poppenheim

The Last Hurrah of the James-Younger Gang – Robert Barr Smith

On the Back o My Mules – Pat Duggar

The Kimes Gang – Michael Koch

Reminiscences of the Civil War – John B. Gordon

Lights and Shadows in the Itinerant Ministry – E.L. Yeats

Daltons! The Raid on Coffeyville – Robert Barr Smith

Outlaws and Gunfighters of the Old West – Phillip W. Steele

Many Faces of Jesse James – Phillip W. Steele & George Warfel

Pilgrim Migration Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633-Robert Charles Anderson

Social Fabric American Life From 1607 to 1877- John H. Cary

United States: Regional

Art of the Old West—Gilcrease Institute

Nez Perce Exile-The Struggle for Freedom – Larry D. O’Neal

Family Histories—

Family Story of Bonnie and Clyde—Phillip W. Steele

Miz Lucy’s Cookies and Other Links in my Black Family Support System - Eddie Faye Gates

A Family History For Steven Vol. One & Two – Daniel M. Gwin

Elisha Wallen The Longhunter-Carolyn D. Wallin

Arkansas

Marion County Arkansas 1890 – Helen C. Turney-McMindes

Madison Co. Cemeteries Vols. 6-9- Madison Co. Gen. & Hist. Soc.

Georgia-

Georgia A State History – Buddy Sullivan

Missouri-

Divorce Records 1900-1910 Greene County

Divorce Records 1911-1920 Greene County

Abstract of Birth and Death Records- 1883-1890

Index to Greene Co. Stray Records 1833-1913

Index to Hunter’s Licenses 1905-1919

Guide to Missouri Confederate Units, 1861-1865-James E. McGhee

Native American-

The Mystic Warriors of the Plains – Thomas E. Mails

Eyes of the King—Barbara Louise Clouse

Indian Tribes of North America- Josepha Sherman

North Carolina—

Formation of North Carolina Counties—1663-1943—David Leroy Corbitt

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Rough Rider-Billy McGinty’s Own Story—Jim Fullbright

Ghost Towns of Oklahoma – John W. Morris

1970 Manual Training High School- 6th Mammoth Reunion

History of Bethany-96 Years-Bethany Presbyterian Church

Bulletin of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society V.XLII 1993

Tulsa! Biography of the American City – Danney Goble, Ph.D.

Ft. Gibson Middle and High School 2003

Marriage Records of Okmulgee Co. OK 1907-1922

WPA Guide to 1930’s OK

From Oklahoma To Eternity: the Life of Wiley Post and the Winnie Mae—Bob

Burke

Oklahoma Tough-My Father, King of the Tulsa Bootleggers—Ron Padgett

Pioneer Judge-The Life of Robert Lee Williams—Edward E. Dale

What God Hath Blessed – Jimmy B. Wood

Bud & Me The True Adventures of the Abernathy Boys – Alta Abernathy

Oklahoma Curiosities- P.J. Lassek

Celebration-Oklahoma Centennial '07- Dobson Partnership

Marshall County Oklahoma-100 Years of Celebration—Marshall Co. Gen. & History Soc.

Garvin County History—Pauls Valley Historical Soc.

Oklahoma Cowboy Band—Carla Chlouber

Kingfisher and Kingfisher County—Glen V. McIntyre

Woodward County—Ian D. Swart

Aviation in Tulsa and Northeast Oklahoma—Kim Jones

Duncan and Stephens County Oklahoma-Chris Jefferies, Ph.D.

Washita County—Wayne Boothe

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma—Donovin A. Sprague

Ponca City and Kay County Boom Towns—Clyda R. Franks

Kay County's Historic Architecture—Bret A. Carter

Tulsa Where the Streets Were Paved with Gold—Clyda R. Franks

Cimarron Family Legends Vol. 1- 1978 Bob Evans

South Carolina-

Mistresses and Slaves-Plantation Women in South Carolina, 1830-80- Marli F. Weiner

Texas—

Where the Rainbows Wait: the Remarkable Lessons Taught and Learned ...--
Trent Jones

History of Nolan County Texas – V. L. Yeats

History of Fisher County Texas – E.L. Yeats

It Happened in Post Oak- A Slice of Lamar & Red River Co. History—Johnie Lee

Cherokee County History—Cherokee County Historical Comm.

Red River Recollections—Red River County Historical Soc.

Virginia—

Claims presented to the Court of Augusta 1782-1785—VA Gen. Soc.



CITY WILL TOOT UP

**SYSTEM CLUB WILL TURN ON
STEAM AND SET WHISTLES
SCREECHING.**

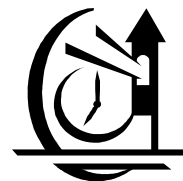


Are you going to join the System club? If you are, listen for the whistles to blow.

Hereafter at 7 o'clock in the morning, at high noon and at 7 o'clock in the evening, every whistle in Muskogee will give a modest but healthy blow.

These whistles will be the signals for the members of the System club to get busy. Don't sit down a minute after the whistle blows in the morning. At noon eat your lunch, but get busy as soon after as possible and quit work when it blows at six in the evening. That is the program if you intend to abide by the rules.

Secretary R. D. Sangster of the Commercial club is the originator and founder of the System club. He will today request the various institutions in the city having whistles to turn them loose at the hours mentioned. There are also other reasons for the plan, but these have not been divulged yet. Anyway the whistles will blow.



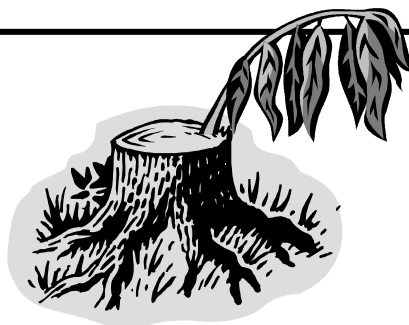
MDP October 1908, Pg 1,
Submitted by Nancy Lasater



TREE TRIMMERS BEWARE

**You may be lucky, have a tree that is full.
You may have a tree that is bare.
But if you find leaves you are likely to pull,
Remember to prune them with care.
For that limb today you are so ready to cull,
Might be one you can never repair.**

Nancy Lasater



ELM GROVE SCHOOL

My husband, Jay, was born and raised in Muskogee County. These are his recollections from elementary school.

His family was from the Elm Grove and McLain areas of Muskogee County, southeast of Muskogee. When he was ready for school, however, they were living in Muskogee and he started out at the old Franklin Elementary school. His best early memory is of having a blanket or rug rolled up under his desk to take a nap on every day. He attended school there only a couple of years before the family moved back to Elm Grove.

The rock Elm Grove school building was built by the WPA in 1939. It housed students in grades 1 through 8 who were taught in 2 classrooms, one teacher for each room. Grades 1 through 4 were in a white wooden building at the back of the property that also housed the lunch room. Grades 5 through 8 were in the main stone building that included a large room with a stage. He remembers some kind of red granular cleaner being spread over the wood floors help sweep up all the dirt. Students were expected to help clean up including taking the erasers outside to shake the excess chalk off. This was accomplished by banging the erasers on the top of the cellar. The rooms were heated with coal stoves until propane was finally installed. Jay's aunt would be there early in the morning on cold days to fire up the stoves. When Jay first started school at Elm Grove the restroom facilities were outhouses. Sometime after that the old coal house was converted to bathrooms.

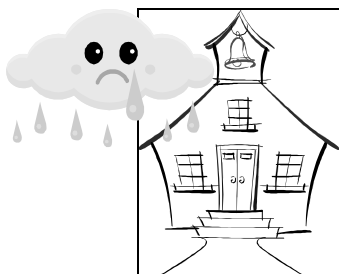
Opal Sallee and Ella Goff cooked for the students at different times. Jay learned to eat spinach when Mrs. Goff cooked and ate way too many of her peanut butter cookies. The cooks used whatever commodities were available at the time.

Recess was a highlight of the day. If it had rained and area ponds overflowed, some of the kids would take a little extra time to noodle a fish. Or they might take off for a hike down the bluff toward the Arkansas River and be late coming back.

There was a softball diamond and basketball hoops set up for recreation. Brother Walkup and other pastors of the Elm Grove Assembly of God Church would help with softball practice and load everyone up in a 2 ton truck borrowed from an area farmer to take them to ballgames. They played against Brushy Mountain, Keefeton, Sequoyah, McLain and Mountain Grove schools. He also remembers playing in his first basketball tournament in Briartown. It was the first time they had played on an actual hardwood floor. It was pretty exciting, even if they did lose.

The Elm Grove school wasn't only used for education. It was a community gathering place and storm shelter. Jay remembers everyone being there when the weather was bad. The ladies would go to the cellar while the men stood around outside and the kids ran all over the place. Christmas was a special time of year. They practiced and practiced for the annual Christmas play. A pie auction was held before the holiday to raise money for candy, fruit and gifts for the kids. The pies could get quite expensive in the good natured bidding wars. The proceeds were taken to a wholesaler in town to buy candy and fruit by the pound so everyone would have some at Christmas. A gift was purchased for every student also, usually from stores like TG&Y and Otasco.

Jay has lots of fond memories of the old school and the friends he made there. In 1961 he graduated from the 8th grade with 3 other students: Paul Sallee, Ronnie McCauley and Eva Crow. They went on to Warner and Oktana schools. The old stone building is still there and is now a residence. The white building and softball diamond are long gone.



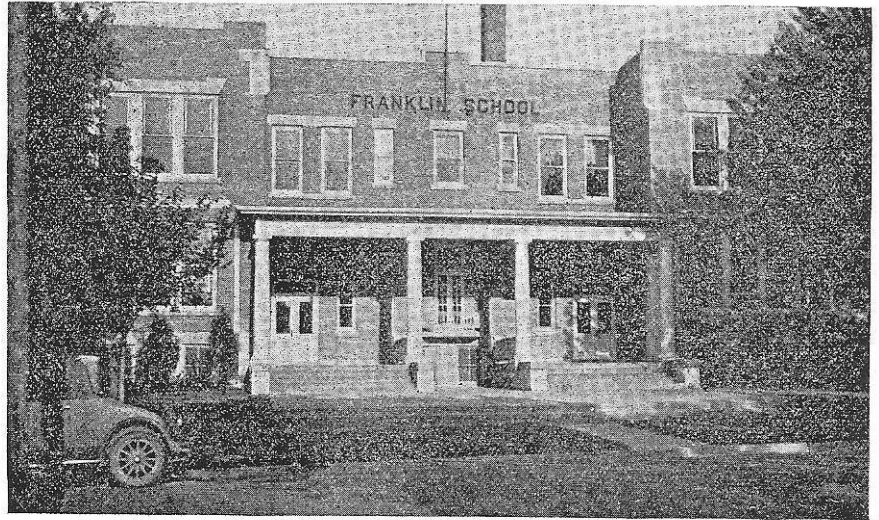
DO YOU HAVE A PICTURE OF ME?
I'M A SAD ELM GROVE SCHOOLHOUSE, YOU SEE
THE MEMORIES ARE THERE, BUT NO PICTURE TO SPARE,
IF YOU HAVE ONE TO SHARE, WOULD YOU PLEASE?

Franklin School

By
Martin Miller

"Be ashamed to catch yourself idle."
—Franklin

As late as 1902 the site of Franklin School on Ninth and Emporia Streets was a bare hill top surrounded on the north and west by a rolling prairie. On the east were a few small houses, and in the distance was the small town that was destined soon to know a boom that was to make Muskogee like a fairy tale in its marvelous and sudden



PRESENT FACULTY

Back row: Mrs. Verne Vance; Etta Maude Lee; Gertrude Rabon
Second row: Melda Haynes; Mrs. Elsie Schiefelbein; Mae D. Smith; Mrs. Hallie D. Morton,
Principal
First row: Corinne Moore; Alleen Joblin; Viola Finch; Addie Bob Bowles



FRANKLIN SCHOOL

By Mary Willis Richard, 6 A

Franklin School is the best in town
We have plenty of trees and shrubs a-
round
We keep our building and yard so
clean
And Franklin School is ever so keen.

We have two fire escapes at Franklin
School,
About these we all obey the rules-
To go down these, it's quite a thrill,
But of course it's for a fire drill.

At Franklin School we all work hard,
In order to get a good report card;
We wish to make our teachers happy
and gay,
By bringing our work up every day.

We learn Arithmetic and we learn to
spell,
History and geography we learn quite
well;
In Art and Music, every day we im-
prove,
And we are taught the value of Health
in Franklin School.

Images on this page are reproduced from an original publication: "Three Decades in Muskogee City Schools, September 1898– May 1929." Source located at the Muskogee Public Library, History and Genealogy Department.

MUSKOGEE DAILY PHOENIX NAVIGATION AND CHEAP POWER EDITION

JULY 4, 1906

Vol. 5 – ten cents per copy Number 271

FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Muskogee is exceptionally well supplied with institutions for the higher education of young men and women. Spaulding Female College, under the direction of the Methodist Church, is one of the leading colleges of this section. Until recently it admitted both sexes, but is now conducted as a school for young ladies exclusively. The faculty are all well selected from among people who have been especially trained in the branches that they are secured to teach in this institution and the curriculum includes all of the courses and elective studies that are offered in the majority of the Universities and Colleges of other states.

The Nazareth Institute is a Catholic institution founded and controlled by the Sisterhood of St. Joseph. The school is full up to the high standard that has been set by Catholic institutions all over the world and has a very fine reputation throughout the southwest. Both boys and girls are admitted and the curriculum includes the work from the sixth grade until the pupil is ready to enter college. The institute is equipped with spacious grounds and commodious recitation rooms. A faculty of exceptional strength and ability has been secured and the training is thorough in all of its branches.

Bacone Indian University is located just three miles from Muskogee. This Institution was founded by the late Prof. Bacone and afterwards taken under the supervision of the Baptist Board of Home Missions, which organization is in control at the present time. It is one of the largest and best equipped institutions of learning in this section of the country and has a large attendance from every part of Indian Territory. A large and especially prepared faculty, most of them college graduates, have been employed and the curriculum includes all of the necessary as well as elective studies of the modern university. The commodious buildings and spacious grounds are located in one of the most picturesque and beautiful tracts of ground in Indian Territory and the school has the untied support of those interested in higher education.

Kendall College is under the direction of the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions. It has seven modern buildings and among the finest grounds in the territory. Military instruction is included for boys, the company being known as the Kendall College Cadet Corps. It is co-educational in form and is highly thought of throughout this section. The faculty, library, equipment throughout are all of the highest standard.

SCHOOLS

Since the days when and gave to the English speaking people the world over freedom of thought, equality and freedom of speech, the school has been the buckler of freedom and the printed knowledge absorbed by its pupils the strongest aid to civil and religious liberty. Knowledge, and yet more knowledge, has been the cry of the individual, the community and the nation, eager to succeed and thriving from ascendancy in all that goes to make Liberty, Equality and Opportunity for the people, the watch word of progress.

Muskogee has seized the advantages presented to her and bids fair to outstrip all her sister cities of the southwest in the number, excellence and enlightenment of her school system.

The school houses of the system are substantial structures, architecturally fine, and built on hygienic principles. They are all brand new and in every way modernly equipped. Every attention has been paid to sanitation and cleanliness, each being under the care of a competent janitor. All of the buildings are high ceiled, well lighted and ventilated with () aisles, black-boards, maps, pictures, etc. and with a most competent corps of teachers that can be procured. The buildings are situated in pleasant grounds with pleasant surrounding and fitted with water, sanitary closets and excellent sewers.

In the school rooms advanced methods, sensible and successful, prevail, and the schools reflect credit on all connected with them, the school board assisting in every way in its power. As a result no city of the size in the southwest boasts of a finer primary and secondary system of education. The courses are thorough, the best systems of the country have been examined and the studies have been arranged to adapt the best thoughts of new education to the solid requirements of the essential subjects. Much care has been taken on the progress of the last few years. This progress is real, not merely a change from something old to something new, but a genuine advance all along the line. It may be summed up briefly thus:

The increased efficiency of the teachers secured by properly conditioned graduation in remuneration and a true understanding of the work of () solutions; by the benefits of moral training and the exchange and debate of ideas in institute, convention and summer training schools. Then in executive ability and management and greatly improved equipment, the first secured by system, the second by the study of individual pupils, and the third by increased interest taken by the directory. The public school system of America is not yet perfect, but it is possibly in advance of that of any other country and is steadily improving. The public school is the most democratic of all American institutions. It is the university of the common people, in which boys and girls, destined to become the voters and mothers of the republic, receive their training for the grave duties and responsibilities of citizenship. It is, therefore, reasonable that public education should be a matter of such deep concern to Muskogee. Nothing is more indicative of the intelligence and advancement of a commonwealth than its interest in public education and the facilities that it has provided for the communicating knowledge to the masses. Measured by this standard Muskogee occupies an enviable position among the leading municipalities of the southwest. **Excerpts transcribed by Barbara Downs]**

Higher Education and Muskogee

Connors State College, also known as CSC, was established in 1908, and is a public college located in Warner, Oklahoma, United States. The main campus at Warner is spread across an area of more than 400 acres. The college also operates Muskogee Downtown Campus and Muskogee Port Campus. The institution offers associate's degrees in several fields of study including arts, science, and applied science. Several certificates of achievements are also offered. These include agricultural equine technology, certificate of mastery (cm) child development, and child development among others. The institution offers distance education programs as well.

CSC has an active athletic life. The athletic department fields various men's and women's sports teams. They compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and participate in sports including basketball, baseball, and softball among others.

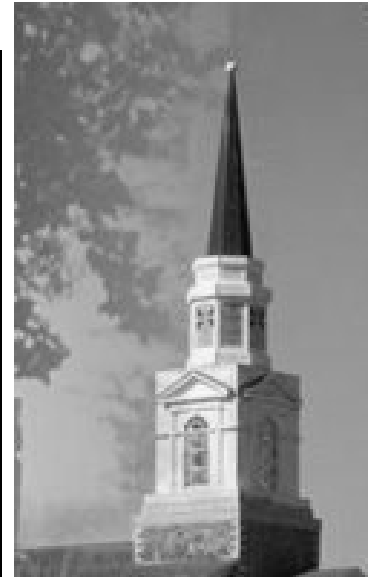




BACONE COLLEGE

Bacone College is Oklahoma's oldest continuing center of higher education and was begun in 1880. With the help of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, Professor Almon C. Bacon, a missionary teacher, started a school in the Cherokee Baptist Mission at Tahlequah, Indian Territory. The only faculty member, Professor Bacon, enrolled three students and began his work. By the end of the first semester, the student body had quadrupled; by the end of the first year, student population was fifty-six and the faculty numbered three.

Seeing the need to expand, an appeal was made to the Creek Tribal Council for 160 acres of land in Muskogee, the "Indian Capital of the World." The land was granted, and in 1885 Indian University was moved to its present site. In 1910, it was renamed Bacon Indian University after its founder and first president and was later changed to Bacon College.



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

GATHER HERE. GO FAR.



Historic old tower still stands as a faithful sentinel watching the growth of Northeastern.

The school was founded on May 7, 1851, as the [Cherokee National Female Seminary](#). On March 6, 1909, the State Legislature of Oklahoma passed an act providing for the creation and location of Northeastern State Normal School at [Tahlequah, Oklahoma](#), and for the purchase from the Cherokee Tribal Government of the building, land, and equipment of the Cherokee Female Seminary. In the 1950s Northeastern emerged as a comprehensive state college, broadening its curriculum at the baccalaureate level to encompass liberal arts subjects and adding a fifth year program designed to prepare master teachers for elementary and secondary schools. In 1974, the [Oklahoma](#) Legislature authorized that the name of the institution be changed from Northeastern State Normal School to Northeastern Oklahoma State University and then again in 1985 to Northeastern State University. Northeastern is the oldest institution of higher learning in the state of Oklahoma as well as one of the oldest institutions of higher learning west of the [Mississippi River](#)

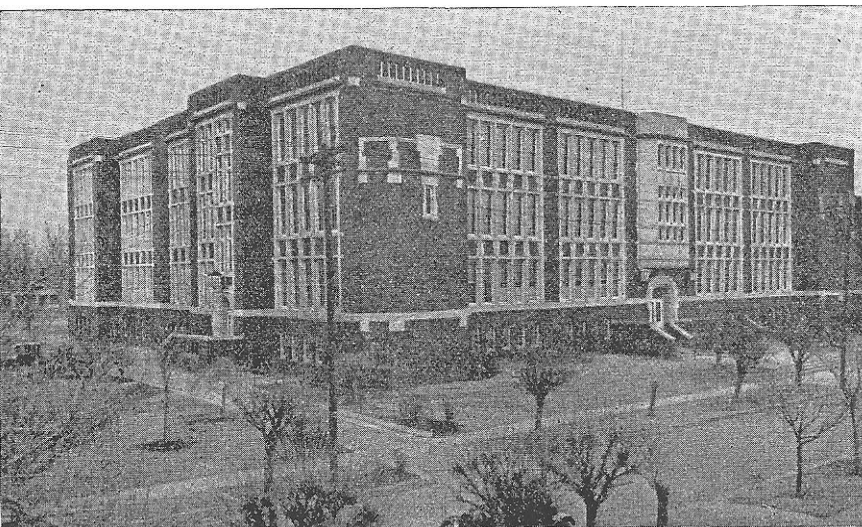
Central High School

By
Virginia Head

"I'll study and get ready and then the chance will come," said Abraham Lincoln; his chance did come; and so quote the students of Central High School, for they know that a chance awaits them also.

Central High School is in the school activity, the center of interest to the whole community. The citizens who have attended and graduated from C. H. S. have a warm spot in their hearts for Central. Others are concerned in its welfare, because it is the seat of higher learning in Muskogee and because from its portals come the generation which will wield the destiny of the tomorrows.

The history of Central High School is particularly interesting, for in the twenty-four years of existence it has had five different homes.



In the fall of 1905 sixteen young people organized themselves into a freshman class and met in one room of the Jefferson school building. Five subjects were taught under the direction of Miss Iduma Hughes and Mr. D. Frank Redd, who was the principal in 1905 and 1906. The classes occupied four rooms on the upper floor of that building when in the fall of 1906 there were over 120 students enrolled.

In 1907 over 200 students enrolled.

There were six teachers with Mr. Ira L. Cain as principal. The high school was moved into the Franklin School building. The large hall of the upper floor was used for assemblies which were held once a week and everyone had to stand up because of the lack of space.

This year was the beginning of several of Central's interesting institutions that are now so familiar that they appear to have existed always. The library was started in a small room above the stairway. To raise the necessary funds, the girls sold candy in down town stores. The first football team with Mr. Cain as coach began. Garland Jackson and Morrison Toomer were on this first team. The first graduation took place this year. The exercises were held in Convention Hall. Some of the graduates in this class were: Nettie Wheeler, Morrison Toomer, Garland Jackson, George Reeves, Lucille Wilkinson, Anna Robinson, Nellie Brewer, and Lee Smith.

Franklin School building was declared unsafe in the spring of 1908 and the Kendall building after Kendall was removed to Tulsa was offered by real estate investors to house the high school students. Mr. Ira L. Cain was principal from 1906 to 1909. Confusion reigned everywhere but in the class room. The wind made the loose iron roof flap. The streets were torn up through the Kendall grounds, and aside from blasting and the shouts to the lazy mules, there was nothing to

PRESENT FACULTY

Back row: Nola Jean Sharp; Nana Ferguson; Bonna Miller; Della Sherman; Mrs. Paul McMaster; Mrs. W. S. Collins; H. G. Rusher; Helen Akley; Mrs. F. G. Edwards; M. C. Watson; B. L. Wertz
Fifth row: L. E. Worley; Grace Mapes; Doris Peterson; Eva Curtis; Clyrene Harrison; Josephine Hagerman; George Harder; J. E. Sullivan; George McKinney; J. W. Gardner
Fourth row: Emily Hunter; Mrs. T. H. Moore; Ethel Henson; Mrs. Albert Jenkins; Faith Way; J. D. Clay; W. V. Martin
Third row: V. H. Mullen; Buena Vista White; Anne Hunter; Henrietta Michael; Emma Boardman; Mary Huffaker; Elizabeth Little; Walter Foster; Ferne Clarke; Theodore Starr; L. F. Stewart; L. M. Speaker, Principal
Second row: Alice Palmer; Sarah Thornton; Elizabeth Bonnell; Goldie Lemon; Rubye Cochran; Mrs. B. L. Wertz; Kate Frank
First row: Bessie Huff; Kenneth Burchard; Edith Curtiss; Byrd Shelton; Parthenia Gregory; Mary White; Nellie Lynn; Maurine Robison; Naomi White; Merle Priddy; Velma Weaver; C. E. Paul; J. T. Huckstep



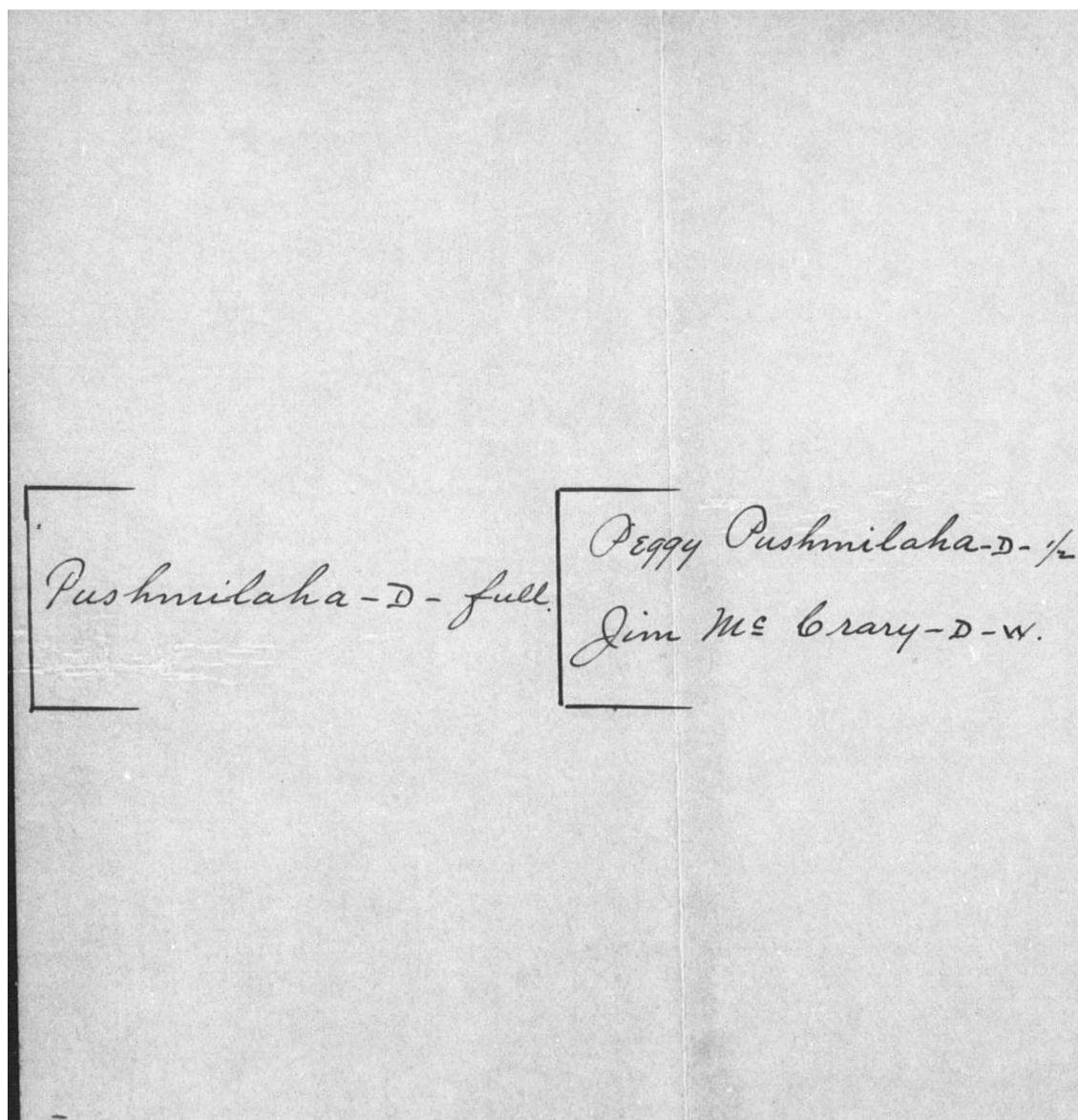
July 13, 2010

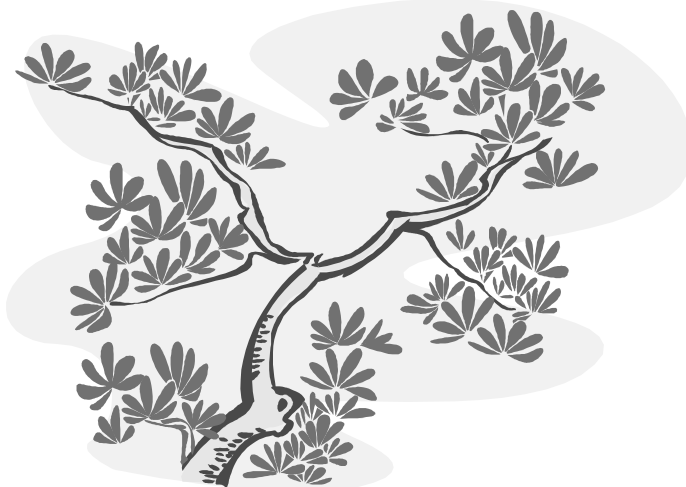
My husband, Robert Lindsey and I, have ancestry ties to the Choctaw Nation that date back to the arrival of the Choctaw Indians who arrived in the West around 1830. My husband's earliest known ancestor was Peggy Pushmataha (M.C.R. #7198). My earliest known ancestor was Rose Colbert (Choc. Fr. #1005). My husband's ancestors once lived as free Indian citizens in Mississippi and were family of the great Choctaw Chief Pushmataha. My family lived with the family of James Logan Colbert, another great member of the Choctaw tribe in Mississippi. Both our families arrived in Indian Territory with the Choctaws who were forced out of their homes and sent West to Indian Territory, around 1830. Though both our families migrated from Mississippi, to Arkansas, to Texas, to Oklahoma, and then to Colorado during the same period, they apparently never met. Though both our grandparents lived in eastern Oklahoma at the turn of the century, and in Muskogee, Oklahoma around 1930, we see no indication that they ever met.

During the 1960's both our families were living in Denver, Colorado in the same neighborhood, and yet still our family did not meet until the late 1980's when my husband and I both were employed with the U.S. Postal Service in Denver.

Both my husband and I are excited to discover our rich heritage that brought our ancestors to Oklahoma and we both love researching their amazing journey.

PEDIGREE CHART
From Choctaw Card
MCR 7198





7315
 Riley Herron - 43- 1/8
 wife
 Matilda Herron - L - N.

7315
 Lizzie Herron 17
 Ada " 15
 Della " 13
 J. V. " 11

7316
 Davis Herron - 37- Don't know
 wife
 Octavia Herron - L - N.

7316
 A. G. Herron 11
 Odessa " 10

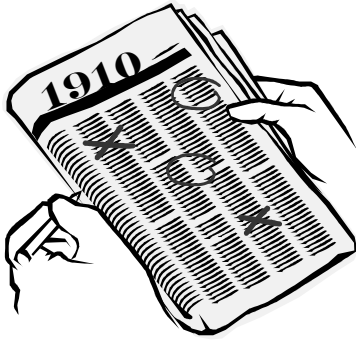
7198
 Fannie Harrison - 70- 1/4
 married
 1st Caswell Herron - D.
 2nd James Harrison - L - N.

7312
 Louisa Herron - 33- 1/8
 married
 1st Wesley Montgomery - N.
 2nd Bill Terrell - L - N.

7312
 Clarence Montgomery 13

Frances Gholstin - D - 1/8
 married
 Lonny Gholstin - N.

7198
 Lonny Gholstin 13



100 YEARS AGO

ITEMS FROM THE MUSKOGEE PHOENIX

BAD DUST STORM

A severe dust storm swept over the city about four o'clock yesterday afternoon and drove pedestrians from the streets. It lasted about thirty minutes and was followed by a light shower. No damage was reported - July 2, 1910 page 1

KATY PLANS BIG IMPROVEMENTS IN MUSKOGEE AT ONCE

Work to be Started on Erection of \$13,000 Freight Depot by August First

DOUBLE CAPACITY OF YARDS

President Allen Working on Details of Plans Calling for Heavy Expenditure at Muskogee.

The Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad Company is planning to appropriate a large sum of money in its holdings in Muskogee. The present yards of the company will be more than doubled in size according to well founded information, until, when completed the division point here will be equal in importance to any on the road.

W. M. Lanhart, local freight agent for the road was free to admit last night that the Katy is preparing to greatly improve the holdings in Muskogee. When press for a detailed statement of the plans he stated that they could not be given out at this time. - article continues, - July3, 1910 page 1

DUPE'S MERCHANTS WITH BAD CHECKS "Laborer" Makes Small Purchases, Presents Spurious Paper, Receives Change.

Several Muskogee Merchants are out small amounts of money and articles of clothing through being duped by forged checks presented by a stranger bearing the

appearance of a laborer. The game he worked yesterday with success was to make small purchases of clothes and tender in payment a check signed by the name of R. E. Reed, a local painter and wall paper man, and made payable to A. Atwood.

The signature was a fair imitation of Mr. Reed's handwriting. The forger is believed to have left town. The Retailers' association is working on the case. - July 7, 1910 page 1

KEEP TO THE RIGHT IS NEW EDICT TO DRIVERS

Police Determined to Prevent Accidents in Crowded Down Town Streets.

Vehicles of all kinds must kept to the "right" on Muskogee's streets according to the latest edict from the police department which is now governed by Chief Charles Kimsey.

Yesterday the chief dispatched patrolmen to vantage points at the principal street crossings in the business district to see that drivers and chauffeurs kept to the proper side of the street. The action follows several narrow escapes with crowds recently in the crowded streets. - July 7, 1910 page 2

WILL GIVE AWAY 500 MAIL BOXES

W. L. Tull Investment Co. to Supply Local Home Owners.

Five thousand enameled mail boxes will be given away to the home owners of Muskogee on the 20th of this month by the W. L. Tull Investment company. A thousand of the boxes are now piled in the company's window on Third street.

A new postal ruling goes into effect the first of next month. No mail will be left at any house where a mail box is not displayed where it can be easily seen. The postal authorities declare that the time taken by a mail man in ringing the bell and waiting for someone to come to the door is sufficient to permit another delivery.

No box will be given to anyone who is not a home owner. His name must either appear in the city directory or he must prove to the satisfaction of the company that he possesses a residence. Names are now being taken of those to whom the boxes will be given - July 10, 1910 page 6

[Mail box story on date 6 July 10, 1910]

SOME SUCCESSFUL RECIPES

Berries in Boiled Custard

Beat a whole egg for five minutes, add a very small quantity of salt, and sweeten to taste. Heat a small cup of milk till a coating is formed. Pour gradually together off the stove, and stir in a bowl of some sort to cook., and then transfer to the ice box to become very cold. Serve the custard poured over blackberries and huckleberries combined.

Iced Cucumbers.

Sliced cucumbers are greatly improved and a certain unhealthful quality extracted if they are covered for some time with shaved ice, or, of course, ice in any form. August 17, 1910 page 6

INDIAN SCHOOLS BEING GREATLY IMPROVED

Good progress is being made in the work of repairs at the various educational Institutions of the Five Civilized tribes in preparation for the opening of the schools in September, John H. Brown, supervisor of Indian Schools, has started on a tour of inspection of the Choctaw and Chickasaw school, accompanied by Warren Butz, and attaché of the office. August 10, 1910 page 10

NEW POLICE UNIFORMS TO BE DONNED NEXT WEEK

Spick and span new uniforms are expected to arrive at the police headquarters either today or tomorrow, and Chief Kimsey promises to place his squad on dress parade on Monday morning. Whether the coppers will wear carnations in their buttonholes on that day or not has not been fully decided. August 12, 1910 page 1

FASHION HINTS

Blue reigns supreme.
Pongee Petticoats are new.
Tighter than ever are the skirts at the bottom.
Some of the plaitings come with a border in color.
Tulle Makes a simple yet attractive coiffure ornament.
The gunmetal ties for street wear will hold their own.
Among the new ribbons is one covered with peacock eyes.
Suits of the rajah are made on severe lines when they are stylish. August 12, 1910 page 5

OPENING DATE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROBABLY SEPTEMBER NINETEEN

Magnificent \$230,000 Building Soon Ready.

Muskogee's public schools will probably open for the fall term on Monday September 19 although this date has not been positively set. It may be necessary to delay the opening one week longer.

The magnificent Central High school building at a cost of

\$230,00 and which is the finest building of its kind located south of St. Louis, is rapidly nearing completion. The office of the Superintendent of Schools, Edwin S. Monroe will be located in the building. Dawson, Kedian and Veleur of Muskogee are the architects and the Texas Building company of Dallas, Texas, the contractors... article continues on page 5, August 14, 1910

PUBLIC LIBRARY GROWS RAPIDLY IN PAST YEAR.

The Muskogee free public library became a city institution in December, 1909, when the city council authorized the appointment of a library board, and in February, 1910, the board so authorized was appointed and consisted of the following named persons: Irwin Donovan, Charles D. Smith, Carroll S. Bucher, Mrs. John D. Benedict, Mrs. De Roos Bailey and Miss Sarah Noble, Irwin Donovan was elected president of the board. The same month the council appropriated the sum of \$200 a month for the use of a library until a library tax under the general law could be levied and become available. Immediately after this appropriation, the Women's History club donated to the board its library of 1,800 volumes, and the board thereupon opened to the public the Muskogee free public library. Since that time the attendance has more than trebled and the number of books has been increased to over 3,000.

The library is comfortably housed in three rooms of the new Equity building, and Mrs. I. N. Croom, an able and competent librarian has been employed, and she, with an assistant, devote their entire time to the library. Any resident of Muskogee is entitled to withdraw books for certain period of time without cost, and the hours during which the library is open are from 9 to 12 in the morning and 1:25 to 7 in the afternoon.

SEEK CARNEGIE'S AID

The book committee, with Mrs. John D. Benedict as chairman, has charge of the purchasing of all books, and is using its best efforts to meet the demands of the public for suitable reading. Over 100 new books are being added each month.

The building committee, with Carroll S. Bucher as chairman, has been appointed to correspond with Mr. Carnegie relative to securing a donation for a building. This matter has been retarded from the fact that Mr. Carnegie wished to wait until federal census for 1910 had been announced before making any pledge as to the amount which he would give and it has now been indicated that he will make a gift of a suitable amount for a magnificent building to be erected which will be a credit to the city.

August 14, 1910 page 14

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

London, Eng. Aug 16 – Florence Nightingale will be buried with the simplest ceremonies Saturday afternoon at Wellow Hampshire, where her parents are buried. A Memorial service will be held at noon in St. Pauls's cathedral, at which the king will be represented. There will be a large gathering of military men. The war office is arranging the details of this service.

Muskogee Weekly Phoenix, August 18, 1910, .page 5

PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OPEN SEPT. 26

Board of Education Selects Date for Opening at Postponed Meeting.

The public schools of Muskogee will open for the fall term on Monday, September 26, one week later than was generally expected would be the opening date.

All of the various building, including the magnificent new Central High school, will be ready for occupancy.

At last night's meeting of the board D. N. Fink was appointed successor to J. N. Wilkinson, resigned as trustee from the Fourth ward. Mr. Fink recently moved from the Third to the Fourth ward.

John G. Benedict, a former member of the board, was elected to fill the Third ward vacancy made by the change in residence of D. N. Fink.

BIG YEAR FOR A. AND M. COLLEGE

Senator "Cam" Russell Enthusiastic Over Warner's Big School.

State Senator Campbell Russell arrived in Muskogee last night from Warner and will leave today for Adair. He is very enthusiastic as to the conditions around his city. Warner, and says that things never looked better for the farmer, the merchant and everybody.

Speaking of the A. & M. college at Warner, Mr. Russell said last night: "The school will open next Tuesday and from present indications before they get down to real work there will be 150 students enrolled. The college had only 60 pupils enrolled last year, but the success and enthusiasm of those who attended has be advertised the fact that it is something well worth consideration."

"Of course it is the state's school and no tuition is charged. Good board and rooms can be secured in the town for \$2.50 or \$3.00 a week, and it is the one great chance for the farmer boy with limited opportunities"

Dairy Self Supporting

"The main building of the school is nearing completion and when finished will be a credit to any state. It will cost \$20,000 and has 160 acres of the finest land in Oklahoma.

"The girls dormitory will be built this fall and will have a capacity of accommodating 60 or 75 pupils. The hotel building in the town has been secured as a boys' dormitory."

"The school is maintained by the state board of agriculture and it is believed that in a few years will be self supporting. Already the dairying part of the school is proving a paying proposition, the college owning its own herd of fine registered Jerseys."

"Everything taught in the A. & M. colleges of other states can be had at our college – manual training, domestic science, carpentry and blacksmithing being the popular studies. August 31, 1910, page 12

PUSHING FAIR GROUNDS

Grandstand and Liberal Arts Buildings Are Well Up.

Work at the Fair grounds is being pushed by an army of workmen and already four of the seven barns have been finished and the work on the fifth has begun, the framework of the grandstand is up and the Liberal Arts building is well under way.

When the seven barns are finished they will, with the 150 stalls, be able to put 290 horses under shelter.

The fence has been finished and the work will be started on the main entrance arch, which will be an architectural beauty.. September 10, 1910 page 2.

SOME SUCCESSFUL RECIPES

French Salad Dressing

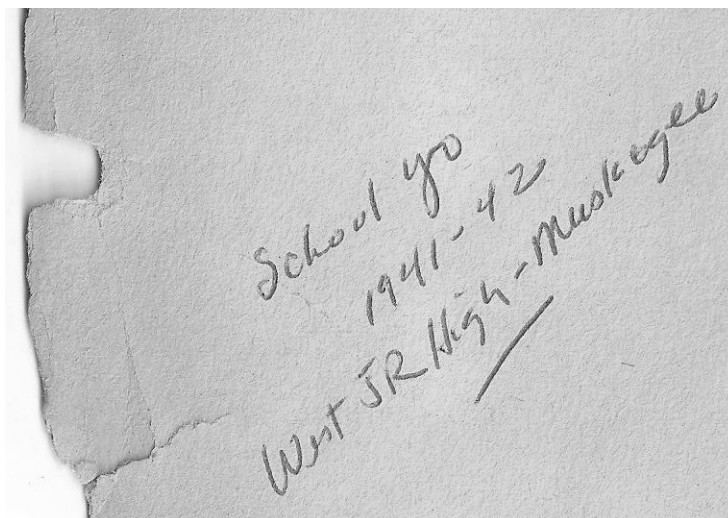
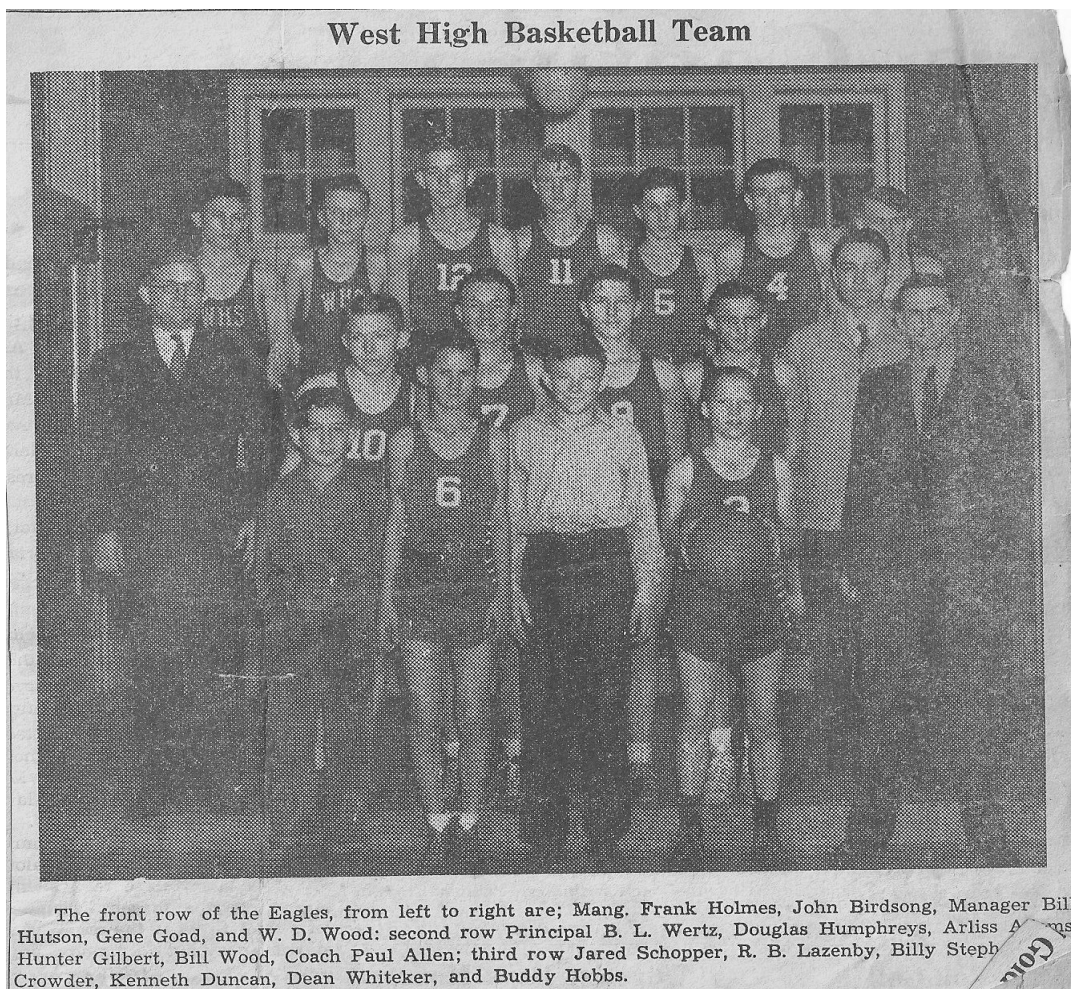
The simple French dressing is made by allowing three tablespoonfuls of olive oil to one of the best vinegar, with salt and pepper to taste. Some cover lettuce leaves with the oil before pouring over the vinegar, in which salt and pepper are dissolved. The above are the proper proportions for French dressing.

Candied Sweet Potatoes

Parboil, peel and slice sweet potatoes; then lay in baking pan with butter dotted over, sprinkle thickly with sugar and set in the oven. Baste occasionally, adding a very little water, as you put them in. They should be transparent and soft, yet the slices whole, and a pale brown when done September 10, 1910 page 5

Ronald Barton: A Scrapbook of his School Days

Images on Pgs. 93-97 are from a family scrapbook, submitted by our society member and the author, Marjorie Barton, daughter of Ronald Barton



MUSKOGEE TIMES-DEMO

MUSKOGEE, OKLA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1919.

Undefeated Central High School Team Which Battles Tulsa for Eastern Championship Here on Turkey Day

Band



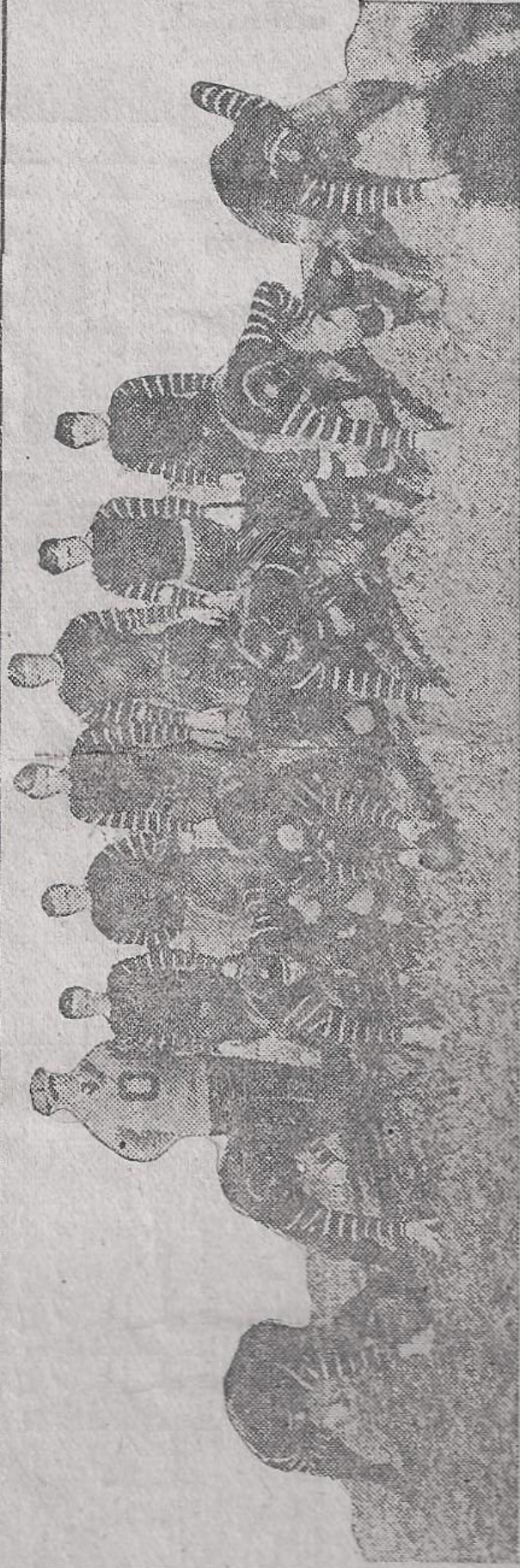
Left to right, standing: Clarence C. Smith, Evert Woods, Lewis Miller, Larry Wanasek, Tom Swanson, Elton Montgomery, Ralph Walsh, Alron White, Ray Parker, Tom Sneed, Fletcher Gilliam, Cyrus Wagner, Ronald Barton, LeRoy Deck (captain), John Carrol, Coach H. A. Faulkner.
Left to right, sitting: Forrest Edwards, Ray Bower, Harvey Chase, Sheldon Veale, Hayes Wiley, Harry Granger, Carl Cole, Louie Jennings, Alvro Casey, Herbert Dornire, Robert Fahenstock, Harrington Slaught, Fred Palmtag.

Central High School

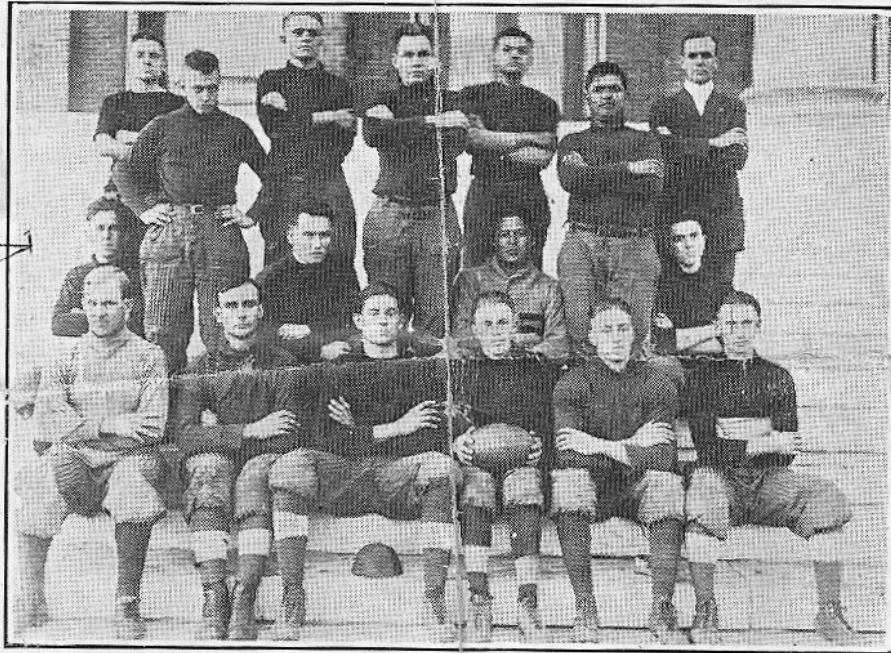
Football c1919-1920

Central "Hi" Team to Contest For State

Honors With Oklahoma City at Muskogee

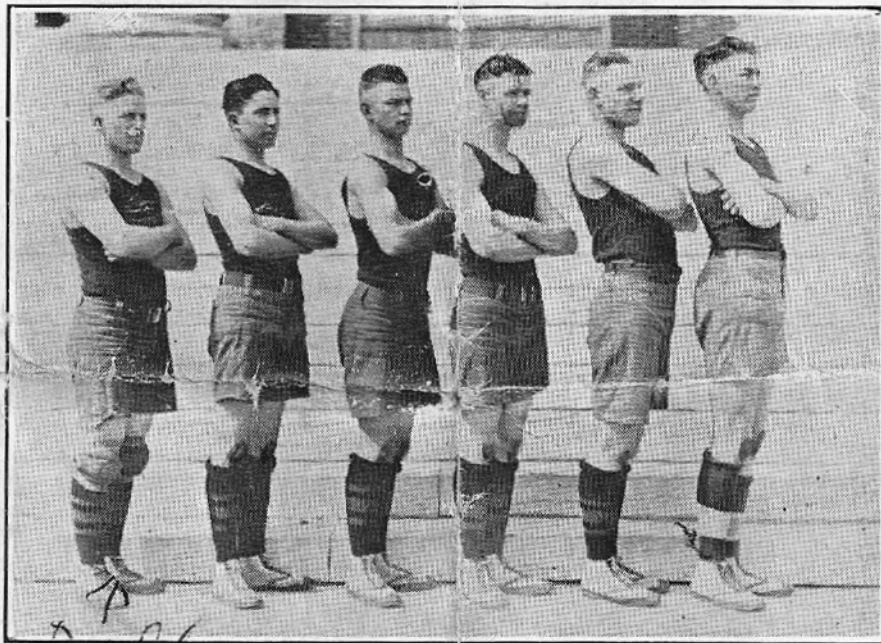


Left to right—Standing: Coach Harry Faulkner, Deek, Barton, Gilliam, Wagner, Miller, Woods, Line: Wanasack, Montgomery, Walsh, White, Parker, Sneed, Swanson.



FOOTBALL TEAM (1916)

Last year, because of the war disorganization of athletics, no football team was organized, but all the schools are restoring athletics next year on the advice of the Military Authorities for its value in preparing for army efficiency. The University will be in the RING with the other schools of the state, on the adopted conservative basis of the past. Football, like other forms of team athletics, is rigidly supervised as a safeguard against extreme tendencies.



BASKETBALL TEAM (1918)

Last year's team, which made a fine record, despite war handicaps. The outlook for a strong team next year is fine. All these men but ONE will be back in the game. Barton is one of the best guards in the state and Ballard is a coming force.

1923

MUSKOGEE TIMES-DEMOCRAT

SWEDE BARTON TO BE BACK

SEPTEMBER 7

AS ST. JOE MENTOR

FOUR BROTHERS ON SAME SQUAD

Indian Boys to Help St. Joe Get
Revenge For Broken Arrow
Defeat

Two sets of Indian brothers will be in the star six that will lead in the Catholic attack on the Bixby Ripsnorters here tomorrow. The two Burgess brothers are Creek Indians and the Rogers brothers are Cherokees. The two Rogers are linemen and the Burgess boys are backs. Goff and Harrison fullback and right half back will abet in the ground gaining foursome's attack on the Luster men.

The Purple and Gold collegians will be confronted with the chance to retaliate for the Broken Arrow defeat. Broken Arrow won from the Bixby team, 14 to 3. A larger win by the Catholics would mean that the Broken Arrow team is not so strong. The Saint game at Broken Arrow ended 13 to 6 for Broken Arrow, but the locals have protested the game.

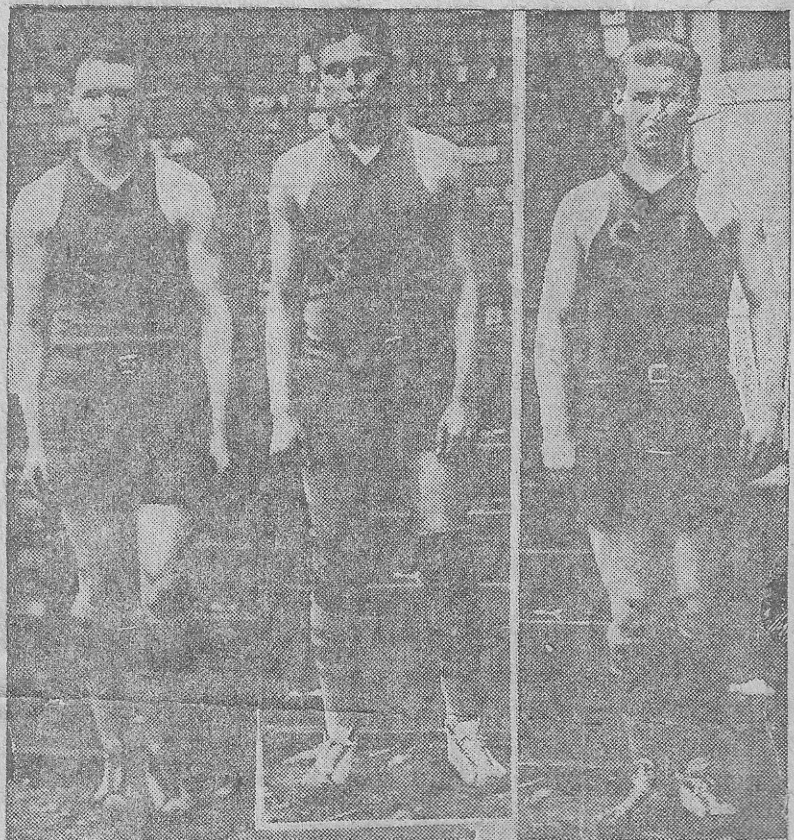
The Barton team is in its best condition for the match and all is set for a win over the Tulsa county boys. This is the second trip to Muskogee for the Ripsnorters, the Green and White having fallen before their Benny Owen's style of football, 20 to 9 on October 13.

Cy Rogers, left tackle is acting captain of the team, since the operation of Bud Nave the star fullback, who will be out of the game for the of the season. "Rosy" Goff has filled the captain's shoes so well in the Tahlequah game and the St. Anthony tilt that with a few more subs. Mentor Barton would still plan for a successful season.

The game on the Bixby side will most probably take to the air, while the strong work of the Catholics is composed of straight football mixed with many trick and fake plays.

"Polly" Wallace trainer and assistant coach of Central High will referee the game tomorrow and "Red" Montgomery will umpire.

ST. JOE'S PURPLE-GOLD CAGERS



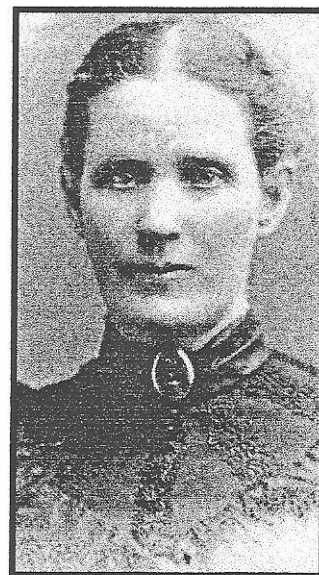
INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS

VOL. 6, Page 286

(Interview given by Mrs. Locke's son and daughter, To Miss Ella Robinson, February 2, 1937)

EXPERIENCES OF A PIONEER TEACHER – Mrs. Mary. E. Locke

Mrs. Locke, daughter of Dr. James R. and Elizabeth Brewer, was born in Par Place, Gibson County, Tennessee, February 13, 1847. She spent her girl-hood days in the home of her father, who had moved to Trenton Tennessee. She attended the local schools there and took her college education at Jackson Female College of which she was a graduate. It was nearing the beginning of the Civil War and the young man to whom she was engaged to married, Mr. George W. Locke, enlisted in the Confederate Army and served during the entire war. They were married October 9, 1865 and went to Yorkville, Tennessee and live on a farm until 1877. Being attracted to the west by the glowing reports and from relatives living in Arkansas, Mr. Locke started on a westward journey. As travel was slow and uncertain, he was two months on the way. He selected a place to live in North-western Arkansas and sent for his wife and three children. As there were no railroads in that part of the state at that time, he met his family at Van Buren, Arkansas, with a wagon and team of mules. The trip through the Ozarks took two days. As they drive through the beautiful hilly country, they came in sight of a little cemetery. Stopping his team, he gazed for some time at the quiet little cemetery and said to his wife – “that is where I want to be buried.” Before the leaves had fallen again, he was laid to rest there. He had located on Lee's Street buying out a stock of groceries. After his death, Mrs. Locke took her family of four little children, as another baby had come to their home and moved to Cane Hill, Arkansas, where her brother, Rev. T. F. Brewer, a Methodist Minister, had a circuit. Later he was appointed to Asbury Mission in the Creek Nation, as Superintendent of the School. Then Mrs. Locke moved to Dutch Mill, Arkansas, where her brother, Dr. James R. Brewer was a practicing physician. In 1878 Rev. Brewer was assigned to a Muskogee pastorate. In the spring of 1879 in compliance with the orders of the church, he opened a school, which afterwards became Harrell International Institute and later Spaulding College. Mrs. Locke came to Muskogee in 1880 and became the first Primary teacher in a Muskogee school that admitted white children. Classes were held in the church and the students sat on improvised seats, a few benches with no blanks, the planks resting on boxes and nail kegs and some borrowed chairs from the neighbors. There was also a board department in this school and the students were taken into the homes where there was a spare room. – Several of them boarding in the house with Mr. and Mrs. Brewer. – They also boarded the teachers. In addition to teaching five days a week and caring for her little family the duty of keeping the church clean fell to her. Every Saturday afternoon she took the older children and they put the church in order for Sunday service. Her son, James, rang the bell and attended to the fires. Her daughter, Fannie, played the organ and it was not equipped with electrical power either. Mrs. Locke taught for eight years. In the mean-time, her oldest son had died of a lingering illness. Not-with-standing her business life, she did not neglect her church duty. She served as Treasurer at the first Missionary Society in the Methodist Church and also filled the place as Secretary. Her Sunday school class of boys was her chief delight. Living in the little village of Muskogee, of some five hundred people at that time, was no easy thing for house-keepers. Modern conveniences were un-heard of. The streets were mere roads, deep in mud and ice in the winter and just as deep in dust in the summer. The two streets that comprised the residential section of the



Mary Brewer Locke

town were Cherokee Street on the East and Main Street on the West. As Mrs. Locke always lived near the church and the school, here cheerful little home became a general stopping place, for all who had occasion to go near. A trip to town was not complete unless she stopped by to see Mrs. Locke. People often wondered how she carried on her house work with the numerous interruptions caused by company. Many Muskogee citizens now, recall with pleasure, the teachings they received from her in both school and Sunday school. In a material way, her life was not a long and easy path, but no one had a richer or more beautiful one. Owing to ill health, she was compelled to give up active service in church and social life, several years before her death, which occurred July 14, 1924.

Transcribed and Submitted by Barbara Downs



Mary E. Brewer Locke

Burial Information

Find a Grave Website

Home Served As Early School [photo "The Original Group that met in Mary E Lock's living room which later became Harrell Institute and Spaulding Institute]

The home at 1610 E. Broadway was built in 1905 by Mary E. Locke. Locke, a plucky widow with three children, came to Muskogee in 1881 from Dutch Mills, Arkansas. Her brother, Dr. Theo H. Brewer, was pastor of the Rock Church, which later became the First Methodist Church.

She had a small house built near the Rock Church, and with the cooperation of the town's leaders, including Major James A. Foreman and Joshua Ross, asked permission of the Creek Council to conduct a private school. This house was in the foreground of a picture of Muskogee made in 1881.

In 1883 and application was made to the Creek Council for the establishment of a college. A charter was made to Locke for Harrell International Institute, first sessions of the school were held in Locke's living room. ... daughters ... Fannie ... Annie .. son .. John.

Upon the death of Locke in 1924, the daughters lived in the home until 1928 when John and his family occupied it. It is interesting to note that the home was listed in the city directory at such an early date, for it was 'in the country.' An explanation might be that Locke was associated with the prestigious school, Harrell International Institute, and that other prominent Muskogeeans lived nearby - Dr. J.O. Callahan on the west and the Crabtrees on the east with Dr. A.E. Bonnell across the street.

Burial:

[Greenhill Cemetery](#)

Muskogee

Muskogee County

Created by: [Robert Sandlin](#)

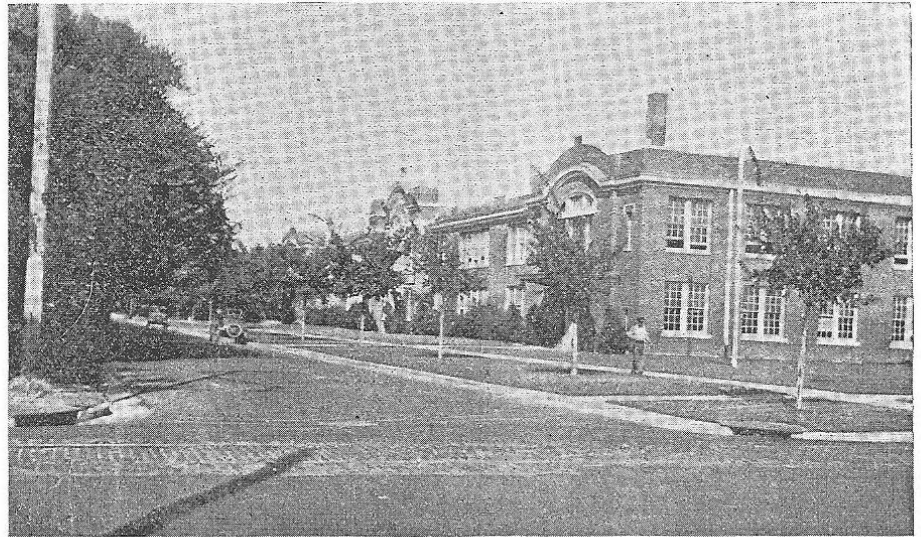
Record added: Jan 11, 2010

Find A Grave Memorial# 46571069

West High School

By
Katherine Barling

"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and the people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."—James Madison.



West High School, the only junior high school of the city, is represented by the lone eagle that is poised over the front entrance, looking as though he were ready to fly into an encounter in which he is sure to be victorious. Unafraid, he awaits with eagerness his opportunity for activity.

Built to meet the needs of an ever increasing population, West High School is one of the most modern and beautiful school buildings in the city. Its light rooms, wide airy halls, and inlaid marble floors are a far cry from the little red school house of our grandfather's time. It was construct-

ed at Sixteenth and Broadway Streets in 1920, during the superintendency of Mr. R. J. Tighe, at a cost of \$231,086. Mr. Frank Lee was then President of the Board of Education.

There are twenty class rooms, including manual training shop, library, art, music, and typewriting rooms. Each is completely equipped. In addition there is a large gymnasium, with a high ceiling and running track, with locker rooms, showers, and office adjoining, and an auditorium. The cafeteria is modern, furnishing a cheery room where appetizing food is served.

Mr. Herbert S. Jones was the first principal. The original teachers were: Miss Ella Bisell, Mrs. R. B. Butts, Mr. P. C. Calloway, Miss Helen Copeland, Miss Marie Crew, Mr. Fred L. Fordice, Miss Kate Frank, Miss Ethel Mae Iliff, Miss May E. Kimberly, Mr. J. H. Lehr, Miss Helen McClure, Miss Laure V. Meyer, Mr. A. F. Morris, Miss Grace Musch, Miss Allene Nelson, and Miss Della Sherman.

No sooner had the new school opened its doors, than the students immediately evinced their school spirit by founding a school paper, "The Eagle." Like Colonel Lindbergh, whose picture as the "Lone Eagle" hangs in the class room, this school was a pioneer. It had the only junior high school newspaper in the state. The founders, Clarence Lynn and Joe Wolfenberger, were made editor and business manager respectively. They were assisted by Martha Belle McCaffrey, Frances Vernor, Josephine Bernay, and Kenneth Cleveland. Mr. F. L. Fordice was faculty adviser. The new paper made its first appearance December 17, 1920 and was successful from the start.

In February, 1921, the first Board of Publications was originated. Members were Mr. Jones, Mr. Fordice, and Miss Crew, all of the faculty and Clarence Lynn, editor, Joe Wolfenberger, business manager, and Grace Gaddy, student representative.

PRESENT FACULTY

Back row: Mrs. R. B. Butts; Dorothy Sterling; Mrs. Pauline Keaton; Floyd Rutherford; Mrs. M. C. Watson; Olivia Teague; Mrs. Thearle Price
Second row: J. E. Pace; Opal Scales; Maude Barton; Mrs. Kate Windsor; Mildred Koons; Viola Diehnell; C. L. Steed
First row: J. P. Morton; Majora Carey; Betty Owen; Marie Crew; Alice Campbell; Laura V. Meyer; Mary Blackford; G. C. Williams, Principal



Images on this page are reproduced from an original publication: "Three Decades in Muskogee City Schools, September 1898– May 1929." Source located at the Muskogee Public Library, History and Genealogy Department.

Elevation Plan of the Terminal Building For the Peoples Electric Railway Company



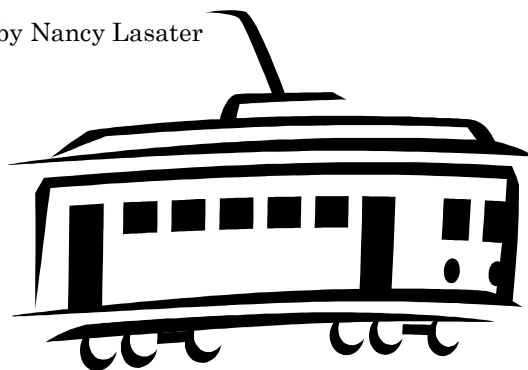
Although as shown here, the new terminal plans of the People's electric railway company appears to be only three stories in height, the contract signed a few days ago by Earl Wright and wife, as owners, and the railroad calls for a five story building and that is the height to which it will be built.

C. H. Sudholter prepared the plans for the building and it was originally intended to be three stories. The fourth and fifth stories will be of the same style of architecture as the second and third. The cars enter a curved arch at the front of the front of the terminal and on either side

will be waiting rooms and market stalls. Above will be exclusive separate apartments.

Work has already been started on the site of the corner of C and Callahan streets and it is the intention of the Wrights to push the construction as rapidly as possible.

Muskogee Daily Phoenix 1 Aug 1911, Pg 10—Submitted by Nancy Lasater





Alice Robertson Junior High School, located at Dayton and "S" Street in Muskogee, Oklahoma, was opened in September 1940. Alice Robertson Junior High School was named for the late Miss Alice M. Robertson, pioneer educator and civic leader in Oklahoma.

Miss Alice was born in the Tullahassee Mission, Creek Nation, January 2, 1854, a descendant of the missionaries to the Cherokee and Creek Indians in Indian Territory. Miss Alice began her educational work in Indian Territory in 1880, was instrumental in the founding of Muyaka Mission, a school for Creek Indians. She also helped in the establishment of "Minerva Home", which eventually grew into Henry Kendal College, and after its move to Tulsa, became the University of Tulsa.

Miss Alice Mary Robertson

In 1890, Miss Alice was appointed Supervisor of Indian Schools, and in 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Miss Alice as postmistress of the Muskogee Post Office, the first woman to receive such an appointment. On November 2, 1920, she was elected to Congress from the Second Oklahoma District and was the first woman to preside over the United States Legislature. Miss Alice was active during two wars and never lost her enthusiasm for education and service, and Alice Robertson stands as a fitting memorial to one who devoted her life efforts to education in the State of Oklahoma. Alice Robertson Junior High School later became Alice Robertson Middle School and today it is the 7th & 8th Grade Center at Alice Robertson.

Submitted by Nancy Lasater, from Muskogee.schoolwires.net

**Three Rivers
Museum
Senior Club**

Club 55

**Save on
Wednesdays**



- Located in the restored 1916 Midland Valley Depot
- Visit our vintage diesel engine
- See area pictures and relics from days gone by
- Learn about our rich Three Forks history
- Visit the Whistlestop Gift shop for books, souvenirs, Okie gear, train stuff & more

The Three Rivers Museum is a general history museum featuring the Three Forks area

Normal business hours Wednesday thru Saturday 10:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

**Three Rivers
Museum**

220 Elgin
Muskogee, OK
74401

Phone: 918-686-6624
Fax: 918-682-3477
E-mail:
staff@3riversmuseum.

If you are lucky enough to be 55 or over you will receive *50% off the \$3.00 admission charge on Wednesdays . . . just mention "CLUB 55"

(If not, you can visit anyway).

*Cannot be combined with any other coupon or discount.

**Wednesdays
10:00 A.M. to
4:00 P.M.**

**Midland Valley
Railroad Building**

**Sue Tolbert
Executive Director**

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

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Quarterly Publication
July—September, 2010

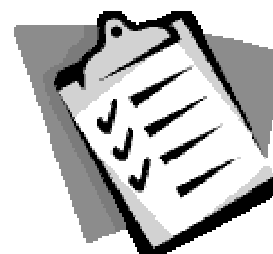


NEW MEMBER

Virginia Shepler Sloan, Whitney Texas

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Allen County Public Library
Lulu Boggs
Al Cheeseman
Dona Clark
Pete and Mickey Hagan
Polly Hatcher
Carol Payne
Virginia Perry



The Muskogee County Genealogical Society would like to extend our warmest welcome to our new members and appreciation to all of those who have renewed their memberships.

Each new member and renewal member is encouraged to submit an ancestry chart.