



Muskogee County Genealogical Society Quarterly

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Want More? Check Page 2



CECIL K. REIFF, A. B.
*Director of Commercial
Department*

North Manchester High School
North Manchester College
University of Indiana, A. B.
Central Business College, Indianapolis, (Ind.)

Cecil Reiff was superintendent of Muskogee schools from 1925 to 1931. He was born in Manchester, Indiana October 23, 1886, the son of Jacob and Catherine Reiff, and was married to Dorothy McCloud August 27, 1915, in Indianapolis. He was educated at Manchester College, received his master's degree from Indiana University, and attended Columbia University in New York and Chicago University. Cecil and his wife were the parents of three children: William Henry, John Cecil and Margaret Ann.

Mr. Reiff began his teaching career in a rural district in Wabash County, Indiana and progressed to teach high school and then at the University of Indiana. In 1915 he arrived in Oklahoma as director of the commercial department at Muskogee's Central High School. While in the commercial department he instituted an employment agency in the school where students could find work for the summer and employers could obtain the "most competent of clerks and stenographers."

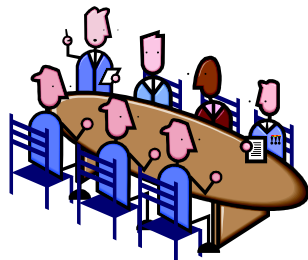
Even though his right arm was paralyzed he was well thought of and promoted to principal in 1919 and then to superintendent in 1925. His principal's salary was \$2,500 per year, a respectable sum for 1919.

Continued on Page 3

Muskogee County Genealogical & Historical Society

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.



BOARD MEMBERS

President, Jere Harris

Vice President, Alissa Hill

Secretary, Stacy Blundell

Treasurer, Mary Downing

Past President, Sue Tolbert

Newsletter Editor: Barbara Downs

Quarterly Editor, Nancy Lasater

Appointed positions: Research, Barbara Downs; Publications, Sue Tolbert. Liaisons are: Three Rivers Museum, Sue Tolbert; Muskogee Public Library, Nancy Calhoun

MEETINGS

MCGS meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July and August) 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 \$20 per year due each January 1.

OUR RESEARCH POLICY:

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

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.rootsweb.com/~okmuscg/index.htm> or write or email us for a list.

QUARTERLY

The MCGS Quarterly is published online four times a year: March, June, September, and December. Back issues of the Quarterly are available. Check our website for current issue prices and postage.

There's More to See!!

	PAGE
CECIL REIFF AND THE GAVEL	1
ALISSA GAGE-HILL PEDIGREE CHART	6
MUSKOGEE TOWNSHIPS GET NAMES	7
NEW BOOK IN GRANT FOREMAN	8
GENEALOGY ADDICTION HELP	9
SEARCH OKLAHOMA IN 1940 CENSUS	10

(Continued from Page 1)

In January, 1931, the Muskogee Daily Phoenix reported that Mr. Reiff would be presented with a unique gavel made especially for him by students in the woodwork department of Central High School. It was described as follows:

The center of the handle is of Osage orange, the bow wood used by the Indians in the construction of their weapons. Around this will be a layer of oak taken from the home of Sequoyah, the famous Indian who was the inventor of the Cherokee alphabet. The handle is inlaid with walnut from Central High School where Mr. Reiff was principal for a number of years. The head of the gavel is of walnut from old Cherokee Female seminary at Tahlequah which burned in 1887. This walnut is from an old banister taken from the building before it burned. In the gavel head there will be several pieces of inlaid woods, walnut from Fort Gibson which is about 117 years old, white pine from the old Agency building on Honor Heights, and some poplar from the birthplace of Mr. Reiff which is located in Indiana and which is about 90 years old. There will also be pieces from a brick found on the location of the old Union Mission which will be plugged in the ends of the gavel head. This school was the first in Oklahoma.

His Arithmetic Course of Study, formulated in 1928 and introduced in Muskogee's schools, was being used in most schools in the state and was recognized as the outstanding contribution to schools of the past decade. Mr. Reiff was recognized for this accomplishment and elected president of the Oklahoma Education Association in 1930.

In 1931 Mr. Reiff was asked to become the superintendent of Oklahoma City schools. A member of Muskogee's board of education said, "Cecil Reiff belongs to Muskogee. Get someone else." He was given the position for one year in July, 1931, at a salary of \$10,000.

He began his tenure in Oklahoma City by outlining what he considered to be the responsibilities of six groups: The board is responsible to the people; the superintendent to the board; the principals to the superintendent; and the teachers responsible for the children to their principals. He did not believe in listening to the complaints of factions of patrons. During one of his annual new teacher pep talks at the beginning of the school year he listed the following reasons why teachers failed: poor health, lapse of moral character, lack of ability work with others, and lack of personal cleanliness. He also discouraged smoking by his teachers. He served until at least 1939 as superintendent of schools in Oklahoma City. Cecil Reiff was buried in Wabash County, Indiana. He died in 1952.

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MUSKOGEE, Jan. 12.—(Special.)—The president of the Oklahoma Education association, C. K. Reiff, superintendent of the Muskogee city schools, will be presented a unique gavel made by students of Central highschool at the meeting of the association next month at Oklahoma City.

The center of the handle is of Osage orange, the bow wood used by the Indians in making their weapons. Around this will be a layer of oak, taken from the home of Sequoyah, the famous Indian alphabet inventor.

The handle is inlaid with walnut from Central highschool where Reiff served as principle for a number of years. The head is of old walnut from the Cherokee female seminary at Tahlequah.

In the head there will be several pieces of inlaid wood from the Fort Gibson 117 years old, white pine from the old agency building at Honoe Heights, and poplar from the birthplace of Reiff in Indiana which is about 90 years old.

*The Oklahoman
Tuesday January 13, 1931
Page 7*



To the Graduates of Central High School

In completing the high school course of study, you have an accomplishment of which you are justly proud. I am sure that you will never regret having graduated from Central High School. The memories of your associations and experiences in the halls of Central, together with the learning which the passing generation has given you, will well up in ever increasing vividness and pleasantness as the seasons pass.

I count it a rare privilege and distinct honor to serve in a capacity which allows me to write this congratulatory note. Merely congratulating you, however, does not do justice to my feeling toward you. I would add hope, inspiration, good-will and Godspeed on life's journey. I also congratulate your fathers, mothers and friends whose sacrifices and prayers have made possible your present success. Of course I would have you be successful, but above all, I would have your fireside reflect that happiness which comes from a life of gentlemanly manhood and womanly womanhood.

My assistance and the service of your teachers shall always be available to you.

Very cordially yours,

C. K. Reiff

Superintendent of Schools

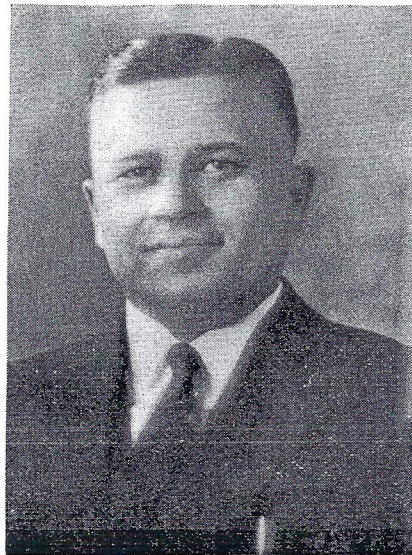
To Each Member of Our School Community

May your life be spent in useful work.
May you travel life's journey in peace, contentment and honor. May you find happiness in service. May ours be a better world on account of your life and work.

Yours sincerely,

L. M. Speaker

Principal



Pedigree Chart -Alissa Ann Gage Hill

15 June 2012

Chart no. _____

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. _____ on chart no. _____

4 Grover Cleveland GAGE

b: 26 Nov 1890
p: El Dorado, Union County, AR
m:
p:
d: 18 May 1972
p: Cherokee, Oklahoma, United States

2 Jerry Cleveland GAGE

b: 16 Sep 1945
p: Prairie Grove, Washington County, AR
m: 14 Aug 1966
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK
d: 22 Aug 1982
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK

5 Beatrice MOORE

b: 19 Oct 1908
p: Prague, Lincoln County, OK
d: 28 Dec 1993
p: Cherokee, Oklahoma, United States

1 Alissa Ann GAGE

b: 11 Feb 1970
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK
m: 30 Dec 1988
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK
d:
p:

sp: **Mark Allen HILL**

6 John Louis STINE

b: 25 Jul 1922
p: Yahola, Muskogee County, OK
m: 27 Sep 1941
p:
d: 25 Aug 2004
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK

3 Cherry Allison STINE

b: 30 Jun 1946
p: Phoenix, Maricopa County, AZ
d: 30 Aug 1992
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK

7 Gladys Marie HORTON

b: 1 Jan 1923
p: Wellington, Collingsworth, TX
d: 11 Mar 1997
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK

8 JM (James Milton) GAGE

b: 21 Dec 1858
p: Georgia or Arkansas
m: 1 Jul 1885
p: Lafayette County, AR
d: 19 Jan 1918
p: Big Rock, Pulaski County, AR

9 Bettie LEWIS

b: 4 Feb 1861
p: Mississippi
d: 24 Feb 1944
p:

10 William J. MOORE

b: Nov 1868
p: probably Tennessee
m: 31 Aug 1902
p: Spiro, LeFlore County, OK
d: 5 Dec 1953
p: Madera, Madera County, CA

11 Sarrah ECHOLS

b: 23 May 1874
p: Van Buren, Crawford County, AR
d: 1 Dec 1948
p: Cherokee, Oklahoma, United States

12 John Clarence STINE

b:
p:
m: 31 Jul 1920
p: Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma
d: 7 May 1965
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK

13 Florence Nancy TIMBERLAKE

b: 1895
p:
d: 25 Dec 1979
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK

14 Hiram Henry HORTON

b: 20 Mar 1893
p: Dardanell, Yell County, AR
m: 2 Jan 1918
p: Wellington, Collingsworth, TX
d: 8 Jan 1976
p: Talihina, Le Flore County, OK

15 Bessie WARD

b: 3 Apr 1896
p:
d: 18 Sep 1996
p: Muskogee, Muskogee County, OK

16 Willis C. GAGE

b:
d:

17 Margaret HAYS

b:
d:

18 M. L. LEWIS Sr.

b:
d: 2 Dec 1919

19 Lidia

b:
d:

20 Unknown MOORE

b:
d:

21 Unknown VINSON

b:
d:

22 James W. ECHOLS

b: 19 Apr 1837
d: 9 Dec 1917

23 Elizabeth Frances FORMBY

b: abt 1841
d:

24 Louis Phillip STINE

b: 7 Sep 1848
d: 28 Nov 1908

25 Susannah B. FORRY

b: 21 Jul 1852
d: 20 Oct 1930

26 John Anderson TIMBERLAKE

b: 5 Dec 1858
d: 31 Aug 1948

27 Laura Belle BOX

b:
d:

28 John Gilbert HORTON

b: 7 Jul 1831
d: 1 Jan 1919

29 Malisa Ann SPICER

b: Feb 1847
d:

30 James Olander WARD

b: 15 Apr 1855
d: 11 May 1940

31 Charlotty ATCHISON

b: 31 Oct 1859
d: 9 Jan 1952

Prepared 15 June 2012 by:
Alissa Ann Gage Hill
PO Box 3193
Muskogee, OK 74402

TOWNSHIPS ARE GIVEN NAMES

Late Wednesday afternoon the county commissioners formally ratified the selection of names for the various townships of Muskogee County , so that hereafter, each one of the fourteen townships will be known by names instead of by numbers.

The county is to be congratulated on the fact that the commissioners have seen fit to honor many of the old settlers by the use of their names in this matter. Practically every township will bear the name of some old pioneer family, Indian or white.

Township No. 1; to be known as “ Moore ,” is named after Judge Moore of Haskell;

Township No. 2; named “Agency,” is so called after Agency Hill, formerly the residence place of the agent to the Five Civilized Tribes;

Township No. 3; named Harris, is so called after one of the oldest Cherokee families, County Commissioner W.H. Harris being of the family;

Township No. 4; will be known as “Porter” in honor and remembrance of Chief Pleasant Porter of the Creek Nation.

Township No. 5; named “Nash” after F.H. Nash of Fort Gibson , one of the pioneers of the Indian Territory .

Township No. 6; named after the noted Brewer family;

Township No. 7; Ogle, is so named in honor of J.H. Ogle of Boynton, the oldest settler there.

Township No. 8; named Sutton, is most appropriately named after County Commissioner T.B. Sutton, the only Republican elected to a county office in Muskogee County .

Township No. 9; to be called “Brown” after G.C. Brown, the oldest settler in the district.

Township No. 10; known as “Darling” after a prominent banker of Oktaha;

Township No. 11; will be known as “McLain,” after one of the oldest families in the Cherokee Nation.

Township No. 12; will be known as “Vann” after a well known Cherokee family which County Commissioner Charles E. Vann is a member.

Township No. 13 is to be known as “Martin,” after J.A. Martin, the oldest man in the township.

Township No. 14, will be known as “Porum,” after the famous Porum Gap, one of the oldest landmarks in the west.

New Titles in the Grant Foreman Collection Thru March, 2012

Arkansas

Cemeteries of Monroe Co., AR

Family Maps of Van Buren County, AR by Gregory A. Boyd, J.D.

Family Maps of Scott County, AR—Gregory A. Boyd, J.D.

Native American

Upon Our Ruins-A Study in Cherokee and Genealogy by Don L. Shadburn & John D. Strange, III

American Indian Literature an Anthology by Alan R. Velie

Encyclopedia of American Removal, 2 vols. by Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr.

Oklahoma

Cemetery Records Book, Garfield Co. 1

Muskogee-Images of America by Roger Bell

Directory of Oklahoma 1989-1990 State Almanac

Spring Water-Vol. VII- Braggs, OK by Fran Hutchins Barker

Cartersville, Route 1—J.M. Gaskin, D.D. Litt.D., LL.D.

Pushmataha County The Early Years by Dorothy A. West

Payne County, Oklahoma Cemetery Index by Mahlon G. Erickson

Abstracts From the Alex Tribune, Grady Co., OK, 3 vols.

Tams Bixby by Clarence B. Douglas

Tales from the Oklahoma boy by Ross T. Warner

Grant Foreman-A Biography by Linda Moore

Profiles of Oklahoma Pharmacy, Vol. 1—OK Pharmacists Assoc. 2008

Remaining Ourselves: Music and Tribal Memory by Dayna B. Lee

Watching Our Crops Come In—Clifton L. Taulbert

Cow Country by Edward Everett Dale

Up The Trail In '79 by Baylis J. Fletcher

The Ride of the Abernathy Boys by Miles Abernathy

ODOT 100-Celebrating the First 100 Years of Transportation in Oklahoma by Bob Burke

Index to Indian Territory Marriages-Grooms Only – 1 1890-1907

Also new additions were included from the following states: **Mississippi—Missouri—Pennsylvania—**

South Carolina—Tennessee—Texas—Virginia

Come to the Grant Foreman Collection to see these and more added since **April 1, 2012.**

The Twelve Steps for Recovering Genealogists

1. I admit that I am powerless over my ged-com and that my life has become unmanageable.
2. I believe that there is a greater power other than genealogy and that it will restore sanity to my life.
3. I have made a decision to turn my life over to non-genealogists and hope that they will understand me.
4. I have admitted to myself and other genealogists that I am addicted to my obituary files.
5. I vow to no longer discuss "dead people" with my few remaining friends in hopes that they will remain my friends.
6. I promise to take photographs of things other than tombstones.
7. My only source of reading material will no longer be census, wills, death certificates and obituaries.
8. I will not spend family vacations in out-of-state libraries and courthouses.
9. Family picnics will no longer be held in cemeteries.
10. My family will no longer be referred to as "the live ones."
11. My time spent on the Internet will be limited to sites other than Rootsweb.com, Ancestry.com and MyGenealogy.com.
12. I will carry these messages to other genealogists and practice these principles every day.

1940 Oklahoma Census Search by Name

Family Search has announced that the 1940 Census in Oklahoma is now searchable by name.

In addition to their effort in coordinating the indexing project, several of our own members have joined the estimated 400,000 volunteers who have made this information available to all researchers. If you have been following the indexing project on Family Search, you will realize they now have some fourteen or more states which are also ready to search by name. There are several other websites that are paying to have this same information indexed, and while they have not completed as many states as the volunteer site, any effort in getting the information to the public accurately is appreciated. We all know it's an advantage to have as many available research resources as possible in the history and genealogy arena.

Several members as well as friends of the **Muskogee County Genealogical Society** who have volunteer in the 1940 Indexing Project are: Jere Harris, Nancy Calhoun, Barbara Downs, Betsy Edwards, Sue Tolbert (administrator of the project for MCGS), Carol Rice, Nancy Lasater, Carol Payne, Linda Perry and Sherry Jackson. The editor's apologies if anyone was omitted from the list.

Even though the Oklahoma Census for 1940 is searchable, these volunteers have continued to not only index other states as requested by Family Search, but there are also two other indexes to be completed for our state including World War 1 Military Registrations and Indian Allotment records.

If you are interested in helping with this project, for any state, please contact any of the current volunteers for help to get started. There is still a lot to do.

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