



Muskogee County Genealogical Society Quarterly

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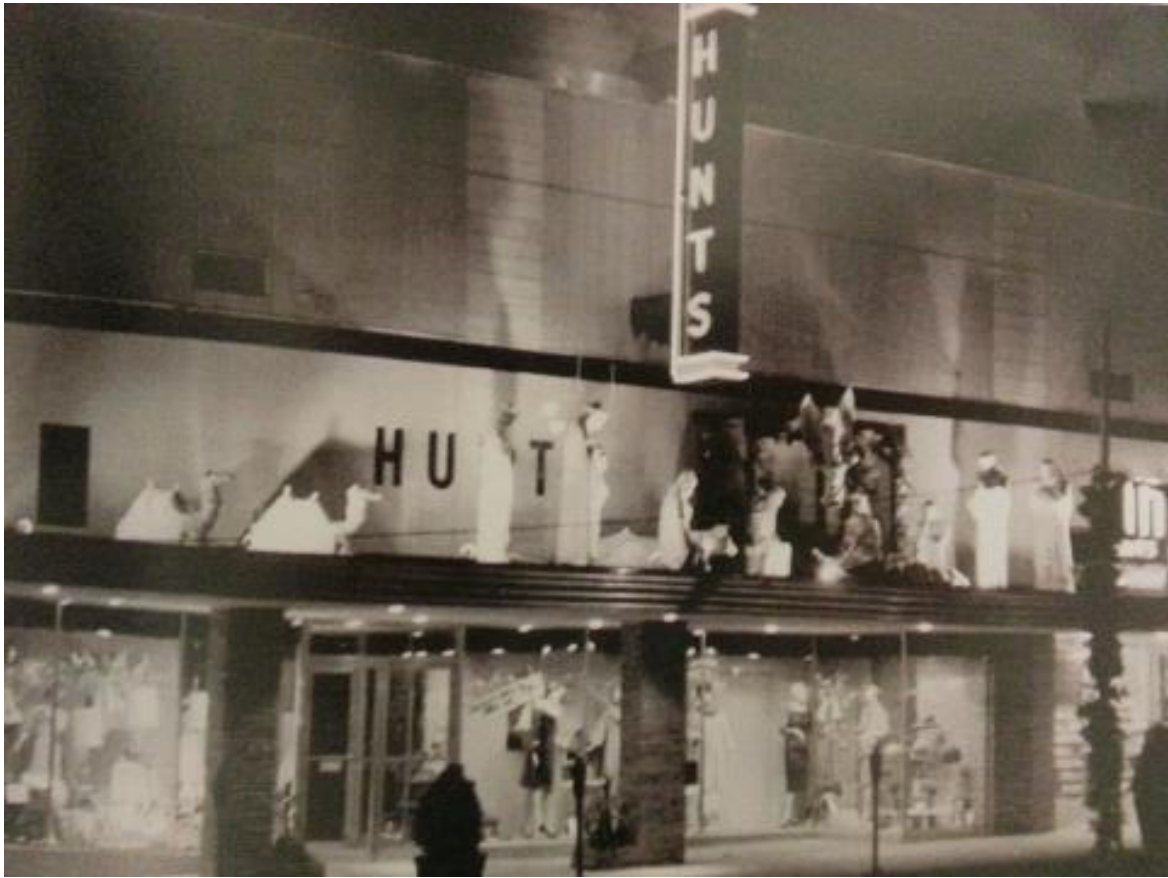
Our 30th Birthday Party



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Left to right in the lower left picture: Wally and Faye Waits, visitor from the genealogy department and Al Cheeseman. Left to right in the lower right picture: Mary Downing, Virginia Perry and Jean Vann.





Hunts Department Store was only one of many Muskogee downtown businesses that created beautiful displays during the Christmas season. This moment in time is shared by courtesy of The Three Rivers Museum. This building and the Kress (below) were both torn down in 2013. *What's next?*



Kress Store ca. 1913

INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS

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William Herring Pioneer Indian Territory Officer

Miss Ella Robinson, Research Field Worker, May 18, 1937

William Herring, familiarly known as Uncle Bill, was born in Sampson County, North Carolina, July 16, 1855. Information concerning his parents is not obtainable except that his father fought in the Black Hawk War. In 1874, he was married to Miss Anne E. Bunch. In 1880 he moved with his family, consisting of this wife and two sons, to Arkansas and located near Fort Smith where he was successfully engaged for ten years in farming. Owing to the ill health of his wife, he moved to the Indian Territory hoping that she might be benefited. He selected Muskogee as a location and engaged in the transfer business. He also had the contract for feeding cattle for Mr. Fount Crabtree.

In 1893, under the administration of President Cleveland, he was appointed jail guard at Muskogee. Mr. J. J. McAlester, for whom the town of McAlester was named, was United States Marshal at that time. Judge Charles W. Stuart was United States Judge. Mr. William Heffner was Muskogee's City Marshal, and Gus Lubes was United States Jailer.

Muskogee, at that time, had a population of approximately 2200.

The Jail was a two story frame building with a fourteen foot wall around it, located where the Muskogee Daily Phoenix Building now stands. There was no water system in those days, consequently all the water used in the jail had to be brought in. The drinking water came from a cistern located at the corner of the court house across from the jail. Numerous attempts were made by the prisoners to burn the jail and on the 9th of November, 1893, they succeeded in doing so. They then moved to the court room where we held the prisoners until arrangements could be made to build a prison. Shortly after the fire, a contract was made with Mr. C. W. Turner to erect a two story jail building on a lot 40 X 60" near the colored Baptist Church where the Ritz Theater Building now stands. The account of this transaction can be found in the Muskogee Phoenix published at that time. A Stockade with a fourteen foot wall was erected north of town where the Dorn-Cloney Laundry Building now stands. At first, tents were put up inside the wall until the Bull Pen House was built. Again, there was no water system nor sanitation. Water had to be hauled in and the garbage hauled out. From 100 to 200 prisoners were held in this place. Among them, some of the notorious outlaws including Al Jennings, Cherokee Bill, Ed Reed (son of Belle Starr), the Buck gang. While the Buck gang was incarcerated there, an attempt was made to release them. Unsuccessful, however, due to the efficient management of Mr. Herring and his co-workers.

He retired from that position in 1895 and was employed by several cattle men to make collections. In 1898, he was appointed night marshal under William Heffner, City Marshal and continued in this position until 1901 when he was elected City Marshal and elected again in 1902. In 1903, he was elected Chief of Police, a position which he held until 1907 when he was elected Meat Inspector by Governor Haskell and continued in this position until 1910. He was then appointed Sanitary Officer and was also serving as Street Commissioner. In 1913, under United States Marshal, E. A. Enloe, he was appointed Deputy U. S. Marshal and continued in this position until 1921 when he was returned to the police force of Muskogee where he served until 1928; retiring from public life.

As an officer, Uncle Bill, was in a class all by himself. He made no enemies even among the worst violators of the law, which he treated with respect and impartiality. He was a man of quiet, stern exterior but possessed a kind heart. Time and again he would go out after the most hardened criminals and bring them in without a gun. In some cases he called the defenders by telephone assuring them they would receive all consideration and they would respond by meeting him at the station.

(BIRTHDAY continued from Page 1)



Left to right in the upper left picture:
 Cullotta Bailey and Diane Pulse;
 Upper right picture: Robert Pulse, James
 and Betsy Edwards.
 Lower left picture: Melba Ranks, Linda
 Stout and Stacy Blundell.



Meet, Wed Same Day; Next Day Ask Divorce

Stilwell Man and Muskogee Woman Married After He Sought Her Acquaintance With Letter of Introduction—But, Read the Story

The big leather-bound book in the court clerk's office shows that Tuesday, September 8, of this year, Joseph Sutton, 73 of Stilwell, procured a marriage license to be joined in holy wedlock with Mrs. Sarah Hampton, 69, of South Cherokee street.

The records of the district court show that on the day following, otherwise September 9, Attorney Grover C. Watkins, acting for Mrs. Sarah Hampton Sutton, filed a petition for divorce from her husband Joseph Sutton.

She Talks First

Mrs. Sutton gave her testimony first. She had never heard of Sutton until the day before, she said, when, after 1 o'clock in the afternoon, he came to her home with a letter of introduction and asked her to marry him. She consented and they went to the court house where, about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, they were married by a justice of the peace.

Since that she asked Sutton to buy an automobile and he refused. She said she had reached a decision to never live with him again.

The bridegroom testified that a friend had told him of Mrs. Hampton, saying that she would make a good wife, and that she was willing to marry, so he came to Muskogee to interview her. He arrived between 1 and 2 o'clock in the afternoon and finding the lady to his liking, he asked for her hand, received a favorable answer, and led her to the altar between 5 and 6 the same afternoon.

I ran across this article sometime back while researching the newspapers and thought it quite interesting. "Meet, Wed Same Day; Next Day Ask Divorce."

Married on four hours acquaintance. Judge wouldn't grant divorce. They must have remained married because she survives her husband when he dies in 1934. She died in 1938 and both are buried in Greenhill Cemetery.

See attached files for article (Muskogee County Democrat September 10, 1925) and Mr. Sutton's obit (Muskogee Phoenix February 22, 1934.)

Mary Downing

Wanted An Automobile

She demanded that he purchase an automobile, he said and he declined to do this, whereupon the golden bowl of love seemed broken for she refused to go with him to his home in Stillwell or to longer be his wife. So, by mutual consent, they had come to the court to have put asunder those bonds with which God had endeavored to bind them one the yesterday.

"I can't think of granting you a divorce under these circumstances," Judge Vernor said. "You haven't tried to sail the sea of matrimony together yet. You may make the best of shipmates, and I believe you will, but you must make the trial in good faith. I've known this woman for a long time and I'm sure she would make any man a good wife. And this man looks like a good sensible man, as I believe he is."

An Unusual Idea

"My advice to you is to take the train together for Stillwell and give each other a good trial. I think your action in marrying on four hours acquaintance is not to be commended for in my day it was the custom for young people to get acquainted some before becoming engaged, and then to ripen the acquaintance after the engagement, but the youth of today are not as we were. Our lovers' quarrels of course took place and usually were patched up. This I presume is but a lovers' quarrel and I cannot see why it should not be treated as such and patched up. (See Number One on Page Two.)

NO. 1

(Continued From Page One)

ed as such and patched up.

"Now you two go along and see if you cannot be happy together. If you can't, come in here in three months and see me again. I cannot bear to see your young lives blighted by a divorce, and I think when you are older you will appreciate my action."

To Take Advice

The bride and groom talked long and earnestly with Judge Vernor then departed, promising to take his advice.

As they left, Sutton said, "if she will live with me three months, I will guarantee that she couldn't be driven away with a gatling gun."

"Judge," his bride said, "I helped initiate you into the Recekalis and I know you would not advise me wrong. I'm going to lock my house and go with him to Stillwell."

This is Mrs. Sutton's fourth honeymoon.

Funeral services for Joseph Sutton, 74, proprietor of the Sutton grocery and market for the past 30 years who died yesterday morning at his living quarters at the rear of his store on South Main street, will be conducted at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the Lescher chapel. The Rev. Thomas M. Smith, pastor of the Calvary Baptist church, will officiate. Burial will be in Greenhill cemetery. He is survived by the widow, Mrs. Sarah Sutton, and a stepson, W. G. Maloney.

Funeral services for Mrs. Sarah T. Sutton, 85, who died Monday night at the home of her son, W. G. Maloney, 2404 West Broadway, will be held this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Lescher chapel with the Rev. Gerald Miller officiating. Burial will be in Greenhill cemetery. Active pallbearers will be Aubry South, Bill Holbrook, Dock Burgess, Charles Selander, Elzie Sockey and Conrad Davis. Mrs. Sutton had been a resident of Muskegon since 1910.

SUSIE E. COBB
SUZANNE LAHOMA, THE CHEROKEE NIGHTINGALE
Researched and submitted by Linda Stout



SUZANNE LA HOMA (MRS. HORACE
M'DANIELS) A CHEROKEE PRIMA DONNA.

"Suzanne La Homa (Mrs. Horace McDaniel) a Cherokee Prima Donna"

By 1910 she and her husband were back in the United States. There was a concert scheduled in Muskogee at the Hinton Theater on April 29 of that year and she was excited to perform for her friends and family. She was also low on money. An Indian land allotment in or near Porum had been sold for her initial trip to Europe but she needed more to go back and continue to study. She also had been given a contract to sing with an opera company in Europe and would debut in Rome in May. Susie had been offered an opportunity to sing on the Vaudeville stage but felt she was better than that and didn't want to be thought of as the singing Indian girl. She had great ambitions and hoped to become well known as a quality opera singer. She wanted to publicize her Cherokee heritage only after she had become famous.

Susie Cobb was born in Muskogee, Indian Territory, June 13, 1886, the daughter of Mary and Bent Cobb. Mary was a member of the Cherokee Nation and Susie is listed as 5/16 Cherokee on the Dawes roll. There were several children in the family including Simpson, Ben, Edith, Grover, Bulah and Mary. At a young age Susie was noted for her beautiful voice. She attended school in Muskogee and Fort Smith (Catholic school) where she was drawn to music. After leaving the convent she returned to Muskogee and eventually became the wife of Horace McDaniel on May 10, 1904, at 18 years of age.

In 1908 a famous opera singer by the name of Ernestine Schumann-Heink gave a concert in Muskogee. During her stay she heard Susie sing and was impressed so much that she sponsored Susie as her protégé and made arrangements for her to study in Berlin under the finest teachers. Sometime during this period Susie acquired the stage name of Suzanne Lahoma. She learned to sing opera in French, Italian and German and made a name for herself in the music world. She was also hoping to sing in Cherokee.

1908



Schumann-Heink in 1909



The day of the Muskogee concert finally arrived. The evening before her brother, Ben, had been injured near his home but was expected to recover. Susie spent the day preparing for the concert and was not allowed any visitors or any newspapers. All 1,500 seats in the theater were sold and she had a police escort from the hotel to the concert hall. The program was a complete success and she held an informal reception on stage afterward. When she returned to her room at the hotel her husband informed her that her brother had died of his injuries and that it was considered a murder. Apparently everyone in the audience and the rest of her family were aware of the circumstances but did not tell her so she could perform at her best.

"Suzanne LaHoma, who will sing a solo at the Elks' Memorial Anniversary tomorrow afternoon, 'Abide With Me,' by H. Parker.

In May she scheduled a concert in Tahlequah and required a guaranteed payment of \$300. They expected a packed house since she was Cherokee. Seats were priced at \$.50 to \$1.50 each. Also in May the Cherokee Club was organized in Muskogee. Its purpose was to solicit funds for Susie so she could continue to pursue her career. A man by the name of Robert Blackstone conceived a plan to ask every Cherokee who participated in the Eastern Cherokee payment to give \$1 toward the fund. Prominent Muskogee residents were officers: Mrs. P. W. Samuels, President; Mrs. Leo Bennett, Vice President; O.H.P. Brewer, Secretary and Treasurer. W. F. Agnew contributed the first dollar. An additional club was formed in Tahlequah and possibly in other communities as well. It was reported that many of the older Cherokees made contributions to the fund but no totals were given in the newspapers.

The newspapers did not document when Susie and her husband left for Europe in 1910 but they had returned by early 1911 and were scheduling concerts throughout Oklahoma. It was also mentioned that she was going back to London soon after. She may have made several trips to Europe during 1910 and 1911. In September she had traveled to Denver to work with Charles Wakefield Cadman who was arranging music for her Cherokee repertoire. In early 1912 she was expected to be in New York and in St. Louis in May. The Library of Congress has a playbill in their collection that shows her as a cast member of the Pirates of Penzance in 1914. In May of 1915 the Muskogee newspaper reported that she was living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada as the head of a musical stock company. By the time of her mother's death in 1919 Susie was again living in New York.

I have been unable to locate any more information concerning Suzanne Lahoma after 1919. She may have died, divorced her husband and remarried, or been widowed. It's possible that she moved to California to be near Ms. Schumann-Heink who had a home in San Diego. She died in Hollywood, California in 1936.

Sources: Muskogee Times-Democrat 1910-1919 from microfilm at Muskogee Public Library
Marriage record from microfilm at Muskogee Public Library.
Wikipedia.com
Ancestry.com



We Remember...



October 7, 2013

ROSA LEE (DYE) JAMES

1930 - 2013

Rosa Lee (Dye) James, 83, of Muskogee, passed away Saturday, October 5, 2013 at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa. She was born February 5, 1930 to Roy and Pearl (West) Dye in Fort Gibson. Rosa Lee attended elementary and high school in Fort Gibson. After high school, she worked at the soda fountain at Purity Drug #5 in Muskogee. On December 25, 1949, she married Norman "Red" Leroy James in Van Buren, Arkansas. Red and Rosa Lee made their home and raised two children in Muskogee. In 1981, she worked as a silk screener at Oklahoma Interpak until she retired.

For fifteen years, she volunteered weekly at the VA hospital. She served as an election official at the Indian Capital voting precinct for thirty-eight years and worked as the Election Inspector for the majority of her tenure. She was also a member of the VFW women's auxiliary and participated in the monthly fundraising breakfasts. Rosa Lee was an active member of First Baptist Church of Muskogee for thirty years, where she often served in the food pantry. She enjoyed gardening, golfing, swimming, and cooking and made the best fried chicken, mashed potatoes and homemade ice cream. She loved nothing more than serving others.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman, on March 20, 2013. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Pearl Dye; and brothers, Billy Dye and John Dye.

She is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Dan Clawson of Broken Arrow; son and daughter-in-law, Doug and Toni James of Edmond; five grandchildren, Rachel Crawford and her husband, Robert, of Broken Arrow, Hannah Maness and her husband, Benjamin, of Dallas, Texas; Matthew Clawson and his wife, Lauren, of Norman; Jackson James of Edmond; and Colton James of Edmond; two great-grandchildren, Griffin Crawford and Oliver Crawford and two great-granddaughters due to be born in November; sister Wanda Bradley of Fort Gibson, brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Barbara Dye of Fort Gibson, brother and sister-in-law, Eugene and Ruby Dye of Muskogee, brother Charles Dye of Tulsa, brother and sister-in-law, Henry and Joyce Dye of Fort Gibson, sister Ellen Logan of Muskogee, and several nieces and nephews.

Family will greet friends Tuesday, October 8, 2013 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Foster-Petering Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 10, 2013 at First Baptist Church of Muskogee with Dr. Lance Sawyer officiating. Interment will follow at Fort Gibson National Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Dan Clawson, Doug James,

Robert Crawford, Benjamin Maness, Matthew Clawson, Jackson James and Colton James.

Funeral service arrangements are under the direction of Foster-Petering Funeral Home. Condolences to the family may be made at www.foster-petering.com



Closing with a greeting from Muskogee. It looks a lot like Christmas.

Photo submitted by Karen Wagner, courtesy of the Three Rivers Museum collections.

Muskogee County Genealogical & Historical Society

MEETINGS: MCGS meetings are held at 6:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month (except July and August) in the Grant Foreman room at the Muskogee Public Library, 801 West Okmulgee, Muskogee, OK. . The Board of Directors meetings are held the third Tuesday at 5:30 PM in the library's Genealogy and Local History department. 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 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 2013: President, Alissa Hill; Vice President, Stacy Blundell ; Secretary, Linda Stout; Treasurer, Mary Downing; Past President, Jere Harris; Newsletter Editor: Barbara Downs; Quarterly Editor, Nancy Lasater; Webmaster: Sue Tolbert, **APPOINTED POSITIONS:** Research, Barbara Downs; Library Liaison, Nancy Calhoun; Three Rivers Museum Liaison, Sue Tolbert.

OUR RESEARCH POLICY: Outlined on our website <http://www.okgenweb.org/~mcgs/> 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.

PUBLICATIONS: MCGS publishes books of genealogical interest, focused on Muskogee County and Muskogee Indian Territory history. A current price list of our publications is provided on our website.

QUARTERLY

The MCGS Quarterly is published online four times a year: March, June, September, and December. Beginning in 2012 issue, current issues are published on-line. Copies and back issues of the can be ordered on request by mail or through our website.

NEWSLETTER

Beginning January, 2013 we began publishing a monthly newsletter to provide members and guest viewers with current and scheduled meetings and news.