



Muskogee County Genealogical Society Quarterly

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Sales Tax Tokens

Modern taxation in the U. S. was first proposed in 1862 during the Civil War to help the Union pay for the escalating costs of the war. The proposal was for a 1% national tax but it was never acted upon. In 1921 the same scenario occurred to help pay for World War I but it was again defeated. In 1921 West Virginia was the first state to pass legislation for a sales tax. Other states followed up through 1935.

The federal government filed suit against some states as the tokens were an “assault on U. S. coinage.” The Illinois state tokens were removed from circulation because they looked too much like dimes. They were redesigned into square pieces. Tokens were issued by states, municipalities and even individual companies. Kansas was the first state to suspend the use of tokens in 1939 and Missouri was the last state to take them off the books in 1961. Most states had effectively quit using sales tax tokens after World War II.



The tokens were used to help collect sales tax merchants were required to pay to the state. For example, if the sales tax rate was 3% on a 10 cent piece of candy there was no way to collect the 3/10 of 1 percent tax. If rounded down the merchant was not collecting anything for tax. If rounded up, the state gained 7 tenths of a cent on every 10 cent sale. The token allowed the merchant to take 11 cents for the piece of candy and give the change back in “mills”. On the next piece of 10 cent candy, the buyer would pay 10 cents plus a token, thus paying the 11 cents and the merchant would have enough to pay the sales tax. Different states issued different tokens, the most common were 1 and 5 mills. Most customers did not like to carry a second set of coins and it was confusing. Therefore, the token system didn’t work very well.

Submitted by Linda Stout

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|--------------------------|--------|-----------------------|---------|
| First Things in Muskogee | Page 2 | First Family—Anderson | Page 8 |
| Oldest Ex-Soldier | Page 7 | “Mail” Children | Page 10 |

INTERVIEW WITH ELLA ROBINSON # 13655

Volume 98 page 29, INDIAN PIONEER PAPERS

Ella Robinson, Investigator, May 4, 1938

Transcribed by Barbara Downs

FIRST THINGS IN MUSKOGEE

First railroad to present site of Muskogee – Missouri, Kansas and Texas – January 1, 1872.

First steam engine to cross Arkansas River bridge – “The General Grant”, property of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad. December 25, 1872.

First public eating house – a small shack east of Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad track. Built of odd pieces of lumber and goods boxes and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell. January 1872.

First General Merchandise Store – J. A. Patterson, where Turner Block now stands, 1872.

First Hardware – J. S. Atkinson, where old Patterson building is located, 1872.

First contractor and builder – P. J. Byrne, 1872 – Built the “Mitchell Hotel”, 1872.

First Main Street – adjacent to Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad; running parallel, 1872.

First doctor in Muskogee – Dr. George N. Comings, 1873. Office in drug store on Main Street.

First store on east side of Missouri, Kansas Texas track – Mrs. Joshua Ross – corner of Cherokee and Broadway, 1872.

First residence on east side of Missouri, Kansas and Texas track – Mr. J. Ross, 1872 – where 600 block now is on East Broadway in Muskogee.

First public hall in Muskogee over Cuars Newburgs dry Goods Store. Corner of Okmulgee and Main, 1878.

First livery stable in Muskogee – owned by Mr. Blackmore on South Second Street, 1875.

First stage line from Muskogee to Tahlequah via Fort Gibson – operated by Mr. Blackmore, 1875.

First wagon yard in Muskogee – operated by Mr. Blackmore on South Second, 1875.

First grist mill in Muskogee – owned and operated by Major John A. Foreman, 1873. Located on North Cherokee and Katy tracks, in 200 block.

First meat market in Muskogee – operated by Mrs. Matt Carter and Theo Lacey, 1874. Corner of Cherokee and Challahan.

First water supply system – operated by Charley Willey. Water sold from barrels, 1873.

First postmaster in Muskogee – appointed January 1, 1872, James L. Barnes,

First Newspaper in Muskogee, Indian Journal, 1875, Edited by Dr. M. F. Roberts.

First bakery in Muskogee – operated by George Belstead, 1874

First Indian International Fair held in Muskogee, 1874.

First president of International Fair – Major John A. Foreman, 1874

First Secretary of Indian International Fair – Mr. Joshua Ross, 1874.

First blacksmith shop in Muskogee. Owned by Coleman Roberson, 1876. Located at what is now Dayton and C Streets.

First shoe shop – owned by Mr. J. J. Corbutt, 1880. Located on Second Street at what is now 103 North Main

First saddle shop – owned by Dave Andress, a Cherokee, 1877. On Main Street, next door to Belsteads Bakery, facing west.

First town officer in Muskogee – Simps Bennett, a Cherokee, 1876

First lawyer in Muskogee – Colonel Bird Harris. Home in the country. A Cherokee, 1880.

First photographer in Muskogee – Mr. J. Brazel, 1876. Located near what I is now Main Street.

First church established in Muskogee – First Presbyterian, 1875.

First house of worship – in cattle pasture where Severs Hotel is located, 1875, burned 1876.

First Pastor of Presbyterian Church in Muskogee – Reverend John Elliott, 1875 – 1880.

First Sunday school superintendent – Mr. W. L. Squires, 1875.

First Methodist Church in Muskogee – organized October 1876.

First Pastor of Methodist Church in Muskogee – Reverend Theodore F. Brewer, 1878-1886.

First member of Methodist Church in Muskogee – Mrs. Ella F. Robinson, October 1876.

First superintendent of Methodist Sunday School – Mr. S. S. Sanger, 1876-1881.

First denominational Methodist school in Muskogee – Established by Reverend Theo. F. Brewer, 1881. Classes taught in Methodist Church. Corner of Cherokee and E. Okmulgee.

First boarding school for girls – Harrell Institute, 1882.

First religious publication – “Our Brother in Red.” Established by Reverend Theodore F. Brewer, 1882.

First private day school started in Muskogee – Mr. W. L. Squires, teacher, 1876.

First sermon preached in Muskogee – Reverend Young Ewing, Methodist itinerant minister, 1873. From empty boxcar on Missouri, Kansas and Texas tracks at Broadway crossing.

First white male child born in Muskogee – Ralph Dreisbach, October, 1872.

First white girl born in Muskogee – Jenie Robb, December 1872.

First dealer in hides, pelts and pecans in Muskogee – Joseph Sondheimer, 1874.

First tinner in Muskogee – Mr. Sam Yates. Shop where rear of Calhoun’s Dry Good Store now is, 1877.

First Orchard planted in Muskogee – By Joshua Ross, 1873

First woman employed in Dry Goods Store – Mrs. Nettie Graves, 1869, by Patterson’s Mercantile Company.

First woman stenographer in Muskogee – Miss Nettie Graves, 1890, by Harry C. Sheppard, lawyer.

First Undertaker in Muskogee – Mr. J. L. Thomas, 1880.

First florist and landscape gardener – Chas. N. Moore, 1890.

First stone mason – Tom Bracket , 1874.

First freight line from Muskogee – operated by Hugh Bay, 1875. Ran to Baxter Springs, Kansas.

First cotton gin, 1878, owned by John A. Foreman.

First dressmaking and millinery shop – operated by Mrs. John C. Cunningham, 1877, where home of Mrs. R. C. Rogers is located.

First resident dentist – Dr. A. E. Boncall, 1888. Office with Dr. Chas. Harris on Main Street.

First cab line – Tom Winfrew, 1889.

First transfer business – Cris Silverhorn, 1889.

First jeweler – John O’Brien, 1880. Store at north corner of Main and Broadway – English Block.

First ice house – operated by John A. Foreman on Katy track near depot, 1875. Ice cut from Grand River.

First fire department – Volunteer, 1889

First residence street, Cherokee Street, 1875.

First steam laundry – Tung Woo Laundry and bathhouse. Operated by John Lee, 1890.

First kindergarten – opened by Mrs. Pheobe Riddell, September 1890.

First cleaning and dyeing establishment – 1890 – operated W. T. Davis.

First Insurance agent, A. A. Engert, 1881. First in Indian Territory.

First book store – “Post Office Book Store”. Operated by Mrs. Cherokee Gilmore. Corner of Second and Broadway, 1890.

First woman doctor – Dr. Grace Davis, 1898..

First adding machine – Bought by Mr. John Dill, Cashier, Commercial National Bank, 1896

First Catholic Knights of Columbus – Organized 1895.

First public school opened in Muskogee – September 11.1889.

First school board in Muskogee – W. C. Trent, President, Thomas A Sanson, Secretary, William N. Martin, W. T. Hutchings, J. B. Towers, O. F. Bebee.

First brick school buildings erected – Washington and Jefferson, 1904.

First opera house erected in Muskogee – Turner Opera House, in Turner Block, 1894.

Opened September, 1894 by Road Company, Sharp and Lee Camp playing “Forget-me-not”.

First Knights of Pythias Lodge – organized 1888. W, S, Harsha, W. R. Robinson, and E. R. Rulison are living charter members.

First edition of Phoenix published February 16, 1888. Dr. Leo E. Bennett, editor.

First Literary Club in Muskogee – Organized by Mrs. Augusta Robertson Craig (Afterward Mrs. N. B. Moore) and Mrs. Legas Perryman. Partial list of charter members: Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. James Mitchell, Mrs. Ell F. Robinson, Mrs. Samuel Yates, Mrs. M. P. Roberts, Mrs. J. S. Atkinson, Mrs. W. L. Squires.

First bank in Muskogee – First National – August 1890

First Bank President – Robert L. Owen.

First Cashier of bank – Chas. H. Worth.

First candy shop – John Harches, “Candy John” 1888.

First gun club – 1899

First superintendent of City Cemetery – Chas. W. Moore, 1898.

First ice cream parlor – Horace Veale, 1888.

First cigar store in Muskogee – Milo Adams in Adams Hotel, 1899.

First Masonic Lodge – Chartered, 1888.

First Band – Maddens Mechanics Band – Organized by William A. Madden. Composed of his workman, 1890.

First laundry agency – Abe Wolfenberger – Work sent to Parsons, Kansas, 1899.

First Catholic Church established in Muskogee – 1890.

First Pastor of Catholic Church. Reverend Father W. H. Ketahum, 1890.

First Catholic school in Muskogee – Nazareth Academy, 1894.

First paving in Muskogee – Wall Street between Second and Third by Cass W. Bradley.

First residence street paved – Callahan – 1906-1907.

First automobile brought to Muskogee by Mr. H. B. Spaulding, 1902.

First cafeteria – Miss Alice Robertson. “The Sawokla”, 1915.

First Oil Refinery – Chas. Madison, Superintendent, 1900.

First café – J. C. Fast, 1899.

First electric light system. Owned by C. W. Turner Company, 1894.

First airplane built in Muskogee, 1895, by Ben Bellis in rear of plumbing shop.

First brick yard – Jesse Haynes, Manager, 1897. Located on Coodeys Creek south of town.

First oil company organized in Muskogee – 1904. H. G. Baker – A. Z. English.

First street railway service in Muskogee – 1905. Benson and Hyde promoters and directors, Ira L. Reeves, superintendent, Nathan A. Gibson, attorney.

First laundry – “John Chinaman” 1888.

First ball team – Patterson Mercantile Company team, 1895, composed of employees only.

First surgeon in Muskogee – Doctor F. B. 1889.

First hospital in Muskogee – the “Martha Robb”, private. Operated by Doctors Fite and Blakemore, 1894.

First ex-ray brought to Muskogee – 1896, by Drs. Fite and Blakemore.

First patient operated on under ex-ray – Al Jennings, noted train and bank robber – 1896. First ex-ray in Indian Territory.

First Jewish Temple erected in Muskogee – “Beth Abba” – Eighth and West Okmulgee, 1916. Rabbi Israel in charge.

First automobile agency in Muskogee – A. B. Roberts, 1908. Agent for Chalmers.

First telephone company in Muskogee – 1898. Housed in Turner Building. Promoters and stock holders, C. E. Turner, A. Z. English, F. B. Severs, S. W. Rutherford, Judge N. S. Moore.

First residence telephone A. Z. English. Number 1.

First noted singer – Madam Nordica. 1899.

First Muskogee Commandery Knight Templar – 1891

First Eastern Star Chapter in Muskogee – 1899.

First wholesale grocery in Muskogee – 1902. “Muskogee Wholesale”, C. W. Turner, R. L. Davis, Earnest Cook, stock holders.

First Public Library – Organized October 1906. Sponsored by Muskogee History Club – Mrs. I. N. Croom, first librarian. Room in Turner Building, second floor.

First iron works in Muskogee. Moved from Aurora, Missouri, 1909.

First gas service in Muskogee, Artificial – 1905.

First natural gas service in Muskogee – 1904.

First city water system – 1903. First superintendent of waterworks – Walter Johnson – 1903.

First term of Federal Court held in Muskogee – April 1889. In upper story of Phoenix Office, 2nd and Okmulgee.

First Federal Judge, James M. Shackelford.

First Clerk, William Nelson.

First United States Marshal, Thomas B. Needles.

First United States Attorney A. T. Walrond.

Foreman of first Federal Jury – Captain George B. Hester.

First juror called and sworn, Honorable Pleasant Porter.

First death sentence passed by Federal Court in Muskogee – Cyrus Brown, convicted of murder, 1898.

First city officials – Major P. J. Byne, John G. Lieber, Attorney, George H. Williams, Treasurer. Councilmen – P. N. Blackstone, W. S. Harsha, A. W. Robb, F. B. Severs, Clarence W. Turner.

First cigar factory opened by Mr. R. Bender of Nevada, Missouri, April 1895.

First electric fans – Bought by J. C. Fast. 1895. Used in Alcazar Café.

Henry Randall College – Opened 1894.

First Christian Science Practitioner – 1904.

First plumber – Ben Bellis – 1895.

First Catholic school for boys – St. Joseph's College – 1894.

First troop of soldiers recreated in Muskogee – Troops L. and N. for service in Spanish American War. May 1896. Entrained at Missouri, Kansas and Texas Station.

First Day Nursery organized – 1908. Directors Mrs. H. B. Spaulding, Mrs. J. T. Halzlip, Mrs. Geo. Templeton.

First dairy owned by J. B. Rucker. East of town, near location of Houston School, 1894.

First cream factory started by Mr. Frank E. Frank of Indiana, 1903. Located on South Cherokee Street. First in Indian Territory.

First pipe organ installed in First M. E. Church South, 1904. Miss Bess Brewer first organist.

First Women's Christian Temperance Union – organized by Miss Frances E. Willard, 1882. Mrs. Laura E. Harsha, first president.

First business college – Organized by Mr. George Clark of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, 1894. Occupied Women's Christian Temperance Union building in 100 block on North C. Street.

First college for Negroes – Sango Baptist College, September, 1904.

First flagman at Katy crossing – 1891.

First Merry-Go-Round – on East Okmulgee, near Katy tracks, 1893.

First Merchant Tailor – J. G. Van Nostrand, 1891.

First organization of Muskogee Mercantile Agency, 1891.

First street sprinkler – 1891.

First nine hour system for employees adopted by Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad, 1891, hours 7:30 to 5:30.

First exclusive gents furnishing store – Apple Brothers. The Boston Store, 1891.

First morgue in Muskogee or in Indian Territory – Opened by George H. Bloom, 1905.

First electric elevator. Operated in the new Hotel Turner, 1905.

First electric piano – in Alcazar Café. Owned by J.C. Fast, 1905.

First packing house in Muskogee – Armour's, 1905.

First street car ran March 15, 1905.

First rock crushing machine in Muskogee – January, 1905. Capacity 100 yards per day.

First Green Trading Stamps – 1904

First Lutheran Church service held in Muskogee – Services in First Christian Church, January 29, 1905. Reverend Greaber preaching in English and German.

First cement works – 1905

First Baptist Church in Muskogee – organized July, 1890. Reverend David Crosby, first pastor.

First Elks Club – organized 1899. First in Indian Territory.

First City Park Board – organized 1909. Board composed of L. N. Holmes, James King and H. P. Showalter.

First cemetery board – organized 1910. members: Grant Foreman, Dr. J. O. Callahan, Mrs. Harry English.

First picture shown in Muskogee – shown at old Presbyterian church building at corner of Third and West Okmulgee, where city hall now stands, in 1907.

OLDEST EX-SOLDIER MASON AND PENSIONER

Mr. C. B. Wingfield, Sr., of Ruby, near Van Buren, Ark., is in Muskogee on a visit to his sons, H. R. and Thomas Wingfield. He is eighty-six years old and has the distinction of seniority in three things over any living man. Mr. Wingfield is the oldest Mason, the oldest ex-soldier and oldest pensioner. He was born in Missouri in 1820, went to New Mexico in 1837, where he assisted the people there in driving out the Mexican forces, returned home and later joined Company A of First Light Infantry in Missouri to engage in the war of the United States against Mexico. In this war, Mr. Wingfield was wounded four times, losing a finger, an eye and two serious body wounds, and all came from the front and none from the rear.

On the battlefield of Buena Vista, in August, 1847, Mr. Wingfield was initiated as a Mason, and is today the oldest living member of that grand order.

On August 8, 1848, Mr. Wingfield was pensioned by the government and so is the oldest pensioner on the rolls today, receiving \$25 per month, a small pittance considering his val-

uable and brave services in behalf of the government.

By reason of his knowledge of the Spanish language, Mr. Wingfield was put in charge of special expeditions during the war with Mexico. In one of these, he captured some Englishmen trying to get out of the country with \$160,000 in gold and silver and several teams. They offered him half of the money if he would release them, but it availed them nothing and they were safely escorted to headquarters.

In July, 1846, Mr. Wingfield passed through this section and by the site now occupied by Muskogee. The only settlers here then were the Coodies, for whom the creek is named. Mr. Wingfield stopped at the home of old man Coodie, near the creek and close by where Muskogee is built. What a difference between the condition of things then and now.

Mr. Wingfield can get around alone, and quite actively for his age and wounds, and he is possessed of his bright mental faculties. A reunion of the family is to be held at Muskogee and there is expected to be four Charles B. Wingfields. This name has been handed down since the first Wingfield settlers in Virginia, where a Charles B. Wingfield was president of the first colony there. He was a favorite of King Charles of England and received special favors. The name Charles B. has since been handed down by the Wingfields until there are more than a dozen of them now living.

The subject of this sketch now resides on a good farm near Ruby, Crawford county, Ark., where he says that he has been "water-bound" for fifteen years. He has ample of this world's goods for his needs and an 80 pound wife to comfort him.

PRIVILEGES FOR SALE.

TERRIBLE ITCHING SCALP HUMOR

Badly Affected With Sores and
Crusts—Extended Down Behind
the Ears—Some Years Later
Painful and Itching Pustules
Broke Out on Lower Part of
Body—Son Also Affected.

Muskogee County Genealogical Society
recognizes

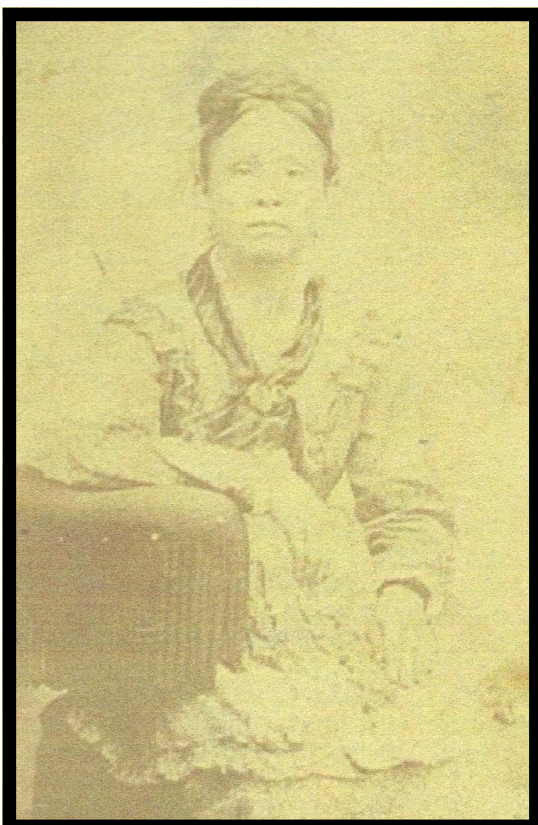
David Lee Anderson

as a member of
Muskogee County First Families
and a direct descendant of

Alice Ailsey White & Sylvester Alton
pioneers who lived in what is now
Muskogee County before 1880

Date: October 2012
Member #: 1005

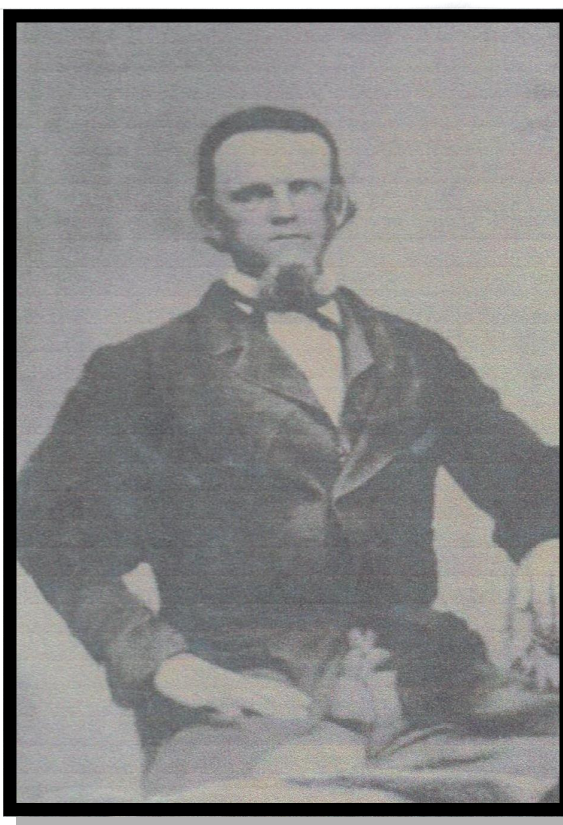
MCGS President



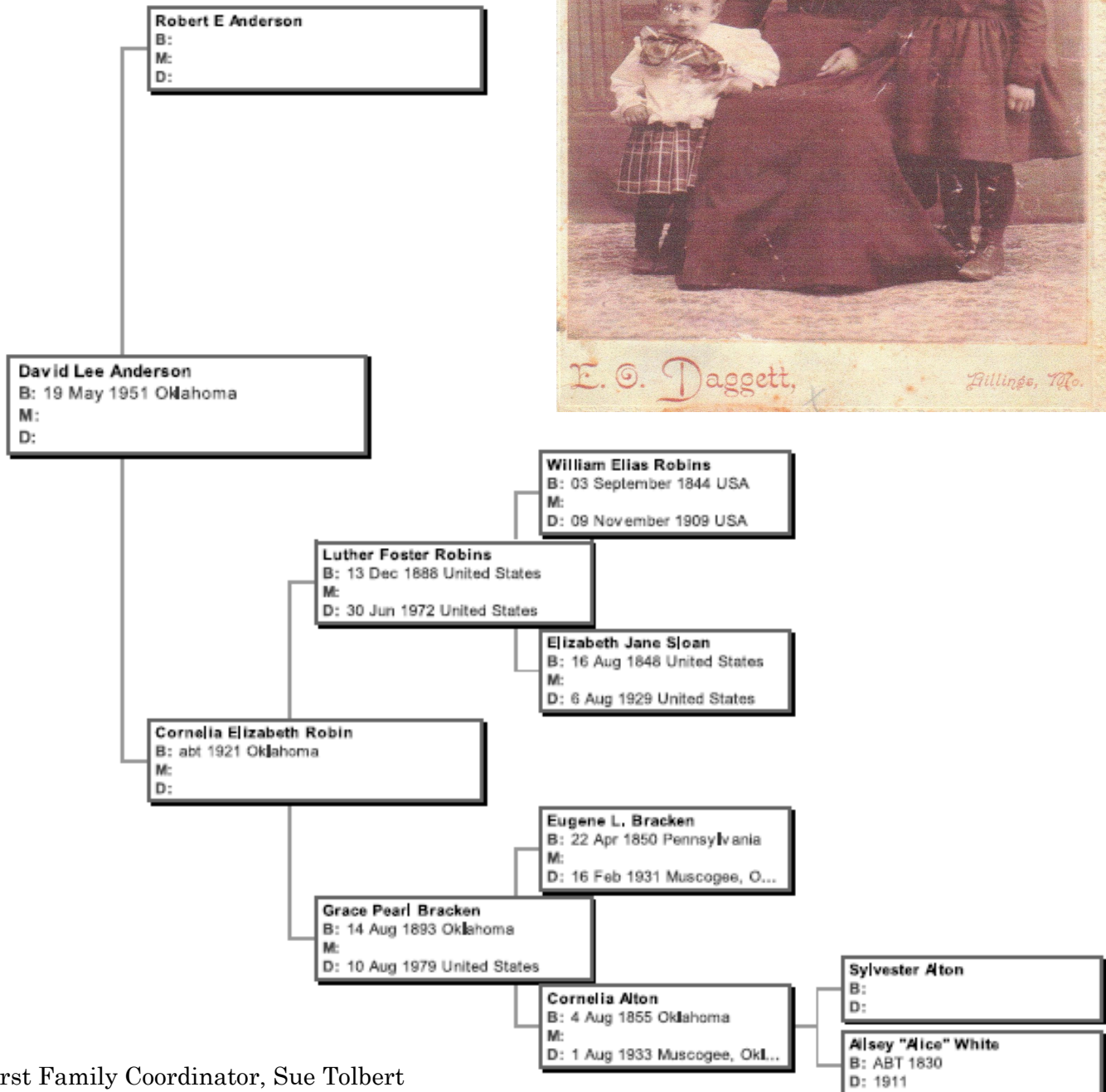
Alice
Ailsey
White

And

Sylvester
Alton



Cornelia Bracken nee Alton , and dau Pearl Robins and son Don.
Picture taken ca: 1900



First Family Coordinator, Sue Tolbert

"Mail"

Children



In 1913 it was legal to mail children. With stamps attached to their clothing, children rode trains to their destinations, accompanied by letter carriers. One newspaper reported it cost fifty-three cents for parents to mail their daughter to her grandparents for a family visit. As news stories and photos popped up around the country, it didn't take long to get a law on the books making it illegal to send children through the mail.

Submitted by

Mary Downing

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.