



# Muskogee County Genealogical Society Quarterly

Originated 1983

Volume 31—Issue 4— December, 2014

## About the Artist

In 1900 John Kessler's family was in Muskogee, and 17 year old Camillus was working as a pressman in his father's printing office. His artistic skills took him from the print rooms to a desk when he created

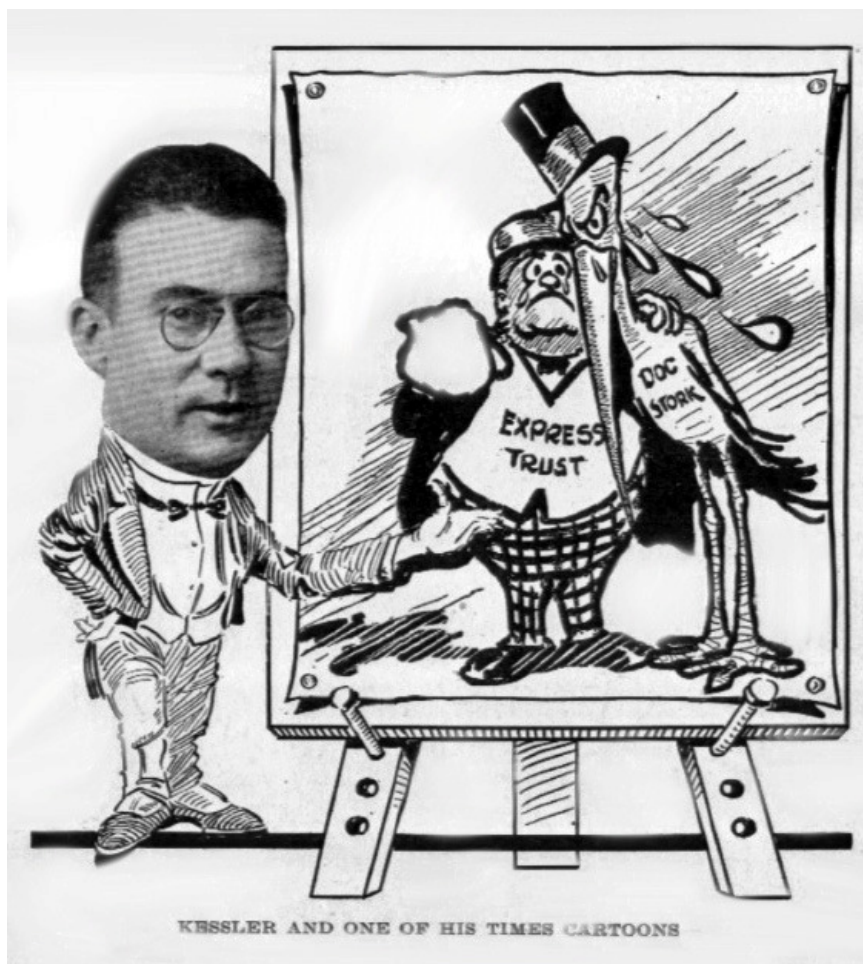
### Familiar Faces in Muskogee

featuring his "cartoons" of local businessmen of the time. This series ran in the Muskogee Daily Phoenix in early 1905.

Camillus moved from Muskogee to St. Louis, later to New York, and enjoyed a long career as a cartoonist and artist. He created a vaudevillian type act in theaters, putting a spotlight on a member of the audience, then while the entire audience watched by means of a projecting camera that he had invented, he would draw his subject. Not just a cartoonist, but also a serious portrait artist, he refined a process of etching his portraits on zinc and bronze.

Widely known during his lifetime, Kessler's fame has diminished over time. And, while he didn't live long in Muskogee, he left these treasures which are more than worthy of preservation for enjoyment today.

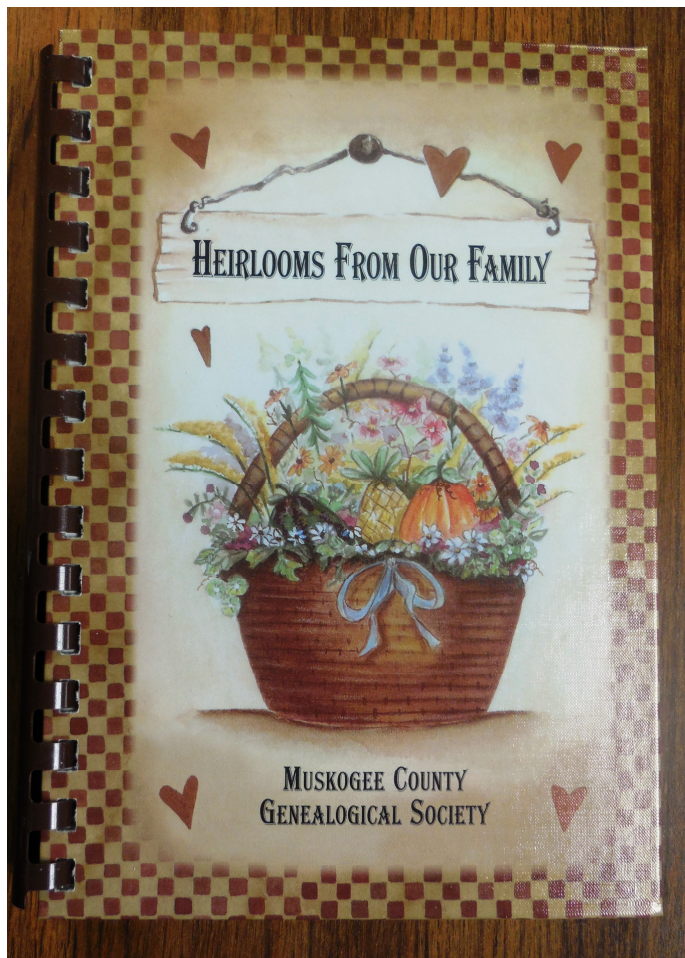
*Editor's note: From time to time, these renditions of those Muskogee Citizens will appear in this and future issues.*



Camillus Kessler 1883-1950

|                              |         |                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|---------|
| Who was Kessler to Muskogee? | Page 31 | Heirlooms Tastings           | Page 32 |
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The society hosted an “Heirlooms from Our Family Tasting” for the Thursday, November 23, meeting as a fund raiser for future events. The food was from the many recipes included in the cookbook by members of the society.



Melanie Mayer, Linda Stout and Jere Harris



Bless this bountiful table.





L. Jere Harris (is she tasting or serving?) This dish was a delicious favorite.



Collota and Bill Bailey enjoying the tasting.



Above: Nancy Calhoun (Anticipation) in her "Heirloom Cookbook" Apron.



L-R: Unidentified, Melba Ranks, Unidentified, Tim Harris, Al Cheeseman, second from farl eft, Jan Bryant.





Left: Dana and her husband, Darrell and Dora Allen from Oktaha. Volunteer Barbara in the background.



Above: Genealogy Volunteer, Al Cheeseman

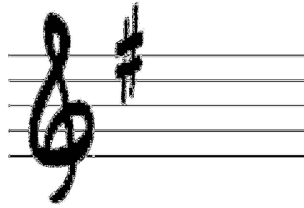


Above: Tim and Jere Harris

Right, around the table from the left: Marlene Leahey, Marjorie Barton, new member, Bill Bailey, Melanie Mayer, Jan Bryant and Linda Stout.







Michael the Musician

Lauren with her  
mom, Sue Tolbert



Betsy and James Edwards



Mickey and Pete Hagan



Gordon Wallace, Colotta and Bill Bailey





L. Virginia Perry and Mary Downing.

R. Left ear of Tim Harris and Jan Bryant, Librarian at the Muskogee Public Library.

Below: Floretta Leatherman, Gordon Wallace and Mozeal Jones



L. Mozeal Jones and Wally Waits;  
R. Barbara Downs, Nancy Calhoun and Nancy Lasater



# Muskogee County First Families Release Form

Please type or legibly print, filling out the upper portion of this page and sign it.

## Applicant

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Name:            | John Robert Brown, Jr. |
| Address:         |                        |
| City, State, Zip |                        |
| E-Mail           |                        |
| Phone Number     |                        |

## Qualifying Ancestor (or couple if both qualify)

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Name:                          | John White Brown |
| Date first in Muskogee County: | 23 May 1907      |
| Came to Muskogee County from:  | Wolfe County KY  |

## Person Who Did the Research (If different from applicant)

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Name:             |  |
| E-Mail or phone # |  |

I certify that the statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this application and its attachments become the property of the Muskogee County Genealogical Society when they are submitted and may be used by the Society for any lawful purpose, including display, reproduction and/or publication. Any information about living persons may be deleted.

Signature of Applicant: J Robert Brown

Date: 31 May 2011

Please do not give my address, phone no. or e-mail to the public. Thank you, JR/B

## APPLICATION APPROVED BY MCGS:

Date: July 2011

By: Sue Tolbert

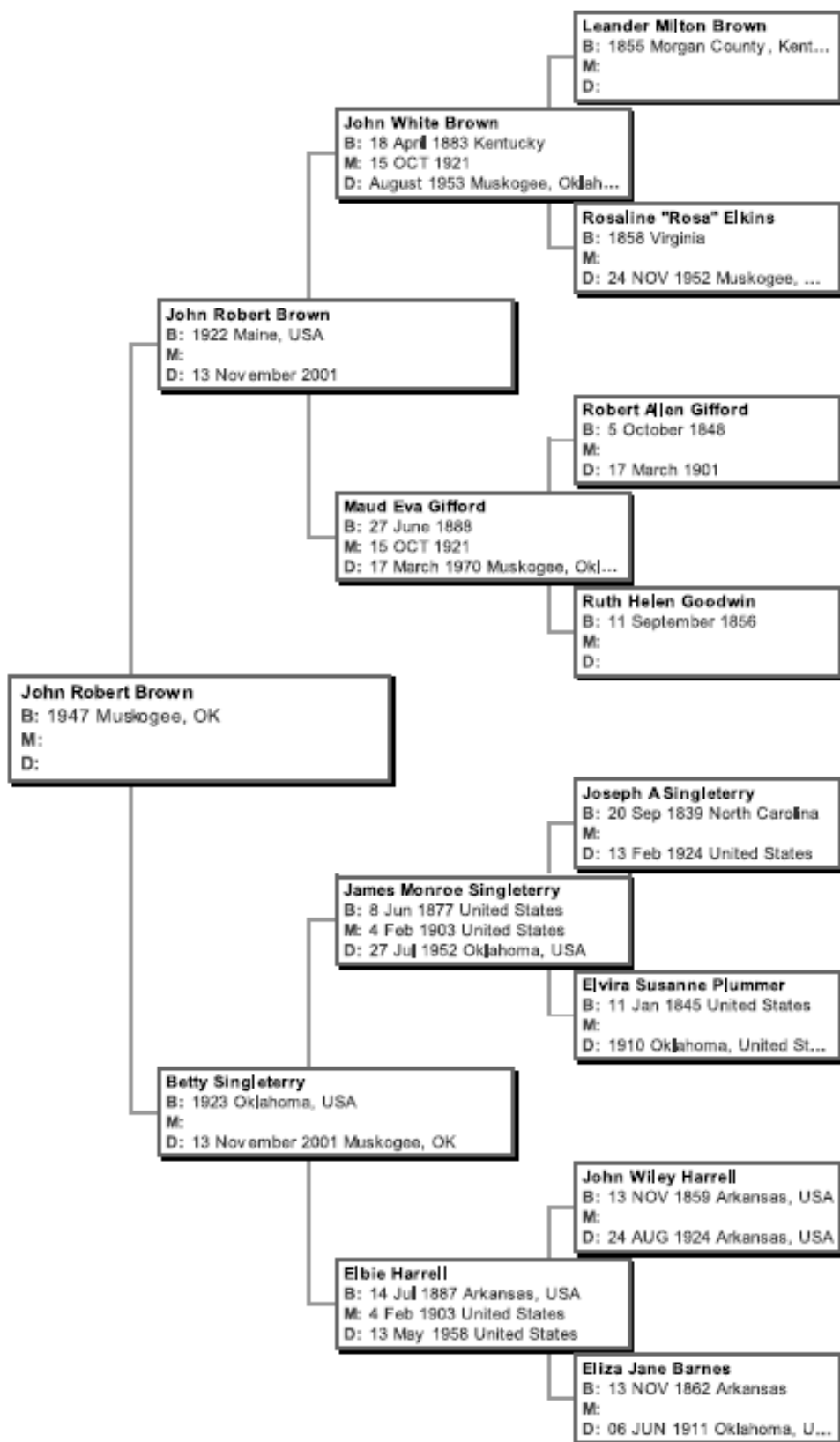
Certificate Type: Pre 1907

Certificate Number: 1004

Sent to Applicant on: Aug 2011  
(date)

Mr. Brown's application was approved as a member of Muskogee County First Families. Contact information has been removed at his request. A copy of the certificate was not available for this publication. Following is a copy of his family tree and various qualifying documents are either posted or listed for reference to help guide those who wish to become a Muskogee County First Families member.







# Oklahoma After Fifty Years

A History

of

The Sooner State and its People

1889-1939

PUBLISHED 1941 1260

A Narrative Historical Edition Preserving the Record  
of the Growth and Development of the Territory  
Together with Genealogical and Memorial  
Records of Its Prominent Families

Covering the period from the earliest movement of the Indian tribes  
into the territory to the present, but particularly recording its  
progress since 1889 as the home of the white man, with  
colorful episodes taken from the personal memoirs  
of the author.

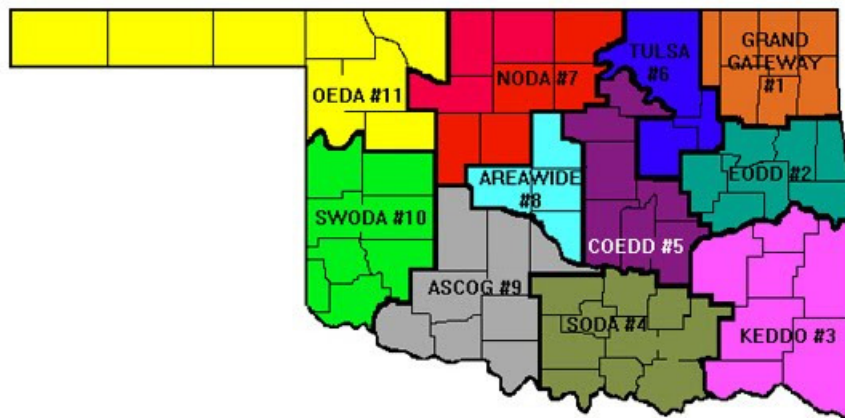
MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES F. BARRETT  
Author and Editor

THE HISTORICAL RECORD ASSOCIATION

HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

31. 1939. 1. 1941. 1. 1941.



560

## OKLAHOMA AFTER FIFTY YEARS

Elkins, a native of Kentucky, where she attended the public schools. Of this marriage there were born four sons and three daughters: Lucy, who is now Mrs. Henderson Sallee of Muskogee; John W., whose name introduces this record; Grant, now deceased; Lydia, who became the wife of Kelley Sallee and has now passed away; Clay, living in Muskogee; Maggie, now Mrs. J. A. Baldwin, also of Muskogee; and Edward L., whose home is in Henryetta, Oklahoma.

At the usual age John W. Brown became a pupil in the Kentucky public schools and afterward attended the Kentucky Wesleyan Academy, from which institution he was graduated in 1901. He subsequently entered Berea College and completed the academic course in 1904, while later he attended the College of Commerce of the University of Kentucky at Lexington, being numbered among its alumni of 1906. Taking up the profession of teaching, he was thus engaged for four years in Kentucky and on the first of January, 1907, arrived in Indian Territory, becoming a teacher in the schools of Mangum. After five months, however, he removed to Muskogee, here establishing his home May 23, 1907. He entered the business circles of the city as bookkeeper for the Muskogee Fruit Company, by which he was employed until 1912, when he started in business on his own account as a wholesale dealer in fruits, vegetables, poultry, eggs and dairy products. In this connection he has built up a substantial trade and has gained an enviable reputation for his enterprise and ability. He also owns and operates a potato farm near Muskogee and is president of the Muskogee Sand Company. The most envious cannot begrudge him his success, so honorably has it been won and so worthily used.

On the fifteenth of October, 1921, Mr. Brown was married to Miss Maude Evelyn Gifford, a native of Maine, who attended the common schools of that state, after which she became a high school pupil at Lake Forest, Illinois, where she was graduated about 1896. She then began working in a studio in Chicago and later came to Oklahoma, where she met Mr. Brown. They became parents of two children but one died in infancy. The other, John R., now 18 years of age, attended the Oklahoma Military Academy at Claremore, where he was graduated on the twenty-third of May, 1940.

The religious faith of Mr. Brown is indicated in his membership connection with St. Paul's Methodist Church of Muskogee. He likewise belongs to the various Masonic bodies and is a member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce, serving for fifteen consecutive years as a member of the board of the latter organization. He is also president of the Merchants and Manufacturers Bureau and occupies a high place in trade circles of Muskogee. He has ever been alert and energetic, ready for any opportunity, and his close application and enterprising spirit have carried him steadily forward. When leisure permits he enjoys a game of golf.



STATE OF OKLAHOMA

**MARRIAGE LICENSE**

COUNTY OF MUSKOGEE  
IN COUNTY COURT

VALID ONLY IN MUSKOGEE COUNTY

To any person authorized to perform the Marriage Ceremony, Greetings:

*You are hereby authorized to join in marriage*

Mr. J. Robert Brown  
of Muskogee, County of Muskogee, State of Okla.,  
aged 19 years, and Miss Betty Jane Singleterry  
of Muskogee, County of Muskogee, State of Okla.,  
aged 18 years.

And of this License you will make due return to my office  
within thirty days from this date.

Witness my hand and official seal, this 18th day  
of July, A.D. 1941.

JOE H. CHILDERS Court Clerk  
By John G. Gifford Deputy  
Recorded this 18th day of July, 1941

JOE H. CHILDERS Court Clerk  
By John G. Gifford Deputy

**CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE**

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, MUSKOGEE COUNTY. 88.

Family Marriage Records

DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDMONTON

**Certificate of Birth**

This is to Certify that the particulars of the undernoted birth which is on record in this Department are as follows:

Name RAFAEL EDWARDS CRUZ Sex Male

Date of Birth 22nd December 1970 Place of Birth Calgary, Alberta

Name of Father Rafael Bienvenido Cruz His Birthplace Matanzas, Cuba

Name of Mother Blasner Elisabeth Wilson Her Birthplace Wilmington, Delaware, U.S.A.

Occupation of Father Geophysical Consultant

Registered at Calgary on 21st December 1970 Record No. 70-08-012264

Given under my hand and seal of the Director at Edmonton, this  
Twenty-first day of January 1971

J. C. Bullock  
DIRECTOR

332334

Sample: Birth Certificate

**CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

LOCAL REGISTRAR'S FILE NO. STATE FILE NO. **07623**

|  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| DECEASED - NAME<br>1. <u>John Robert "Bob" Brown</u>                       |  |   |  | DATE OF DEATH (Month, Day, Year)<br>2. <u>4-27-72</u>  |  | SEX<br>3. <u>Male</u>  |  |
| RACE - White, Negro, American Indian, Etc.<br>(Specify)<br>4. <u>White</u> |  | AGE - Last Birthday (Year)<br>5a. <u>49</u>   |  | UNDER 1 YEAR<br>3b. Mos. Days  |  | UNDER 1 DAY<br>5c. Hours Min.                                    |  |
| CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION OF DEATH<br>7a. <u>Muskogee</u>                    |  | INSIDE CITY LIMITS<br>7c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No   |  | HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION - NAME (If not in either, give Street and Number)<br>7d. <u>DOA Muskogee General Hospital</u>                              |  |  |  |
| STATE OF BIRTH (If not in U.S.A., Name Country)<br>8. <u>Maine</u>         |  | CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY<br>9. <u>U. S. A.</u>   |  | Married <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Never Married <input type="checkbox"/><br>Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> |  | SURVIVING SPOUSE (If Wife, Give Maiden Name)<br>11. <u>Betty</u> |  |
| SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER<br>12.  |  | USUAL OCCUPATION (Give kind of work done during most of working life, even if retired)<br>13a. <u>Owner &amp; Pres. Brown Dist. Co.</u> |  | KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY<br>13b. <u>Coors Beer</u>   |  |  |  |
| RESIDENCE - STATE<br>14a. <u>Oklahoma</u>                                  |  | CITY, TOWN, OR LOCATION<br>14c. <u>Muskogee</u>   |  | INSIDE CITY LIMITS<br>14d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No   |  | STREET AND NUMBER<br>14e. <u>2627 Country Club Rd.</u>           |  |
| FATHER - NAME<br>15. <u>John W. Brown</u>                                  |  |   |  | MOTHER - MAIDEN NAME<br>16. <u>Maude E. Gifford</u>  |  |  |  |

## Brown-Rawlins

## Family Member Death Records

by: World's own Service  
Friday, November 16, 2001

**BROWN-RAWLINS -- Betty, 78**, died at her home in Muskogee on November 13, 2001. She grew up in Muskogee and married John Robert "Bob" Brown. Brown, President of Brown Distributing Co. and Mayor of Muskogee (1967-1969), died in 1971. She later married Edward Rawlins, President of Empire Roofing Co. in Tulsa, who died in 1989. Mrs. Rawlins served on the boards of Brown Distributing Co., Commercial Bank of Muskogee, Muskogee Regional Medical Center and the Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church. She was President of the Service League and a member of the Daughters of the King. Survivors include: her son, Robert Brown of Atlanta, GA; daughter and son-in-law, Judy and Jay Rousek of Houston, TX; grandchildren, Matthew Lasater of Berkeley, CA and Nicol Rousek-Semicek; sister, Sue Grimes of Muskogee (formerly of Tulsa); and nieces, Jane Bartel of Clovis, NM and Elaine Felice of Des Moines, IA. Memorial contributions may be made to Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, 825 N.E. 13th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73104 or the Hospice, 1313 W. Broadway, Muskogee, OK 74401. Service will be Saturday, 11 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in Muskogee, 218 N. 6th St. under the direction of Foster-Petering Funeral Home in Muskogee, 918-682-3436.

**Family Record**

Husband's Father: John T. Barker

Husband's Mother: Frances Elizabeth Barker

Wife's Father: Samuel Albert Gifford

Wife's Mother: Adeline Nelson Gifford

Husband: Edgar Thomas Barker

Birthplace: Wichita, Kan. Date: Jan. 12, 1892

Wife: Betty Jane Singleterry

Birthplace: Wichita, Kan. Date: Jan. 12, 1892

Place of Marriage: Wichita, Kan.

Date of Marriage: Feb. 14, 1919

Officiating Clergyman: W. A. Gifford

Witness: P. H. G. Gifford

Sample: Bible Family Record



# Muskogee County Genealogical 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.

**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 Monday 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. Each new and current member is encouraged to submit a copy of an ancestry chart once a year. Individual or family membership is \$20 per year due each January 1.

**BOARD MEMBERS 2014:** President, Alissa Hill; Vice President, Nancy Calhoun; 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.

**2015 BOARD MEMBERS AND APPOINTEES:** Our new slate of leaders will be announced in the March Issue of the Muskogee County Genealogical Quarterly.

**OUR RESEARCH POLICY:** Outlined on our website [www.muskogee-county-genealogical-society.org](http://www.muskogee-county-genealogical-society.org) 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. Email us at: [mucoges@yahoo.com](mailto:mucoges@yahoo.com)

**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 news and scheduled meetings.

From the Editor: Please accept my apologies for this issue of the Muskogee County Genealogical Quarterly being delayed. There are really no excuses, but there was a lot of material to organize and some of the names and IDs are still missing from some of the photographs of the gatherings. Please address any corrections or complaints to Nancy Lasater, Editor, [muskogee-county-genealogical-society.org](http://muskogee-county-genealogical-society.org) and I will do my best to accommodate them as soon as possible.