

Society hosts annual Christmas gathering

Muskogee County Genealogical Society will hold its annual Christmas event at 6 p.m. Thursday, December 7, in the Grant Foreman Room, Muskogee Public Library.

The evening will include a meal with the meats by Smokin' Bones, a special Christmas program, music by Michael Dunn, door prizes consisting of poinsettias, books and other gifts, installation of officers, and games. Those attending bring side dishes and desserts for the pot luck meal.

Janet Bowen will share her story, the subject of her book, *A Baby Girl For Christmas*, authored under her birth name of J.P. Bounds. The Muskogee native was born here where she grew up, the daughter of Jack and Christene Simpson. After bursts of searching, her birth mother, Jennie Bounds Calderwood, found her about a year after the death of her mother Christene. Jack had died several years before. It came with a happy conclusion and the amazing discovery of their many common interests and traits, from professional baking to crafts. Her maternal uncle, Preston Bounds, was a long time Muskogee Police officer.

Visitors are welcome. Society memberships for the new year can be paid at the meeting.



The mother-daughter team of Jennie Bounds Calderwood of Florida and Janet Bowen of Muskogee share a table, baking and crafting interests at a recent show in Muskogee. Jennie became the mother of Janet in Muskogee who grew up here, the daughter of Jack and Christene Simpson. Janet tells her story and how, with her adoption, she became *A Baby Girl For Christmas*, the title of her book with a chapter written by her birth mother. She will be the speaker at the December 7 meeting of the Muskogee County Genealogical Society and will also be one of the authors at the Third Annual Good Reads for Christmas book signing from 1 until 4 p.m. Saturday, December 9, at Muskogee Public Library.