

## Old Muskogee Burying Ground

Remains of Sleepers Long Since Laid Away Removed to New Resting Place.

Special to The Oklahoman.

Muskogee, I.T., March 25.- In the northwest part of the city there is an old burying ground and the city council decided to have the bodies removed and reinterred in the city cemetery. The old burying ground has been used for half a century and workmen there have brought to light some mysteries that have set the town a-gossip and furnished tales that will be told for many a day, but the graves have given up none of their secrets.

In one grave was found unmistakable evidence that a woman had been buried alive. The skeleton showed that after burial she had turned over in the coffin with her face down and one of her hands was behind her back. The grave is unmarked and no one knows who was buried there.

In another grave was found a body that had been buried many years. The skeleton remained and around the neck was a leather or canvas loop or noose, fastened with a ring and padlock. This too, was an unmarked grave and it is supposed that either Judge Lynch had laid a victim there, or an execution in the early days was followed by interment of the body without the trouble to remove the death circlet. In the same grave was found a silver dime that bore the date of 1872.

One grave was the last resting place of an Indian of magnificent proportions, who was buried without coffin or casket, but according to the Indian custom, wrapped in his blanket and in his leather breeches. Though all save his bones were gone, the blanket still retained its outline in the mould. The thigh bone of the old red man measured 22 inches in length.

In a metallic casket were the remains of M.P. Roberts, buried 22 years ago. The slide was moved from the top of the casket and through the glass was seen the form of the old pioneer who was known all over the territory in the early days. His preservation had been perfect. The hair and beard were still combed as when buried, and his clothing was perfectly arranged. There was not the slightest trace of decomposition and the body seemed to be perfectly petrified. He founded the Indian Journal, the first newspaper published in Indian Territory, now the Muskogee Phoenix, and had great influence among the Indians.

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