



**Choctaw County Genealogy Society**

703 East Jackson Street  
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

*April – June - 2005*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Mr./Mrs./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last*

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street/PO City State Zip*

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
*Area code Home(Day) Night (Message)*

Genealogical Research: (Surnames) \_\_\_\_\_

Research: (Geographical Area's) \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach your 5-generation ancestor chart for our membership register. You may also send us index cards with your surnames for our card file. Dues are due the first of January each year.

Books or Material donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift/Permanent \_\_\_\_\_ Temporary/with conditions \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate which type of donation.

Donated By \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Anonymous, (name for our records)

## Secretary's Report

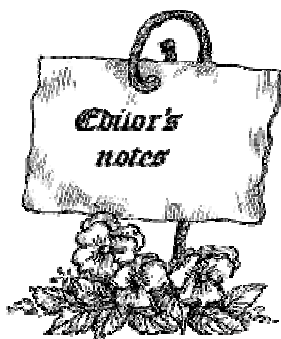


Hello all,

Hope everyone is having a wonderful spring.

We now have our new computer set up in the Heritage Room, so we can now access Ancestry.com online. We have also received the Antlers American newspaper (on five rolls). We are having fundraisers to get the funds to purchase additional microfilm and paper records, so anyone with any ideas, or anyone who would like to help, would be greatly appreciated. Our monthly meetings have been changed to the second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. We hope to see you there, and bring a friend!

April Makerney, Sec./Treas., CCGS



Hi fellow researchers!

It has been a busy time here the past few weeks, preparing for the free genealogy classes we are giving to promote genealogy and our CCGS, the first class was the 9<sup>th</sup> of April and called "Where do I start". We had 7 non-members and 3 members attend. We also had one to join CCGS at the class. We would like to welcome our new member Sandra Riley of Gilmer, Texas. Our next class is going to be May 7, 2005 and will be on "Documentation and Census Records." All those who are interested in helping with these classes should contact me. Future project: A bake sale at the Hugo Art Fair, and a float for the homecoming parade in June, we need your ideas! Our new logo was created by JoLynn Self and is on the front of this newsletter. Thanks JoLynn !! We are currently taking orders for Tee Shirts with the logo on them, prices are 7.00 S, M, L, XL-8.00 XXL-9.00 XXXL - contact JoLynn Self for more information. We hope that this will promote our CCGS. Anyone that has e-mail, please send me your e-mail address; mine is: [doris\\_dykes@peoplepc.com](mailto:doris_dykes@peoplepc.com) (there is a \_ between names) so I can add you to our e-mail subscribers, we are trying to stay in contact with everyone by e-mail if possible. If you haven't visited our home site on the web, please do so. Ron Henson keeps the most current information on the site and does a great job.... [www.rootsweb.com/~okccgs2/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~okccgs2/)

A big thanks you to everyone who has helped with the new classes, and promotion of the CCGS. Zack Maxwell, at the Hugo Daily News, has been wonderful to put our meetings and promotions in the paper; also the Cebridge Community Cable has helped to promote our meetings, and we thank them. We hope that all will attend our next meeting, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. (Note the time change). Doris Dykes- Editor CCGS

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Grand Lake Ancestor Fair

Grove Community Center, Grove, Oklahoma

May 14, 2005 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

Join family researchers from all over the Four-State area for a day of exploration and discovery on beautiful Grand Lake in the heart of Cherokee Country.

Many exhibitors and vendors will display a wide variety of genealogical materials, books, computer items, supplies, and research opportunities. Family researchers are invited to share their family histories.

## MEET THE SPEAKERS

Kathy and Phil Armstrong, directors of the Joplin, Mo., LDS Family History Center, will bring expertise in use of computers in genealogy.

Carolyn Reno, collections manager of the Springdale, Ark., Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, will talk about care and preservation of old photographs.

Jerri Rogers Chasteen, longtime Cherokee researcher and genealogist, will speak on researching whites and Indians in Indian Territory.

See other side for schedule. Tickets to the presentations are \$5 each

## FREE SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

GETTING STARTED IN GENEALOGY. A short introduction to getting your family research started. FREE at 12:15 p.m. in Room 4. Presented by Glendia White, president, Delaware County Genealogical Society

KATHRYN KELLEY, Cherokee master basket weaver honored as a Living Treasure of the Cherokee Nation, will display and demonstrate traditional Cherokee basket weaving.

THE CLOTHES OUR ANCESTORS WORE. Marge Chowning will model with flair pre-1840 clothing she makes herself.

FREE DAWES ROLL LOOKUPS Computer searches of the Dawes, or Final Roll of the Five Civilized Tribes, will be made by the Delaware County Genealogical Society.

Admission is \$3 per person at the door.

Speaking sessions are \$5 each. See other side for reservations.

6" Subway sandwiches, drinks, chips and cookies will be for sale.

## Book Review

“The Lost German Slave Girl”

by John Bailey a recent publication is a good help in understanding the “redemption system” that was used by so many immigrant families coming to America. This biography is of a girl in New Orleans, but is applicable to the system in other ports, Baltimore, Philadelphia, etc. It is also valuable in explaining the culture in New Orleans and slavery in general in the south. A quick read, and valuable in your early American research. The story begins in Germany and tell of the trails of just getting on a boat to the New World and then what happened to so many of our ancestors. Submitted by: Lila Swink-member

## DOCUMENTATION: EVIDENCE/PROOF Primary Evidence

Any document written or recorded by, or for a person who was living at the time and **personally involved** with the transaction can be considered Primary Evidence. This includes (but isn't limited to) such items as: Wills, Deeds, Marriage bonds, marriage records, Birth records, Census entries (see my additional commentary on [census records](#)), Family Bibles, Church Registers, and other such records.

In some cases, the records listed above can't be considered Primary evidence, but secondary instead. When possible, all the data I present has been obtained via Primary Evidence. However, that isn't always the case.

Sometimes, primary evidence can be incorrect, or contain minor errors, this is rare, but possible.

**Bible Records** - Reliability varies. It depends on whether the entries were made as they occurred, or were they filled in days, months or years later from memory? Often there is no way to tell.

**Birth Certificates** - Generally very accurate for the mother and father are usually there to supply the information to the Doctor or person making the record.

**[Census Records](#)** - Reliability varies greatly depending on the dedication of the census taker or the knowledge of the family member supplying him with the data. I have a page specifically on this subject. Click the link above to find out more.

**Church Records** - Baptisms, Christenings, marriages, deaths and burials were often recorded by church officials. These vary in accuracy as much as Bible records do; were they written down as they happened, or compiled later?

**Death Certificates** - Generally accurate regarding death related information (time, place, cause of death, etc.) as it is usually written by the Doctor. However, the data regarding the deceased's birth date, birth place, parents names, etc, can often be

inaccurate depending on the knowledge of the person supplying the data (usually listed as the "Informant"). Often a person who should have accurate data supplies wrong data. This can often be attributed to the stress of the situation, for they have just lost a loved one.

**Deeds / Land Records** - Generally accurate for these are legal records of much importance to the grantee and the grantor, so care would be made to get the names and land descriptions as accurate as possible. However there is often room for error.

**Marriage Records** - Generally accurate for the groom and bride are usually there to supply any required information.

**Tombstones / Grave markers** - Tombstones vary in accuracy. The date of death is almost always correct, though many tombstones were placed months or years after the death and when that happens there is room for error. The most common error on a tombstone is the birth date. Usually the month and day are correct, but the year is sometimes "off" a year or two.

## Secondary Evidence

Any document written by a third party or shortly after the decease of the person in question, should be considered Secondary Evidence. Secondary Evidence is often reliable, but shouldn't always be assumed correct. This includes such records as Obituaries, Death Certificates (often reporting the wrong parents of the deceased, or the wrong birth date or place), Newspaper articles or biographies (whether written within the lifetime, or after the death of the person in question).

Census records can often be secondary evidence, since there is usually no way to know if the data given to the census taker was given by a family member or a neighbor, or if the data was reported accurately. (For example, a teenage son may not have known his parents correct age, or birth place, but guessed them to give to the census taker). Secondary evidence is often quite accurate, but has a higher error rate than primary evidence.

**Articles / Biographies** - Some folks will have an article or biography written about them during their lifetime for various reasons. While you can generally expect them to be accurate (assuming the subject was interviewed), there could be all kinds of inaccuracies included. If the author did not interview the subject but wrote from his own knowledge, or from interviews with others (but not the subject) there is all kinds of room for errors both great and small.

**Census Records** - Census records can also be considered primary evidence, however it should be noted that it is never clear *who* gave the census taker his information. Did he interview mom or dad? Then the data ought to be fairly accurate. What if he interviewed a younger family member who wasn't so

Knowledgeable? What if he talked to senile Aunt Betty? What if no one was home but the hired hand? Those are just a few of the reasons this primary evidence may in fact only as good as secondary evidence.

**Obituaries** - Obituaries are normally written by a close family member of the deceased, and are often written in a hurry, so therefore any number of mistakes may be present. A child's name or grandchild's name may be inadvertently (or purposely) omitted. The person's birth date and parents names may be off (if provided at all). There is also the fact that although a family member writes it, a newspaper person *re-writes* it for publication, thus often allowing more errors to creep in.

## Tertiary Evidence

To me, Tertiary Evidence basically covers one category: *Family Histories*. Anything published about a Family cannot be considered Primary or Secondary Evidence (except in regards to anything written by the author about people he or she actually *knew personally*). Family histories are compiled based (hopefully) on Primary and Secondary evidence. However, much of the data listed is often based on family traditions or data shared by other researchers (with no sources listed) or other older Family histories of the same family. This often leads to the same incorrect data being passed around again and again. Family Histories are a good starting place, but they can't be considered evidence unless fully documented.

This applies to these web pages as well. Don't assume that everything listed is correct. I have several cases of data that is well documented in Primary Records, but was once published incorrectly in some family history, and everyone keeps trying to correct me by referring me to the published family history. I have to keep telling everyone that a published family history is not a source document. Always refer to the original records, especially in cases of conflicting data.

In some cases (sad but true), there is no Primary or Secondary evidence to be found, so Tertiary evidence is all that there is. In these cases, every bit of data should be considered, and nothing discarded, but yet it should be clearly noted that the data is suspect.

You've probably looked at one of the big black "Heritage" books that are available for many counties. These are full of submitted genealogies and biographies and other historical articles. These are perfect examples of Tertiary Evidence. While immensely valuable, these articles are fraught with inaccuracies in varying degrees.

Biographies (and even autobiographies) are also Tertiary Evidence. One would expect an autobiography to be quite accurate, but consider that most folks don't like to show themselves in any negative way, so that would automatically mean they probably leave out some important events or distort events to make them look better.

The Internet is full of tertiary evidence. There are numerous personal websites with descendant charts or other genealogical reports listed (but seldom including any documentation). There is the IGI with thousands of submitted genealogies, and no documentation. There are the Gedcom sharing sites with thousands of sets of data files, most with no documentation included. There are World Family Tree (and similar) CD's you can buy or access online. These are all prime examples of Tertiary Evidence.

Tertiary evidence should always be considered a starting point only, and not the end of the journey

# Family Traditions

Family Traditions, while useful, cannot be considered primary evidence. Almost all of the Family Traditions I've heard are incorrect, exaggerated, or distorted way beyond what the original facts were. This is not evidence that someone in your family has been "lying" to you, only that they have passed along information orally that gets less and less accurate with each generation and with each retelling.

Family Tradition falls under the category of "Tertiary Evidence". I have heard some amazing stories that I just knew couldn't be true, but I listened to them, wondering where the story originated. Family Traditions are handed down from generation to generation, and almost invariably become distorted over the years. Tall tales get taller, or stories regarding one particular ancestor get mistakenly attributed to a different ancestor. This is so very common. However, just like other forms of Tertiary evidence, Family Traditions should not be completely ignored, nor should they be whole-heartedly accepted either, unless other proof is available to back them up.

Every one has heard of the game you play where you get a group of people and whisper a short story to one person who passes it on until, finally, it gets back to the person who first told it. By then the story has often been changed beyond recognition. This is the same as Family Tradition; only it usually gets grander (or vaguer) with each telling.

None of this is to imply that Family Tradition should be ignored, discarded or generally shunned. There is often a grain of truth in the story. It may require detective work to find out what the truth is but, it gives you something to start with. Of course some stories just can't be proven or refuted depending on the subject matter.

A general rule of thumb to consider is that the longer ago something was supposed to have happened, the less reliable the story may be. If the person telling it was an eyewitness to the events, then, you can generally rely on it being fairly accurate. If they heard it from an eyewitness, then it may be highly accurate, but possibly not 100%. If they heard from someone who heard it from someone else, well, then you should consider the story highly suspect, but worth keeping.

Let me give you some examples of Family Tradition gone wrong. My grandfather Grant gave me considerable assistance assembling the family tree as far as he knew it. However, when I queried him about his maternal grandmother's maiden name, he told me it was "Ballard". I wrote this down without hesitation, after all, he knew her and he was 30 years old when she died. However, after awhile I just couldn't fit that into the evidence I was uncovering. I asked him again and this time he said it was "Henderson". That turned out to be true. I don't know where "Ballard" had come from, and he wasn't sure either (still haven't found any connection to that surname). This is just proof that even an eyewitness may not have all the facts.

My grandmother Grant told me a story that I instantly knew couldn't possibly be true but I did not want to hurt her feelings so I just nodded and wrote it down. We were talking about some land that was still in the family that had originally belonged to her great grandfather. She proudly told me that "somewhere" in a storage chest was the original grant from the "King of England" for the land. Well I knew that was impossible for the land was not even settled by our family until ca 1840, over 50 years after our country gained independence from England. I thought of several interpretations of this story.



One, there was some old land grant from the King in a chest, but it couldn't be for that particular piece of land (this grant has never turned up), but might be something from a few generations back in another county that the family still had. Or two, there was a Land Grant, but probably from the Governor of North Carolina (as most land grants were signed by him or the Secretary of State). In either event, her "family tradition" was completely wrong, though with some room for explanation.

Other well known traditions refer to our ancestors being associated with Daniel Boone or George Washington or someone else famous and often can't be proven. Upon close examination these stories fall apart due to geographical separations or that the alleged ancestor was too young or too old to have done whatever was claimed.

Similarly, those with a surname common to someone famous are almost always claimed to be "kin", like some in my family claimed we were related to President Grant, which is absurd and just couldn't be. Folks named "Boone" are always related to Daniel Boone, folks named "Washington" were cousins to George, etc. Sometimes these claims are true, but more often than not they are just fantasy or musings or wishful thinking. It is always "cool" (now as well as back then) to claim you are related to someone famous. However, make sure the facts back up the story before you go advertising it.

My point is just that family traditions are interesting though more often than not, totally inaccurate. They often have some germ of truth in them. Consider that when using them in your genealogical research and you won't drive yourself insane trying to connect dots that just don't connect. If the facts you find back up the story, then you are lucky, for most traditions don't work out that way.

There are a couple of "Standard Traditions" that should raise some red flags. Is there someone in your family tree who was "adopted" or whose parents died at sea (or somewhere), so he was raised by someone else and took their surname? This story, more often than not, is a "cover up" to hide an illegitimate birth. I think most states had laws requiring that an illegitimate child was required to take the mother's surname at the time of the child's birth. Surnames were not something you could just change. It was a legal matter. Of course that doesn't mean every story like this is a cover up, some may be true, but everyone I've heard so far can be traced to an out of wedlock child.

<http://www.martygrant.com/genealogy.htm>

**Oklahoma Court Records-** Listed below is contact information and/or links to websites containing resources to help in a search for Oklahoma court records.

County Court Houses:

1. Adair County-PO Box 426 Stillwell OK 74960-0426 -Telephone: (918) 696-7633
2. Alfalfa CO-300 S. Grand Cherokee, OK 73728-2548 Telephone: (580) 596-2392
3. Atoka CO-200 E. Court Atoka, OK 74525 Telephone: (580) 889-3565
4. Beaver CO-P.O. Box 237 Beaver, OK 73932 Telephone: (580) 625-3151
5. Beckham CO-E. Main ST. Box 520 Sayre, OK 73662 Telephone: (580) 928-3383
6. Blaine CO- P.O. Box 399 Watonga, OK 73772 Telephone: (580) 623-5890
7. Bryan CO-402 W. Evergreen Durant Ok 74701 Telephone: (580) 924-1446
8. Caddo CO-P.O. Box 10 Anadarko, OK 73005 Telephone: (405) 247-3394
9. Canadian CO.-P.O. Box 730 El Reno, Ok 73036 Telephone: (405) 262-1070



10. Carter CO-P.O. Box 37 Ardmore, OK 73402 Telephone: (580) 223-8162
11. Cherokee CO-213 W. Delaware, Tahlequah, OK 74464 Telephone:(918) 456-4121
12. Choctaw CO-County Courthouse, 300 E. Duke Hugo, Ok 74743 Telephone (580) 326-7554
13. Cimarron CO.-P.O. Box 788 Boise City, OK 73933 Telephone: (405) 544-2221
14. Cleveland CO. -200 S. Peters Norman, OK 73069-6046 Telephone: (405) 366-0240
15. Coal CO-4 N. Main St. Suite 9 Coalgate, OK 74538 Telephone: (580) 927-2281
16. Comanche CO. 315 S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., RM 504 Lawton, OK 73501 Telephone: (405) 355-4017
17. Cotton CO. 301 N. Broadway St. Walters, Ok 73572 Telephone: (580) 875-3026
18. Craig CO. 301 W. Canadian Vinita, OK 74301 Telephone: (918) 256-2445
19. Creek CO. P.O. Box 1440 Sapulpa, OK 74067 Telephone: (918) 224-4082
20. Custer CO. P.O. Box 300 Arapaho, OK 73620-0300 Telephone: (580) 323-4420
21. Delaware CO. P.O. Box 407 Jay, OK 74346 Telephone: (918) 253-4432
22. Dewey CO. P.O. Box 278 Taloga, OK 73667 Telephone: (580) 328-5390
23. Ellis CO P.O. Box 217 Arnett, OK 73832-0217 Telephone: (580) 885-7301
24. Garfield CO. CO. Courthouse, 114 W. Broadway Enid OK 73701 Telephone: (580) 237-0227
25. Garvin County P.O. Box 239 Pauls Valley, OK 73075 Telephone: (405) 238-5596
26. Grady CO. P.O. Box 605 Chickasha, OK 73023 Telephone: (405) 224-5211
27. Grant CO. County Courthouse P.O. Box 167 Medford OK 73759 Telephone: (580) 395-2214
28. Greer CO. County Courthouse P.O. Box 216 Mangum, OK 73554 Telephone: (405) 782-2329
29. Harmon CO. 114 W. Hollis Hollis, OK 73550 Telephone: (580) 688-3658
30. Harper CO. P.O. Box 347 Buffalo, OK 73834 Telephone: (580) 735-2012
31. Haskell CO. 202 E. Main St. Stigler, OK 74462 Telephone: (918) 967-4352
32. Hughes CO. P.O. Box 32 Holdenville, OK 74848 Telephone: (405) 379-3384
33. Jackson CO. County Courthouse, RM 303 Altus, Ok 73521-3898 Telephone: (580) 482-4420
34. Jefferson CO. 220 N. Main St., RM 302 Waurika, Ok 73573 Telephone: (405) 228-2241
35. Johnston CO. County Courthouse 414 W. Main, Suite 201 Tishomingo Ok 74360 Telephone  
(405) 371-3058
36. Kay CO. P.O. Box 450 Newkirk, Ok 74647-0428 Telephone (580) 362-3116
37. Kingfisher CO. P.O. Box 328 Kingfisher Ok 73750 Telephone (405) 375-3808
38. Kiowa CO. P.O. Box 854 Hobart, Ok 73651-0854 Telephone (580) 726-5125
39. Latimer CO. 109 N. Central St., RM 200 Wilburton, OK 74578 Telephone (918) 465-2011
40. Le Flore CO. P.O. Box 218 Poteau, Ok 74953 Telephone: (918) 647-5738
41. Lincoln CO. P.O. Box 307 Chandler, Ok 74834 Telephone: (405) 258-1264
42. Logan CO. 301 E. Harrison, RM 201 Guthrie, OK 73044 Telephone: (405) 282-2124
  
43. Love CO. 405 W. Main St. Marietta, OK 73448 Telephone: (405) 276-3059
44. Major CO. P.O. Box 379 Fairview, OK 73737-2243 Telephone: (580) 227-4732
45. Marshall CO. County Courthouse, RM 101 Madill, OK 73446 Telephone: (405) 795-3220
46. Mayes CO. P.O. Box 97 Pryor, OK 74362 Telephone: (918) 825-0639
47. McClain CO. P.O. Box 629 Purcell, Ok 73080-2097 Telephone: (405) 527-3117
48. McCurtain CO. P.O. Box 1078 Idabel, Ok 74745 Telephone: (580) 286-2428
49. McIntosh CO. P.O. Box 110 Eufaula, Ok 74432 Telephone: (918) 689-2362
50. Murray CO. P.O. Box 442 Sulphur, OK 73086-0578 Telephone: (580) 622-3777
51. Muskogee Co. P.O. Box 1008 Muskogee, Ok 74402 Telephone: (918) 682-9601
52. Nobel CO. 300 Courthouse Dr. #11 Perry, OK 73077 Telephone: (405) 336-2141
53. Nowata CO. 229 N. Maple St. Nowata, Ok 74048 Telephone: (918) 273-0175
54. Okfuskee CO. P.O. Box 108 Okemah, Ok 74859 Telephone: (918) 623-0939
55. Ok. CO. 320 Roberts S. Kerr, RM 105 Ok City, OK 73102-3604 Telephone (405) 270-0082
56. Okmulgee CO. P.O. Box 904 Okmulgee, OK 74447 Telephone: (918) 756-0788
57. Osage CO. P.O. Box 87 Pawhuska, Ok 74056 Telephone: (918) 287-2615

58. Ottawa CO. County Courthouse 102 E. Central, Suite 203 Miami, OK 74354 Telephone: (918) 542-9408
59. Pawnee CO. County Courthouse 500 Harrison St. RM 202 Pawnee, OK 74058 Telephone: (918) 762-2547
60. Payne CO. P.O. Box 7 Stillwater, OK 74076 Telephone: (405) 624-9300
61. Pittsburg CO. 115 E. Carl Albert Parkway McAlester, OK 74501 Telephone: (918) 423-6865
62. Pontotoc CO. P.O. Box 1425 Ada, OK 74820 Telephone: (405) 332-1425
63. Pottawatomie CO. 325 N. Broadway Shawnee, Ok 74801 Telephone: (405) 273-4305
64. Pushmataha CO. 302 S.W. B St. Antlers, OK 74523 Telephone: (580) 298-2512
65. Roger Mills CO. P.O. Box 1210 Cheyenne, OK 73628 Telephone: (580) 497-3366
66. Rogers CO. P.O. Box 1210 Claremore, OK 74018 Telephone: (918) 341-0585
67. Seminole CO. CO. Courthouse P.O. Box 1180 Wewoka, OK 74884 Telephone: (405) 257-2450
68. Sequoyah CO. 120 E. Chickasaw St. Sallisaw, OK 74955 Telephone: (918) 775-5539
69. Stephens CO. CO Courthouse 101 S. 11<sup>th</sup> St. Duncan, OK 73533 Telephone: (580) 255-4193
70. Texas CO. P.O. Box 197 Guymon, OK 73942 Telephone: (580) 338-3233
71. Tillman CO. P.O. Box 992 Frederick, Ok 73542 Telephone: (580) 335-3023
72. Tulsa CO. 500 S. Denver Ave., RM 120 Tulsa, OK 74103 Telephone: (918) 596-5000
73. Wagoner CO P.O. Box 156 Wagoner, Ok 74477 Telephone: (916) 485-2141
74. Washington CO. 420 S. Johnstone Ave. RM 212 Bartlesville, OK 74003-6602 Telephone: (918) 336-0330
75. Washita CO. P.O. Box 380 Cordell, OK 73632 Telephone: (580) 832-228
76. Woods CO. P.O. Box 386 Alva, OK 73717 Telephone: (580) 327-2126
77. Woodward CO. 1600 Main St. Woodward, OK 73801 Telephone: (580) 256-8097

