



G.A.R. Cemetery

The G.A.R. Legacy

Gerald “Ahni” Ray

p. 2-3

From The Staff

FYI...

p. 4

A Day at G.A.R.

Historical Preservation

p. 5



G.A.R. Legacy



Gerald Ahniwake "Ahni" Ray
3/22/1926 – 1/1/2013



Above: [The USS Franklin](#) before the devastating attack on March 19, 1945.

Did You Know?

➤ ... Ahni Ray?

- ✓ Gerald Ahniwake "Ahni" Ray Sr., was a native Quapaw, Oklahoman.

➤ ... What is the "704 Club"?

- ✓ Ahni served in the United States Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Franklin during WWII. He was a proud member of the 704 Club, consisting of 106 officers and 604 enlisted men.

➤ ... What was one of his most proud moments?

- ✓ Being one of the 704 who voluntarily remained and saved their ship, The USS Franklin CV-13. The casualties totaled 724 killed and 265 wounded, and would have far exceeded this number except for the heroic work of Ahni and the other 703 survivors like himself.

➤ ... What took him from Oklahoma to New Mexico?

- ✓ Upon his return from the service, Ahniwake came home to Commerce, Oklahoma. He worked in the lead and zinc mines in Picher, OK., until 1958 when he and his wife Dorothy, moved to Grants, New Mexico so that he could work in the uranium mines.

U.S.S. Franklin

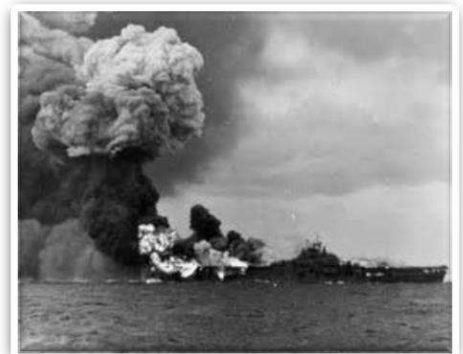
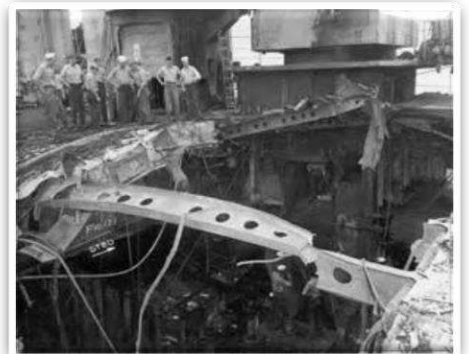


"Before dawn on 10 March 1945, the U.S.S. Franklin had maneuvered closer to the Japanese mainland than had any other U.S. carrier during the war, launched a fighter sweep against Honshu and later a strike against shipping in Kobe Harbor.

Suddenly, a single enemy plane pierced the cloud cover and made a low level run on the gallant ship to drop two semi-armor piercing bombs. One struck the flight deck centerline, penetrating to the hangar deck, effecting destruction and igniting fires through the second and third decks, and knocking out the combat information center and airplot.

The second hit aft, tearing through two decks and fanning fires, which triggered ammunition, bombs and rockets. The Franklin, within 50 miles of the Japanese mainland, lay dead in the water, to a 13° starboard list, lost all radio communications, and broiled under the heat from enveloping fires. Many of the crew were blown overboard, driven off by fire, killed or wounded, but the 106 officers and 604 enlisted who voluntarily remained saved their ship through sheer valor and tenacity."¹

1. <https://blog.usni.org/2010/03/19/remembering-the-uss-franklin-cv-13-the-ship-that-wouldnt-die>

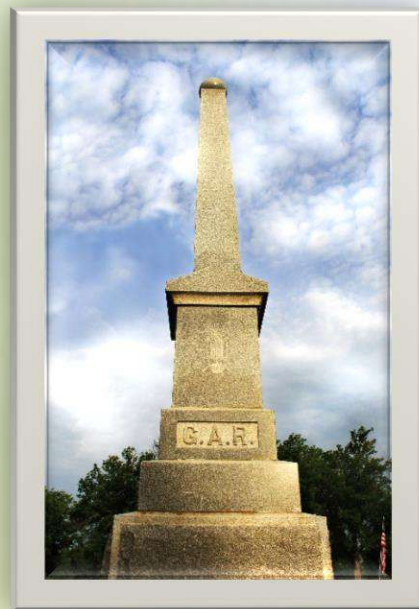


From The Staff



Chad Masterson
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager

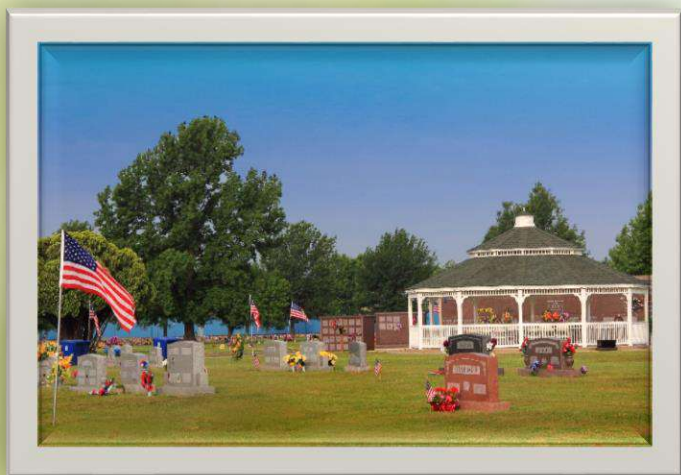
FYI...



Memorial Day came and went, and what a Ceremony we had. Over 200 people attended our 9:00 a.m. celebration and afterwards enjoyed coffee and donuts that were served courtesy of Brown-Winters Funeral Home. Then things started to wind down just in time for the 11 o'clock storm.

Now summer is officially here with temperatures pushing 100 degrees and high humidity makes working outside rather unpleasant, but we have to roll with the punches here in Oklahoma and that is exactly what we do! It is a challenge keeping up with all the weed eating and mowing that takes place here at G.A.R. that's in addition to the funerals that we get ready for and setting the markers, etc... but we take it all in stride knowing that fall is right around the corner.

Speaking of fall don't forget our next clean-up date is October 3rd. Clean-up schedules are always available at the cemetery office.





Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery Office Manager

A Day at G.A.R.

Historical Preservation

Our dedication to historical preservation is second to none. Many years ago when our cemetery was first established, the first priority was to get the information that was pertinent to their daily business... “Who” was the person, “Where” are they interred, “What” undertaker did they use, and “When” they were laid to rest. This was commonplace at the time, but today, with genealogy being so popular, we strive to get as much information as we can to help with the public’s ancestral searches. Our goal is to preserve historical facts for generations to come!

We strive to obtain as much information that we can, like their date of birth, date of death, obituaries, photographs, death certificates and much more. To help us with this, we encourage you to visit our “On-Line Burial Records” on The City of Miami’s webpage at www.miamiokla.net and upload pictures, documents, memories and stories so that we can help you keep your loved one’s legacy strong!

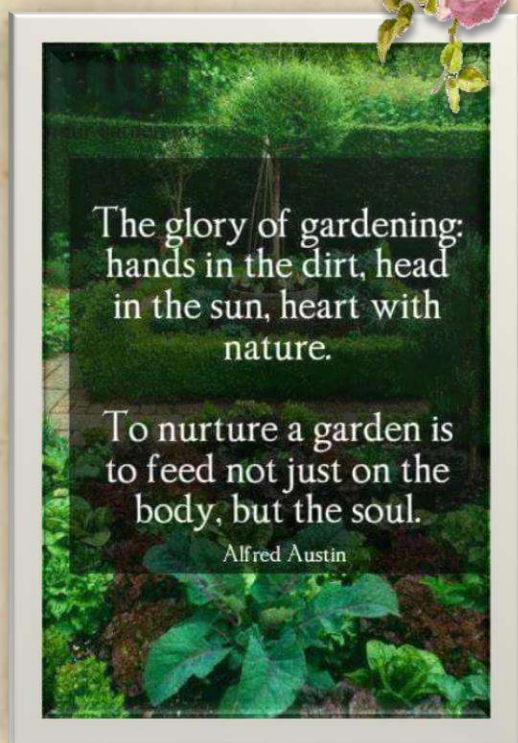
The G.A.R. “BIG” Book

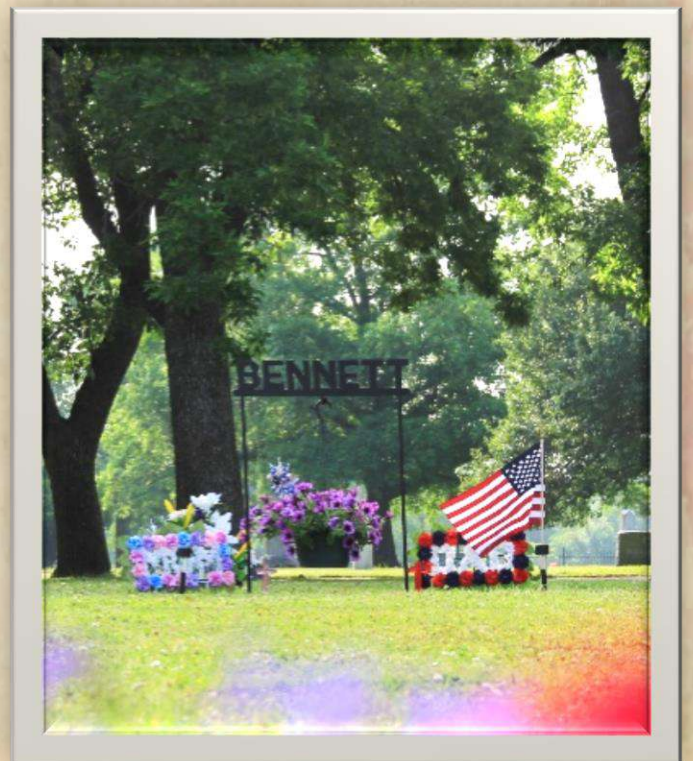
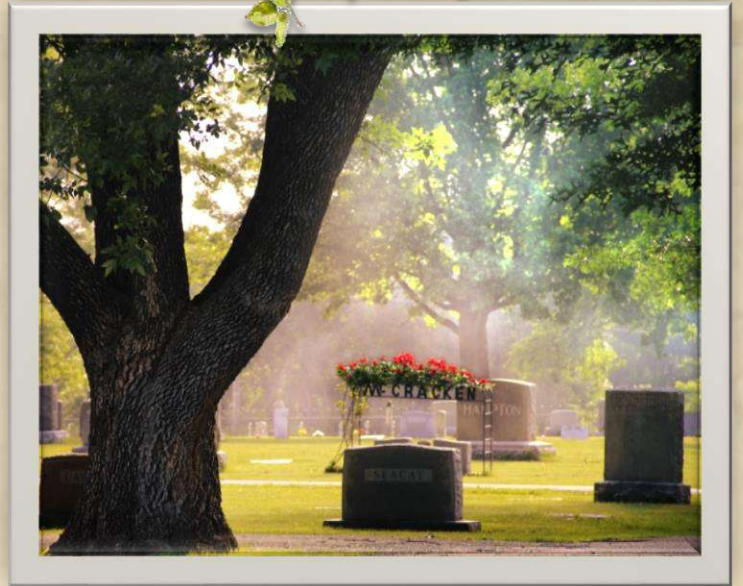
Above: The G.A.R. “BIG” book holds the oldest recorded burial dating back to 1892. We still use this book to log each and every property purchased as well as all interments. We also have a second “BIG” book as a back-up in case of any unforeseeable damages.



Record Keeping

Left: The card catalog that we still use today, along with the “BIG” book, daily logs and electronic files are all a part of our intricate record keeping process.






Clip and Save!

Genealogy
Miami Public Library
200 N Main * Miami, OK
Barbara Becker
geniedept@miami.lib.ok.us
www.miamipl.okpls.org
918-541-2292
Staff Hours
Mon, Wed, Thu. 10:00 am - noon, 1:00-5:00 pm
Tues 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00-4:00 pm

G.A.R. Cemetery
Decoration Removal Schedule
****All Decorations Must Be Removed from Graves by 8:00 a.m.**
On The Dates Listed**

 DECORATION REMOVAL	DATE
First Monday in February	02/01/2016
Second Monday Following Easter	04/04/2016
First Monday Following Memorial Day	06/06/2016
First Monday in October	10/03/2016

- Wrought iron basket hangers are not permitted except for the time period of December 15th through January 15th and one week prior to Memorial Day until the first Monday following Memorial Day.
- Notices for our decoration removal schedule will be posted on signs at cemetery entrances the week preceding decoration removals.
- All decorations not collected by date and time listed will be disposed of with no exceptions.
- For more information about the G.A.R. Cemetery decoration removal schedule, please call the cemetery at 918-541-2288.

Genealogy Trivia:
If you figure there's 25 years between each generation, 500 years ago there were 1,048,576 people involved in creating YOU!
YOU are special!
Teach Me Genealogy - www.tmgenealogy.com

Adopt~A~Flag
Order by October 14th
and have yours displayed
This Veteran's Day!
For more information:
Call: (918) 541-2288
Email: nbro@miamiokla.net

Walking, I am listening to a deeper way. Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me. Be still, they say. Watch and listen. You are the result of the love of thousands.

Linda Hogan (b. 1947)
Native American writer

2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

- **British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony**
 - Saturday, October 15th, 2016 @ 10:30 am

This Year's Guest of Honor will be – John Raisbeck, The son of British Cadet Kenneth Raisbeck. Join us at our ceremony, then at The Coleman Beautiful Ballroom for his amazing story of his journey to find out more about "The Father He Never Met"

CONTACT US

Kim Horn

Cemetery Director
khorn@miamiokla.net

Chad Masterson

Cemetery Manager
cmasterson@miamiokla.net

Nancy Bro

Cemetery Office Manager
nbro@miamiokla.net