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October, 2016 – ISSUE 12

G.A.R. Legacy

The King's Medal Did You Know?



Mrs. "Frances" Hill
1892 - 1982



The King's Medal
for Service in the Cause of Freedom



Mrs. Hill, tending to the British Cadets' Graves

➤ ... Frantie Mae "Frances" Hill?

- ✓ Frantie "Frances" Mae Hill tended to the graves of British Royal Air Force cadets that died while training in Miami, Oklahoma during World War II. She tended their graves for over 40 years until her death. She and her husband Claude are buried beside the RAF cadets she so lovingly cared for.

➤ ... Why Mrs. Hill cared for the graves?

- ✓ Mrs. Hill always had a special place in her heart for all the cadets that lost their lives and wanted to ensure that they were not forgotten, and to honor them for their families in the UK that couldn't be here to do so themselves.

➤ ... Mrs. Hill received The King's Medal

- ✓ Mrs. Hill was awarded The King's Medal for Service in the Cause of Freedom by King George VI for her care and compassion extended to the fallen RAF cadets and their families.



Mrs Frantie "Frances" Hill's Grave G.A.R. Cemetery

Excerpts from a letter by: Anthony F. Banks, Spartan School of Aeronautics – 15th March 1989

"You are no doubt aware that Mrs. Hill, at her request, is buried alongside the graves of the fifteen Royal Air Force Pilot Cadets who did not return to the United Kingdom from Miami, having died in accidents whilst under training at Spartan School.

Most of us, not of course the relatives and sweethearts of those men, were unaware, until recently, that Mrs. Hill devoted so much love and energy in attending to those graves for approximately 40 years. She also kept in touch with many of the relatives assisting in so many ways.

This association is regularly discovering graduates from Spartan and when they learned of Mrs. Hill's devotion they are, to a man, very deeply moved. I was 'unearthed' only in 1987 as a result of a sentimental return to Miami when I was put in touch with George Meyer and others. I shall never forget being told by George about the graves and later learning about dear Mrs. Hill.

I have been in touch with Buckingham Palace to get details of the award which was made to Mrs. Hill. I also have written to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Ottawa, Canada, who have replied with much helpful detail also mentioning the great care which your department has given to the graves.

I am now, on behalf of our Association, requesting your permission to have placed on Mrs. Hill's grave, a small tablet simply recording her devotion and our collective thanks.

We feel that her efforts are so worthy of this recognition and will explain to posterity the close proximity of her grave to the 15 graves."

Yours sincerely,
Tony Banks

From The Staff



Chad Masterson
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager

Fyi...

Getting Ready for Fall

Fall is a favorite time of year for many folks. And what is not to like? With the nights getting cooler, all the fall festivals that are happening, and the changing colors of the leaves, it is certainly something to look forward to.

Some of the trees here at G.A.R. are already starting to turn colors. The Maples that were planted almost 3 years ago are starting to turn red also the giant Ash trees are working on their yellow leaves.

The flowers that were in the beds of the British Flyers have been removed for the season and new ones will be put in their place next spring.

With all of the moisture this year mowing grass has been a struggle but that will also slow down soon with the arrival of cooler weather.

Just a reminder, our annual fall clean-up will be on October 3rd, and then the next one won't be until February 2017.

Happy Fall!





Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery Office Manager

A Day at G.A.R.



The Little Things...

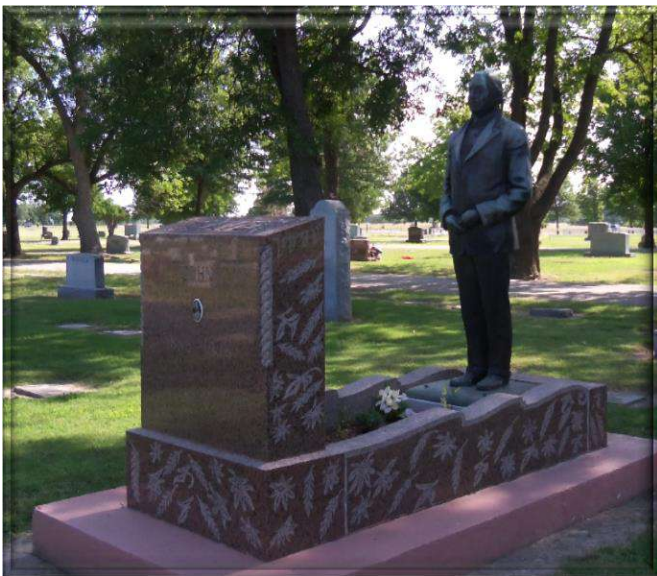
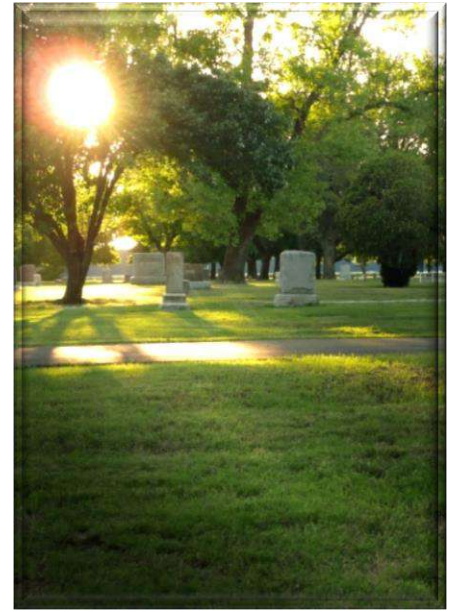
Often times, it's the little things that make the biggest impact on our lives. Whether it be in a positive, or negative way, it seems that inevitably those little things can overwhelm us, or give us peace.

As you can see, the photo on the left is a beautiful statue of a child and cross. Just as many others have, I have seen this marker most every day, for it is right close to the front of the cemetery along the highway.

But one day there was something very special about it. A rose! Just a little thing that someone thought to do. What an impact this made on me. Now I find myself looking every time I pass by.

*So my thought for today is to not dwell on the negative little things that can be overwhelming and prevent us from seeing all the special
"Little Things"
that bring us Joy, Peace and Comfort.*







***** 3 Special Events! *****
Saturday, October 15th, 2016

- **British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony *FLY-IN***
Miami Regional Airport ~ 2600 Rex Plot Dr., Miami,
OK 6:00 – 10:00 a.m.
- **British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony**
G.A.R. Cemetery ~ 2801 N. Main ~ 10:30 a.m.
- **Presentation & Reception**
The Coleman Theatre Ballroom
12:00 noon



A.C. 2 Kenneth Raisbeck

26; died June 26, 1944

"Greater Love hath no man that he
lay down his life for his country."

Immediately following the
Ceremony
The Father I Never Met
presentation by: Guest of
Honor, John Raisbeck
The story of his journey to
find the missing links
during the last months of his
Father's life.



John Raisbeck & Rosie

Son of Kenneth Raisbeck

And Daughter of Mrs. Hill

Photo taken in 1995

Clip and Save!



G.A.R. Cemetery Decoration Removal Schedule

****All Decorations Must Be Removed from Graves by 8:00 a.m.**

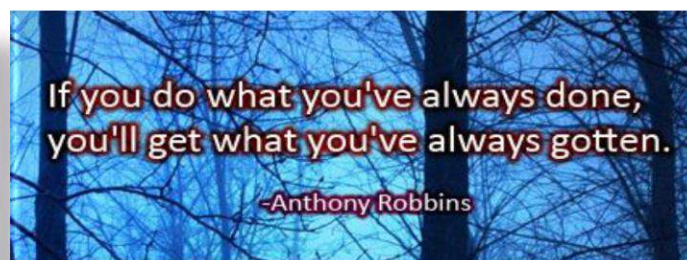
On The Dates Listed**



<u>DECORATION REMOVAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>
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
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



CONTACT US

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