

G.A.R. Cemetery

Grand Army of the Republic

2801 N Main ~ PO BOX 1288 ~ Miami, Oklahoma * Phone (918) 541-2288 ~ (918) 542-2124 Fax



Angel of Hope

Come to G.A.R. Cemetery and see our newest addition! Garden of Angels, Angel of Hope stands 8 feet tall and is made of Bronze. She is modeled after the book *The Christmas Box* by Richard Paul Evans.

Pages 6-7

Our Future is in the Past

Cemetery Director, Kim Horn shares insight on the relevance of our history to our future.

Pages 2-4

Memorial Day 150 Years!

**1868-2018
Memorial Day
Sesquicentennial**
This year marks 150 years of decorating our loved one's graves. Let this Memorial Day be filled with kind thoughts & remembrances.



KIM HORN

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Keith Babbitt /Cemetery Maintenance II

The Director's Desk



The Future is in the Past

Why does history matter?
What is the relevance of studying history?

The answer.... all peoples and people are living histories. Understanding the link from past to present is crucial in understanding what it means to be "human". History shows us how our foundation is built, and by remembering historical events and occurrences we continue to honor the human beings that participated in them.

G.A.R. is full of history. Stories of people who came before us, and in many ways paved the road we walk on today. The G.A.R. Staff is dedicated to honoring and telling the stories of the people who are interred at G.A.R.

Here are a few of the "life stories" we are honored to tell:

"We would love to hear from you
with your loved one's life story."

Kim Horn, G.A.R. Cemetery Director

Privett, Samuel Thomas, JR. (Booger Red), 1864-1924

"Booger Red" was a famous bronco rider, Wild West show owner, and Cowboy Hall of Fame inductee born in Williamson County, Texas on December 29, 1864. He began breaking horses at the age

of 12 when he became known as the "Redheaded Bronco Rider". His family estimated he rode between 25,000-40,000 broncos during his lifetime, and was famous for never having been thrown from any of them. On his deathbed he left his children with these words, "Always be honest for it pays in the long run. Have all the fun you can while you live, for when

you are dead you are a long time dead." He was buried in G.A.R. Cemetery in an unmarked grave in 1924. Due to recent interest in Booger Red and his story, a marker was placed on his grave in 2011.





Dobson, Nellie, 1885-1968

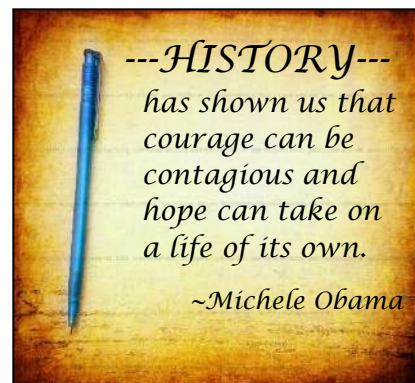
Nellie Dobson was one of the pioneer residents of Miami. She was only 7 years old when



in 1892 she rode her pony with her family from Kentucky to Miami. Nellie wanted to preserve history and was a charter member of the Ottawa County Historical Society. Before her death in 1968, she set up a trust to build a museum, known as the Dobson Museum located at 110 A St SW in Miami.

Weeks, Franklin, 1920-1948

Franklin Weeks was the son of William O. and Flora M. Weeks of Miami. Franklin was one of the first soldiers from Ottawa County that was killed during WWII. He was originally buried in Sicily, Italy, but the family paid to have him returned to Ottawa County and buried at G.A.R. Cemetery. His brother Richard was in the Navy and has a "Buried at Sea" memorial marker in G.A.R. Franklin was one of 8 brothers, and 4 sisters. During WWII, the Miami News Record featured his mother Flora May Weeks as "Mother of the Year". She was the first Gold Star Mother in Ottawa County. Franklin's father was active in a group called "War Dads" that raised money to purchase a cart used to transport the bodies of soldier when they arrived on the train. Franklin attended grade school and high school in Miami, and the Army Reserve Center in Miami is named after Franklin Weeks.



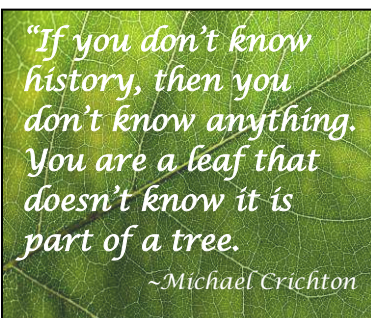
Hill, Mrs. F.M. (Francis), 1892-1982

Mrs. Hill, at her request, is buried alongside the graves of the Fifteen Royal Air Force Cadets who died while attending British Flying Training School #3 in Miami, Oklahoma, from 1941-1945. Mrs. Hill attended these graves for approximately 40 years. She also kept in touch with many of the family members of the cadets assisting

them in many ways. In 1989, the No. 3 British Flying Training School Association erected a monument in her honor with the following tribute: "Mrs. F.M. Hill of Miami, buried alongside, voluntarily tended these fifteen British airmen's graves and helped their loved ones from 1941-1982. These selfless human actions were unknown to most. She was awarded "The King's Medal for Service in the Cause of Freedom" by King George VI. Thanks to Mrs. Hill from the graduates of the #3 British Flying Training School Association."

**McAlpin, William Boaz, 1949-1941**

According to the Oklahoma Historical Society, McAlpin was known as "Captain Hicks" until coming to Oklahoma in 1930. McAlpin was an Indian Scout and known worldwide as a marksman. He also served as a Texas Ranger. In 1910, McAlpin set off on a round the world horseback from Muskogee, Oklahoma, to San Francisco. He finally returned to Muskogee in May 1913. He was 92 years old at the time of his death. We are still looking for a photograph.



DO YOU HAVE HISTORICAL
INFORMATION OR STORIES YOU
WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT
PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERRED AT
G.A.R?
IF YOU DO, PLEASE CONTACT
OFFICE MANAGER NANCY BRO AT

*"I believe that the
more you know about
the past, the better
you are prepared for
the future."*

~Theodore Roosevelt



Celebration

Hearing the word celebrate and cemetery in the same sentence may seem strange to some, but that is exactly what it is. I have often said before that everyone buried in the cemetery has a story if we know it or not. The cemetery stands as a place to celebrate the lives of the men and women of our great community. "Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. ... Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971." Quoted from www.history.com.

Memorial Day is a great celebration. One that we at the cemetery look forward to every year. It is humbling to honor the service of so many to this great county. We have seen balloons released on birthdays and people who have picnics at the grave. All of this is a celebration of that person. We love speaking to people that come to decorate and visit their loved ones' graves as they celebrate their life.

We have people that stop all the time to find a long-lost relative that they never met. I have been walking with people through the cemetery and often they will stop, point at a stone, and say something along the lines of "That was my teacher, neighbor, school friend..." and then they will relate a story to me. It has never been a bad story and without fail they have a smile on their face.

I think that running a cemetery as a celebration of life. So, come out and celebrate with us! God bless.



Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery
Office Manager

A Day at G.A.R.

*So, what's new at G.A.R. you say?
Well... Let me tell you all about what's been going on!*

If you have been out here within the last few months, you may have noticed some dirt and concrete work happening on the north end by the mausoleum. This is where we are building a new section being called "Garden of Angels". In the center is a 4-foot bronze Angel of Hope statue, that is modeled after the angel in the famous book *The Christmas Box*.



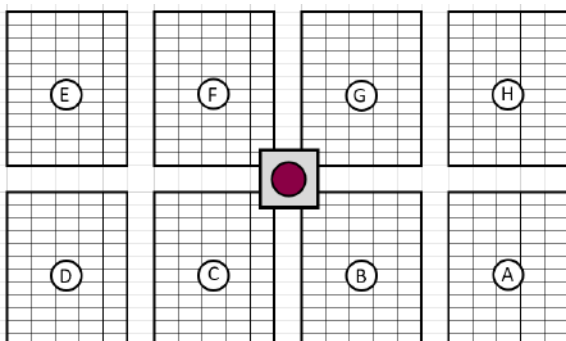
The Christmas Box Angel Statue was introduced to the world in the book *The Christmas Box*, a worldwide bestseller and hit television movie by author Richard Paul Evans. In the book, a woman mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. Though the story is mostly fiction, the angel monument once existed but is speculated to have been destroyed. The new angel statue was commissioned by Richard Paul Evans, in response to reports that grieving parents were seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal. The first monument was dedicated at Salt Lake City cemetery, on December 6, 1994-corresponding with the date of the child's death in *The Christmas Box*. (Coincidentally, Dec. 6th is celebrated in many parts of the world as Children's Day). Currently there are Christmas Box Angels in more than 120 other areas.¹ We at G.A.R. Cemetery are believed to be the only location along the Historic Route 66 to have this special angel.

The sculpture is the creation of a father and son from Salt Lake City, Utah, Ortho and Jared Fairbanks, and modeled according to the description in Evans' book. The face of the angel is that of Evans' second daughter, Allyson-Danica. If you look closely you can find on the angel's right wing, the word "hope." On December 6th of each year a candlelight healing ceremony will be held at the base of our Angel of Hope monument. After a ceremony, the attendees will be invited to leave a white flower at the base of the angel statue.¹

Our new "Garden of Angels section will be a beautiful final resting place for infants and children 2 years and younger, as well as designated areas for the cremains of any age.

This will accommodate our community's growing needs with the demand of more cremains plots. Below are examples of how Garden of Angels may be laid out, encompassing almost 500 new plots, with room to grow when the need is there.

¹ www.richardpaulevans.com



Angel of Hope in Progress



Fred Billups, G.A.R. Cemetery Manager stated, "It's been challenging with all the rain and freezing temperatures that we have endured over the past several months, but, we finally have her in place and can now move on with the finishing touches. Over the next few weeks we will be laying out all the plots and beautifying it with landscaping."



Let's go for a Walk!

Did you know that G.A.R. Cemetery is the perfect place to go for a walk? We have several people who have been walking here for years. Its easy terrain, tree cover, and beauty makes for a peaceful and relaxing experience.



Markers, Markers, & More Markers!

This is the busiest time of year for memorial markers. Families order them with the hopes that they will be set by Memorial Day. We at G.A.R. Cemetery take great pride in knowing that each marker is an utmost priority!



Spring!

What a feast for our senses! Particularly this year when a lot of us were starting to wonder if winter would ever break. The trees are budding, the birds are singing, and of course the grass is growing. So you know what that means... Let the mowing begin!



The Big Book

G.A.R. Cemetery has an amazing "Big Book" that our records have been logged into since 1892. Every interment and property purchase is recorded in this amazing historical binding. Even though we now also have digital records, we continue with this legacy.



Adopt-A-Flag

This is the 7th year that we have had our Adopt-A-Flag Program and are up to over 200 hundred flags displayed 3 times a year. For a one-time \$50 fee you can have a loved one honored/remembered. For more information call (918) 541-2288 or visit www.miamiokla.net

WE  **VOLUNTEERS**

We Love Volunteers!

Do you have spare time on your hands and would like to give back to the community? We are looking for volunteers to clean memorial markers, restoring them to their original beauty. Work at your own pace and on your schedule. We'll even provide all the supplies!

Don't Forget...

WE ARE ONLINE!

Do you have family interred at G.A.R. Cemetery? Don't forget, our records can be found online on the City of Miami's webpage at www.miamiokla.net. There you can upload photographs, documents, memories, military information, and much more!

Let G.A.R. Cemetery be the keeper of your family's legacy!



“SKIP TO SERVE DAY”

On May 1st, 20 [Miami High School](#) students volunteered at the [City of Miami, Oklahoma](#) during “Skip to Serve Day”, sponsored by [Bright Futures Miami](#). These students volunteered giving their time at Animal Control, Parks, G.A.R. Cemetery, Recreation, Library, and Finance. They painted, picked up trash, power washed, shredded, organized concession supplies, walked dogs, and many, many other tasks. We would like to thank ALL the students who volunteered and a BIG thank you to Madeline Highsmith, Bright Futures Miami Coordinator, for all the pre-coordination to make the volunteer time go smoothly!



Spring is in the air! Volunteers Missy and Joey are hard at work planting and watering our spring flowers. Every year we plant an array of bedding plants that beautify our cemetery. This year we have went mostly with red, white, & blue to keep with the theme of the 150th anniversary of Memorial Day.



2017 Tribute

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal.

Love leaves a memory no one can steal.



January Interments

Moss, Robert D.
Harvey, James Lee, IV
Horn, Frank E., II
Wilmoth, Reta Joan
Flores, Geneva Grace
Edwards, Cleo
Howard, Dorothy "Dottie"
Timmons, Tommy

February Interments

Anderson, Mary Elizabeth
Lane, Sally Mae
Heatherly, Winifred
Blalock, Kenneth Wayne, Sr.
Diveley, Don C.
Bomford, Tom Sheldon
Hargis, Janie
Holden, Gary F., Sr.
Metheny, Luretta Rose
McMinn, Chuck

March Interments

Smith, W. Dabney, Sr.
Guilford, Reba A.
Lawrence, Ryan
McNeely, Joyce J
Brady, Matthew Robert
Newman, Noma
Reed, James
Brown, William
Redden, Juanita
Cook, Paul Wayne, Jr.
Beasley, Betty
Seward, Margaret K "Mickey"
Mate, Betty Jean
Romine, Danny Eugene
Brashar, Sue
Cornog, Tanya W.

March Interments cont.

Rutherford, Roy E., II
Brooks, Charles E.
McGhee, Patricia Ann
Grant, Laura Lavelle
Fritz-Ice, Linda Joyce
Bryant, Nola Jo
Lovesea, Gary
Vasquez, Mario

April Interments

Hampton, Billy George
Hargis, Odren L.
Allen, Jean Marie
Lee, James Roy
Allen, Mylz Leon
White, Earl E.

May Interments

Jarman, Charles David "Chuck"
Reynolds, Lloyd "Denny", Jr.
Piler, Richard L.
Mattingly, Louri Kaye
Fredrich, Velma
Beason, Donald
Beason, Lena
White, David Clayton
Glover, Robert F. "Bob"
Payton, Rosie
Payton, Russell Dean
Harmon, Lois
Ice, Gary C., Sr.
Hamilton, Allen R.

June Interments

Shouse, Patricia
Southard, Bill
Davis, Donald
Phillips, Patty Ann
Payne, Willie Jewell
Smith, Stella
Romine, Wilma M.
Kelley, John Richard
Beaver-Schuessler, Donna Jean
Waldron, Kenneth Brewster

June Interments cont.

Fergus, Franklin Dean
Owens, Jean
Smith, Bill
Eulitt, Dixie

July Interments

Whiting, Patty
Kemper, Larry
Eddins, Arlene
Mahan, Naomi (Allen)
Barnes, David W.
Hume, Donald Clayton
Johnson, Henry C.
Denman, Joyce
Maute, Carol Ann
Snyder, Eula Earlene
Wakefield, Vonda G.
Adams, Carl Joe
Phillips, Vickie
Smith, Betty Y.

August Interments

Trease, Kenneth
Marquez, Joel Manuel
Gorforth, Alice
Rodriguez, Crystal
Coleman, Dawn L.
Birdsell, Mark Todd
Smith, Andy Lynn
Berryman, Doris
Schmidt, Neil David
Mapes, Jacqueline
Kreeger, Jacquelyn A.
Stovall, David Lynn
Warren Marvin W.
Gilstrap, Judy
Herring, Braxton James

September Interments

White, Patsy L.
Gorforth, Richard
Rodgers, Noble Eugene
Thulin, Robert Wayne
Smith, Nina L.

October Interments

Tinsley, Annemarie
Eads, Travis W.
Sooter, Marlene
Johnson, Johnny M.
Anderson, Alice D.
Johnson, Mary Joyce
Chrismon, Carol
Melott, Frances Fay
Edwards, Sue Nelle
Allgood, Wanda L.

November Interments

Campbell, "Corky" Cornelia F.
Hutchinson, "Eddie" Hubert Edward
Rector, Jim Franklin
Mathews, Bonnie
Ladd, Susan Stansell
Knapp, Eunice B.
Littlefield, Charlotte
Cossairt, Shirley
Summers, Louella M.
Whiteley, Artie Mae
Bartlett, Wanda
McIntire, Leonard D.
Helmick, Hollic Geraldine

December Interments

Patton, Donna Elizabeth
Davis, Karen S.
McCurley, Elaine
Crawford, Bobby Max
Enyart, Marjorie Sue
Daniel, "Junior" Horace Sweptzon
Powers, Billye Jean
Bond, Judith
Willson, James William
Marshall, Edythe E.
Smith, Otis
Todd, Lela F.
Kingfisher, Brenda K.

150

1868 - 2018

150

Memorial Day Sesquicentennial

G.A.R. Cemetery

2801 North Main, Miami, OK | (918) 541-2288



Come Join the
150th
Celebration

Monday, May 28, 2018

9:00 a.m. – G.A.R. Cemetery

Please join us at the gazebo immediately following the ceremony for refreshments and fellowship provided by Brown Winters Funeral Home as we continue to celebrate this special day of remembrance.

2018 EVENT SCHEDULE

❖ MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 28, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m.

❖ BRITISH FLYERS REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

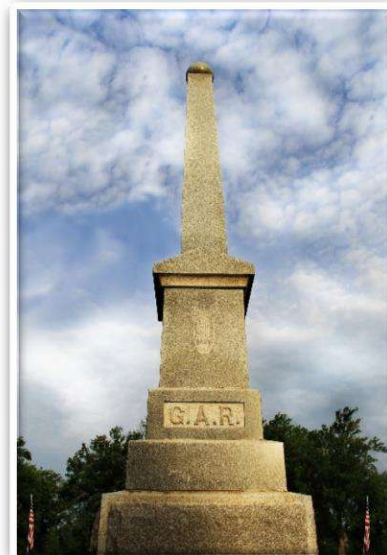
Saturday, October 20th, 2018 @ 10:00 a.m.

❖ ANGEL OF HOPE ~ GARDEN OF ANGELS DEDICATION

****To Be Announced****

❖ ANGEL OF HOPE "CHILDREN'S DAY" CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Thursday, December 6, 2018 @ 6:00 p.m.



The family is one of nature's masterpieces.

~ George Santayana



Clip & Save!

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	02/05/2018
Second Monday Following Easter	04/09/2018
First Monday Following Memorial Day	06/04/2018
First Monday in October	10/01/2018

- 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.