



G.A.R. Cemetery

Grand Army of the Republic
Miami, Oklahoma



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"A Day of Remembrance"

November 15th, 2013



What a beautiful sight. The flags were flying high as the planes soared overhead to commence the ceremony. Bagpipes humming and drums rolling as the City of Tulsa Pipes and Drums and Sons of the American Revolution begin the Entrance March, and Pastor Leon Weece of the First Christian Church opened with prayer.

Derek Ferrell of the Royal British Legion Oklahoma Detachment reflected back on the history of the Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology, and the important role it played in many lives and the community of Miami, Oklahoma. Marsha Mauersberger, the daughter of WWII Veteran, Truman Geouge, read the very moving poem "GOT YOUR BACK" and sang a beautiful song of the era, "WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER".



The Quapaw Fire EMS Honor Guard stood at attention as Melvin Cook of the Vietnam Era Veterans of America #277 lowered the British Flag to half mast while blasts of gunfire from the 21 gun salute performed by the American Legion Post #147 filled the air.

As the last echo diminished, one began to hear the distinctive sound of a trumpet playing TAPS and LAST POST, which was performed by Roger Meyer of Bugles Across America, followed by a moment of silence.

With great honor, Kim Horn introduced Flight Lieutenant Peter Smith, RAF Exchange Officer who is based at Tinker AFB. He gave a Royal British Airmen Tribute by reading each of the names and epitaph's of the brave British Soldiers, as members of the Miami High School Key Club placed a rose at each of their graves.

And once again the humming of the bagpipes could be heard filling the air with the majestic song of "Amazing Grace" to close this memorable ceremony.

"Lest We Forget"



"The Reception"

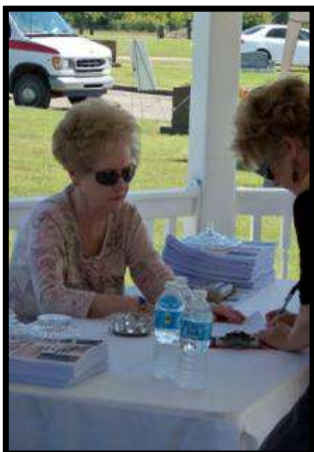
This year we were fortunate to be able to hold our reception in the Ballroom at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College.

A slideshow of historical images was shown as everyone visited and enjoyed "English Tea" style refreshments, including scones and creamy lemon curd. All the while, live music of the era was performed by the NEO Jazz Band. There was also an extensive array of nostalgic memorabilia on display for all to enjoy.





Kim Horn
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

This quote by Margaret Mead is one of my favorites. I have it placed in the signature line of every email I send out so I can share it with others. We face the same issues at G.A.R. that many other cemeteries face... limited resources and personnel. Our most important goal is always to strive for better ways to serve our families. Volunteers help us accomplish that goal. Volunteers participate at all of our events including the Memorial Day Ceremony, History Tour, and British Flyers Ceremony. When we needed a trailer to better implement our Adopt-A-Flag program one of our volunteers donated one to us. We've had volunteers working on the task of documenting the Veterans buried at G.A.R., and one gentleman who is in the process of photographing all of the markers and monuments. The cemetery staff and I want to simply say to all of our volunteers....Thank You. Without their efforts we wouldn't be able to do what we do. We also want to encourage anyone interested in volunteering at G.A.R. to contact us at (918) 541-2288.



Chad Masterson
G.A.R. Cemetery Foreman



FYI...

Do you ever wonder who puts all those flags out on Memorial Day, Fourth of July & Veterans Day? It's the cemetery crew!

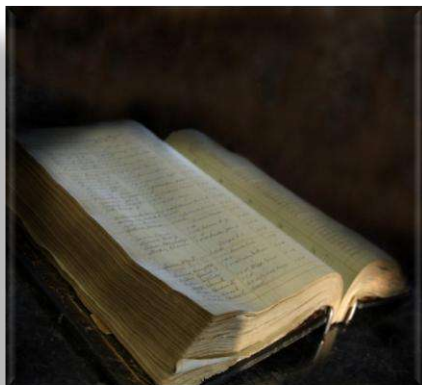
Along with their other duties, which include preparing the grave whether it be traditional, mausoleum or urn burial, helping tear down tents or fold chairs, fill in graves, picking up flowers after they have wilted, leveling of the graves & maintaining the grounds which consists of mowing or weed eating. Maintaining mowers and backhoes, cemetery crews also set the markers (flats only) to make sure they are leveled with a slight slope, so water will run off and be in line with other stones.

Cemetery staff also sells property, locates graves for genealogy, and can pinpoint the exact location of a loved one's grave! The cemetery staff is always here to serve you, and answer any questions you may have regarding the cemetery.

A Day at G.A.R.



Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery
Office Manager



As some of you know, we have been working on making our interment records available to the public online.

We have over 20,000 recorded interments that need to be meticulously reviewed to make absolutely sure that all of the information has been entered correctly.

Once it is all completely proofed, we will have all of our records available for the

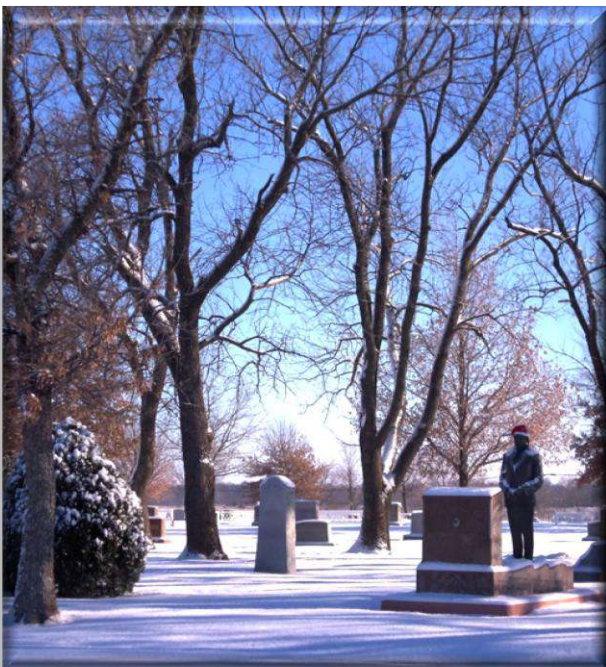
public to research online via the City of Miami's web page at www.miamiokla.net.

You will be able to look up your loved one by their name, and even be able to see their location on a Google map. We are in hopes of completing the process early in 2014, and as always are much honored to be able to assist so many families in finding their loved ones in our beautiful G.A.R. Cemetery.

Did You Know?



John Beaver
1855-1928



➤ **... Who John Beaver was?**

- ✓ John Beaver was a Second Chief of the Quapaw Tribe.

➤ **... How John Beaver became so prominent in the community?**

- ✓ Mining... He was one of the wealthiest members of the Quapaw tribe due to lead and zinc mining.

➤ **... That John Beaver was once buried at a different location?**

- ✓ He was originally buried on his own allotment land, 15 miles northeast of Miami, but was moved to G.A.R. Cemetery on September 18, 1933.

➤ **... Where his life sized likeness was made?**

- ✓ His monument is a life sized likeness of him that was cast in Italy.

➤ **... What is done by many who visit his grave?**

- ✓ His marker is one of the most distinctive in G.A.R. Cemetery. People often visit his grave, and place pennies in the folded hands of the statue for good luck.

2014 EVENT SCHEDULE

- ❖ **Memorial Day Ceremony**
Monday, May 26th, 2014
@ 10:00 a.m.
Hamburgers will be provided by
Brown-Winters Funeral Home
In the Gazebo Immediately
Following the Ceremony
- ❖ **British Flyers**
Remembrance Ceremony
Saturday, October 25th, 2014
@ 2:00



- ❖ **Reflection of Memories Candlelight Walk**
The Reflection of Memories Candlelight Walk has been rescheduled for December 2014. More information about this event will be included in future newsletters.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.miamiokla.net

Adopt~A~Flag Program

Purchase an American flag for \$50.00 that will be displayed proudly at G.A.R. Cemetery on Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Veterans Day.

If you wish, the name of a person to be honored will be inscribed onto a plaque that will be displayed with the flag. This program is a great way to show appreciation for a loved one and your country.

Orders Taken Year Round!

For more information visit us at

www.miamiokla.net

Or call 918-541-2288

A Friendly Reminder

*All Decorations Must Be Removed
From The Graves by 8:00 a.m.
On The First Monday in February.*

February 3rd, 2014

The best and most beautiful
things in the world cannot be
seen or even touched - they
must be felt with the heart.

-Helen Keller

Interested In Genealogy?

Visit our Library!

Miami Public Library

200 N Main
Miami, OK 74354
geniedept@miami.lib.ok.us
918-541-2292

Barbara Becker

Genealogy Department

www.miamipl.okpls.org

Staff Hours

Mon, Wed, Thu. 10:00 a.m. - noon, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Tues 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

G.A.R. History Hunt

Do you have family at G.A.R. Cemetery? Do they have an interesting History? We are always looking for additions to our Living History Tour. Please send your interesting historical documentation and photographs to nbro@miamiokla.net and you never know... you *could* see your family member featured on our next tour!



CAMPBELL, William Calvin
(1873-1934)

Known to all as Cal, Commerce, Oklahoma constable, was killed during a gun battle with Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker on April 6, 1934. Commerce Chief of Police Perry Boyd was injured in the same gunfight and was kidnapped by Bonnie and Clyde and released in Fort Scott, Kansas 15 hours later.

Help Us Spread the Word

Do you know someone who would like to receive our Newsletter? Our goal is to supply updated news and event schedules to everyone who has an interest in G.A.R. Cemetery. If you know anyone who would like to be on our mailing list,

Send your request to: nbro@miamiokla.net

Or Call: (918) 541-2288