



# G.A.R. Cemetery

Grand Army of the Republic  
Miami, Oklahoma



2801 N. Main ~ PO BOX 1288 ~ Miami, OK 74355  
Phone (918) 542-6685 ~ (918) 542-2124 FAX

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# MEMORIAL DAY

As most of you know, the original purpose in celebrating Memorial Day was established years ago by our forefathers. On May 5, 1868, **General John A. Logan**, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month; "Decoration Day" as he called it. The 30th of May, 1868, was designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land.

It is an honor for us at G.A.R. Cemetery to continue such an important tradition of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Each year we invite the local Veteran's Organizations to participate by lowering the Flag to half staff, placing the memorial wreaths and the firing of volleys. Also, with this year commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our National Anthem, we are honored to have Amanda Cole sing "The Star Spangled Banner" as well as play "TAPS" for us. The Tulsa Pipes and Drums will perform "Amazing Grace" and other patriotic music on their bagpipes and drums.

A free lunch will be provided following our ceremony for all who join us in celebration of our Memorial Day Ceremony. Brown-Winters Funeral Home has graciously donated hamburgers and hot dogs to be prepared by the cemetery staff for everyone to enjoy.

As always, the public is invited to join us for our Annual Memorial Day Ceremony, good food and fellowship on **Memorial Day, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.**

*Please Join Us in Honoring our Veterans!*





**Barbara Becker**  
Genealogy Department  
Miami Public Library

## What is Genealogy?

Genealogy & family history go hand in hand. What will you be able to tell your children and grandchildren about their heritage?

The goal is to learn and preserve whatever you can about your ancestors. You are the beginning "Twig" on your family tree and from there you work backward to your unknown "Roots."

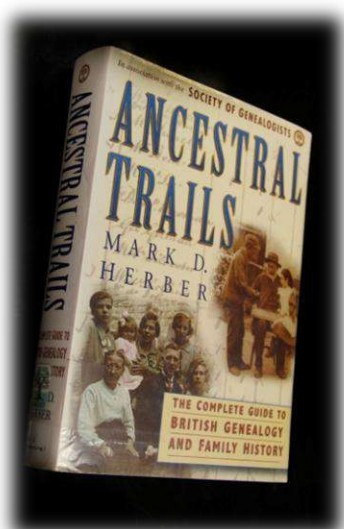
Write down what you know about your ancestors and interview family members. Seek information from sources such as birth, marriage and death certificates, school records, land deeds, probate records, pictures, letters, Bibles, diaries and your immediate family. Other things that help in your research would be the use of maps, military information, school annuals, and tribal information.

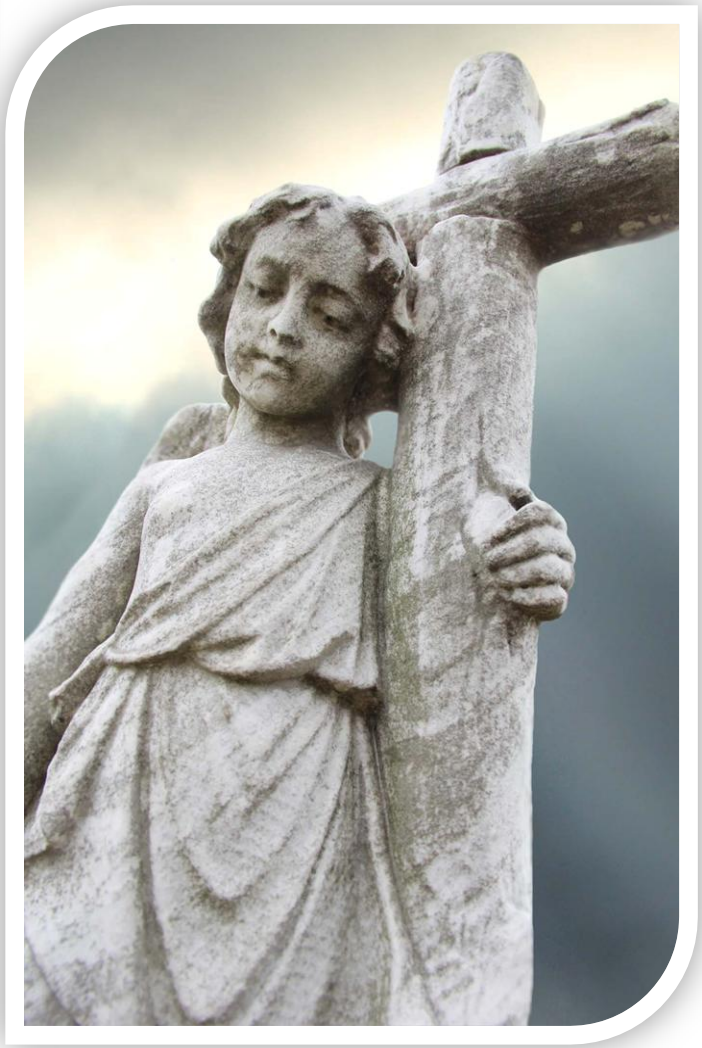
Genealogy is more than names, dates and places. It's the history of who your ancestors were, what they did for a living, why they moved, and how they lived.

I became curious about genealogy when I was growing up knowing only one grandparent. My curiosity about my other grandparents, who had passed away before my birth, sparked my interest to become a genealogist. That was 39 years ago and I'm still curious and still learning.

If you are interested in your family history, come to the Miami Public Library to the genealogy department and let us help you get started. I teach genealogy workshops each spring, and if you need individual help I am available Mon-Wed-Thurs 10 AM - 5 PM and Tues 9 AM - 4 PM.

*Come in and start a new hobby and learn your ancestry.*







**Chad Masterson**  
G.A.R. Cemetery Foreman

# *FYI...*

## Holidays, Ceremonies, and Changes

With the holidays fast approaching, G.A.R. Cemetery is revving up for a brand New Year! What! You think the holiday season is over; well we are just getting started here at G.A.R.!

We will start in February getting ready for our annual Memorial Day Ceremony by mowing, weed eating and spraying around all the markers and monuments in the cemetery. Some of the changes you will notice are the planting of (4) new Maple trees on the north end that will beautify the cemetery greatly with their vibrant fall colors.

Also, by next fall we will have 15 new markers, new landscaping and new sod to honor those brave young men who came here to train at B.F.T.S. #3 during World War II and never made it home.

Last but certainly not least, the opening of new burial plots on the west end that will be called Garden of Hope, Block III.

So keep an eye on G.A.R... There are a lot of changes going on.

## *A Day at G.A.R.*



**Nancy Bro**  
G.A.R. Cemetery  
Office Manager

Our Adopt-A-Flag Program at G.A.R. Cemetery is a wonderful way to honor and memorialize a loved one, and continues with over **150** adopted flags to date. The mission of this program is to beautify the cemetery with numerous American flags while also providing an opportunity to memorialize or honor specific individuals.

The cost to Adopt-A-Flag is \$50.00. This will include the purchase of an American flag, flag pole and memorial plaque. The memorial plaque will include the inscription, "In Honor of..." or "In Memory of..." and the name of the individual to be honored or memorialized. The flags will be displayed along the entrances and roadways in the cemetery during Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day.

For more information regarding this program, please contact the City of Miami G.A.R. Cemetery at (918) 541-2288. Adopt-A-Flag registration forms are also available on the City of Miami's web page at: [www.miamiokla.net](http://www.miamiokla.net). Completed forms with payment may be mailed to G.A.R. Cemetery Adopt-A-Flag, P.O. Box 1288, Miami, OK 74355-1288, or taken directly to the office located within the G.A.R. Cemetery at 2801 N Main, Miami, OK 74354.



**Unfortunately, Flags ordered after May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Will not be displayed on Memorial Day, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

## Did You Know?



Joanna "Archie" McGhee Jones  
1855-1944



### ➤ ... Who Joanna "Archie" McGhee Jones was?

- ✓ Joanna "Archie" McGhee Jones was the daughter of Albert C. and Susannah McGhee. Joanna's father, Albert, was born in 1839 on the Trail of Tears and served in the Civil war. Her mother was born about 1826 in Cherokee Nation, GA.

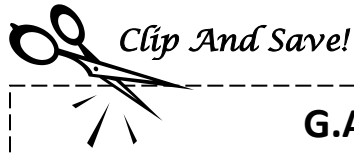
### ➤ ... How Joanna's family came to Oklahoma?

- ✓ At the age of about 12, her family was forced to leave Georgia and head to "Indian Territory".

### ➤ ... What had to be acquired to gain permission to marry her first husband Jerry Hanna?

- ✓ Jerry Hanna (a white man), had to get twelve signers (Indians to vouch for him) in order to marry Joanna. She was eighteen when they married.

Follow This Link to Read  
Joanna "Archie" (McGhee) Jones'  
Full Interview.



## 2014 EVENT SCHEDULE

### ❖ Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 26, 2014

@ 10:00 a.m.

Lunch will be provided by  
Brown-Winters Funeral Home  
In the Gazebo Immediately  
Following the Ceremony

### ❖ British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 10:30 a.m.



Peter McCallum



James Boyd

Two of the fifteen British Cadets we  
honor each year.

RECEPTION WILL IMMEDIATELY  
FOLLOW THE CEREMONY

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at:

[www.miamiokla.net](http://www.miamiokla.net)

## 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	02/03/2014
Second Monday Following Easter	04/28/2014
First Monday Following Memorial Day	06/02/2014
First Monday in October	10/06/2014

- Wrought iron basket hangers are not permitted except for the time period of December 15<sup>th</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup> 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 918-542-6685.

## Interested In Genealogy?

*Visit the City of Miami Public Library!*

### Miami Public Library

200 N Main  
Miami, OK 74354  
[www.miamipl.okpls.org](http://www.miamipl.okpls.org)

### Barbara Becker

Genealogy Department  
[geniedept@miami.lib.ok.us](mailto:geniedept@miami.lib.ok.us)  
918-541-2292

### 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.

## A Friendly Reminder

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

*On The First Monday  
Following Memorial Day.*

**June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014**

## Adopt~A~Flag

Purchase an American flag for \$50.00 that will be displayed proudly at G.A.R. Cemetery on Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Unfortunately, Flags ordered after May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Will not be displayed on Memorial Day, 2014**

For more information visit us at [www.miamiokla.net](http://www.miamiokla.net)

Or call 918-541-2288



To be rich is not what you  
have in your bank account,  
but what you have in your

**heart**



## 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](mailto:nbro@miamiokla.net) and you never know... you *could* see your family member featured on our next tour!



**KELTON, Richard Duane**  
(1943-1978)

Kelton graduated from Miami High School in 1961. He was an actor and debuted in *Gunsmoke* as "Bud". He also appeared in *Wild Women*, *Charlie's Angels* as well as other guest starring roles. He taught drama and social studies in Wellington Ks. And his father was the principal of Miami's Nichols Elementary School.

## We've Got News

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](mailto:nbro@miamiokla.net)

Or Call: (918) 541-2288