

G.A.R. Cemetery

Grand Army of the Republic
Miami, Oklahoma



We're Online!

www.miamiokla.net

After countless hours of entering and proofing the 20,000+ interment records for G.A.R. Cemetery, we are finally on line! What does this mean? It means that you can now go to the City of Miami's Web page and be able to search our records by name to find out if your loved one is interred here. We even have an internal satellite image so that you can "see" a very close, point of location within the cemetery.

Also, you will have the capability to submit obituary information,

memories, life history, and military information, as well as upload pictures and even videos! This system will assist in genealogy research for many generations.

To ensure accuracy, all submitted information will be reviewed and must be approved by the G.A.R. Cemetery Staff prior to becoming public.

And last but not least, we want to let everyone know that even though you will be able to access and update an abundance of valuable genealogy

information on this link, we still want to encourage you to contact G.A.R. Cemetery if we can be of any assistance, or answer any questions you may have.

Office Hours:

M-F: 8:00am-12:00pm
12:30pm-4:30pm

**Follow this link to
search our files today!**

www.miamiokla.net

www.miamiokla.net

1

- GOVERNMENT
- DEPARTMENTS
- CEMETERY
- ONLINE BURIAL RECORDS



2

➤ ENTER THE NAME FOR WHOM YOU ARE LOOKING, AND CLICK ON "SEARCH"

Please note: If there are multiple people with the same Name, simply select the one that you believe is the correct Person you are trying to find.

Information that may help assist you with your selection are:

- Dates of birth, Death or Interment (Burial)
- Full Name "or" Middle initial

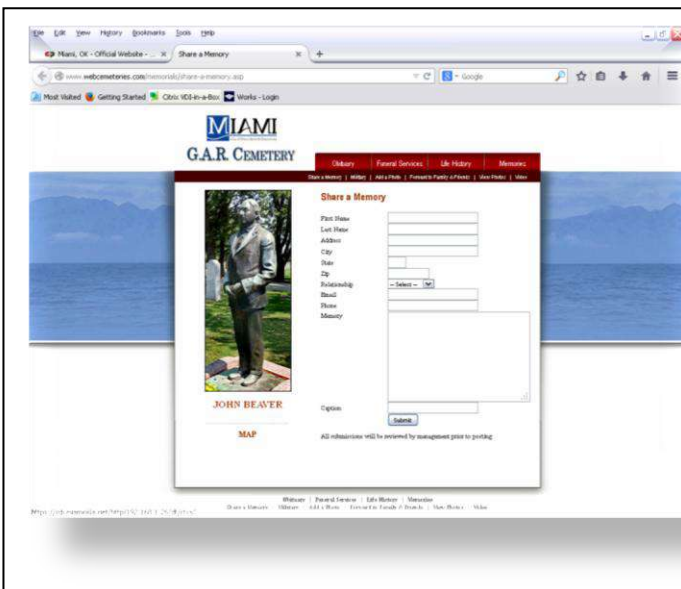


3

➤ Find all of the information that we have in our data base.

➤ Upload:

- ✓ Pictures & Videos
- ✓ Memories
- ✓ Military Records
- ✓ Obituaries
- ✓ Life History



Even Share with your Family & Friends!

Did You Know?



GAR MEMBERS, with drum and fife, were getting ready for a Memorial Day parade in downtown Miami, possibly about 1919. The Ottawa County Historical Museum would welcome identification of the old soldiers and others in the picture.



➤ ...Who was the original owner of the land that is now known as G.A.R. Cemetery?

- ✓ The land was the Indian allotment of Peter Labadie, a member of the Confederated Peoria Tribe.

➤ ...What the land was originally supposed to be used for?

- ✓ Records show that Labadie had received a patent on 40 acres in 1890 and that four acres had been reserved for a school that apparently was never built. It is believed that the oldest grave within the G.A.R. Cemetery would be that of "Atha Josephine Cardin (1872-1892). She was of Quapaw Indian descent.

➤ ...Whom M.J. Shriver was?

- ✓ M.J. Shriver had moved to this area from Nebraska, had served as a deputy U.S. Marshal, working in the Indian Service and later went into real estate. He had fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta and several other battles. In 1894 He was the moving force in organizing a G.A.R. post in Miami.

➤ ... When and how the property become the G.A.R. Cemetery?

- ✓ The J.B. McPherson Post #11, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) borrowed money to buy the land. A mortgage was recorded on May 29th, 1899. On November 24th, 1899, Shriver announced in the Miami Record the following statement:
"We have this year bought 26 acres of land and had 10 acres surveyed for a cemetery for our city and surrounding country. We have reserved a plot for the use of the members of our post and their families and all ex-Union soldiers can secure a lot in this reserve by becoming a member of the post."

➤ ...When, How, and Why, did G.A.R. Cemetery become the property of the City?

- ✓ By 1910, the ranks of the old soldiers were fading and they permitted the City of Miami to take over the cemetery, with the stipulation that its name never be changed from G.A.R. and that a burial place be reserved for old soldiers still living and their immediate families.

Trustees at this date were Shriver, W.L. McWilliams, S.B. Dobson, Charles Carmichael, Milton Drake and J.W. Bright.

In 1926 when the contract with the G.A.R. Veterans was reaffirmed by the city, only 11 were still living.



FROM THE STAFF



Kim Horn,
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager

I recently attended the College of Land Management & Grounds Operations at ICCFA University in Memphis, TN... G.A.R. is a member of the International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association that conducts ICCFA University. This organization is the premier professional organization for the funeral industry.

There were twenty-five other students that attended this training. Most of the other students were from privately owned cemeteries and funeral homes. Many of them were from large cities or even other countries. Though each of us came from a different environment, it struck me that we all had one thing in common. We all felt pride working in an industry that allows us to do work with a "purpose".

This started me thinking about what our purpose and mission is at G.A.R. Our G.A.R. Mission Statement is simply, "Families First". We strive to make sure all families that depend on us are taken care of to the best of our ability. Our families are the most important thing to us.

The following poem is about what it means to be a "Cemetarian". I believe it conveys how the Cemetery Staff and I feel about serving families here at G.A.R.

I AM YOUR CEMETARIAN

I assist people with something that they
really don't want, but they need,
And can not do without as it brings them
solace and comfort.

Families invest their futures with me.
I provide for eternity that one single place
that offers comfort and peace.

I am the care taker of a sacred place, a place
they come to for reflection and prayer.

They are counting on me.

I keep families together forever and ever.
I am the necessary link joining their "here"
and "hereafter".

Yes, my work is meaningful.

In the most singular sad event of their life-
My service is critical to them.

They have placed their trust with me.

I AM YOUR CEMETARIAN

~Anonymous~



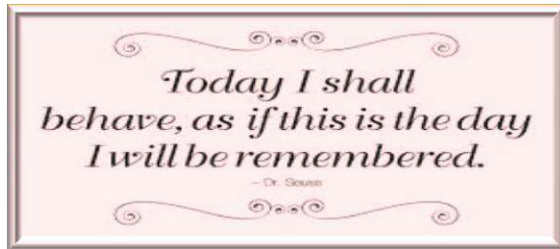
Chad Masterson

G.A.R. Cemetery Foreman



Have you seen the new British markers yet? They look Awesome! It was quite an undertaking that has been almost a year in the making, but now they are all in place and standing at attention to mark the final resting place of the British boys who left their home across the sea to come to Miami, OK. to train to be pilots at B.F.T.S. #3 and never made it home. These young “kids” - some not even out of their teens, “wet behind the ears”, if you will, had faced more hardships and seen more suffering in their formidable years than a lot of people will see in a lifetime.

Every name on each of the 15 granite markers had a dream, left a family, had a story to tell, but yet didn’t get the chance. Didn’t get the chance to be a kid, a dad, a grandpa, didn’t get the chance to tell their story! Although through these markers their name, their story, lives on at G.A.R. Cemetery.



Remembered... what does that mean to you? How do you remember family, friends, co-workers, acquaintances? Is it a funny moment, where you laughed so hard you cried? An intimate moment, when you thought all was lost and that special person held your hand and hugged you so tight that they put all your broken pieces back together? Or was it an angry time, when you lost your cool, and said things you wish you could take back?



Nancy Bro,

G.A.R. Cemetery Office Manager

We all have each of these types of memories, but how will you be remembered? What emotion drives you every day? Love? Compassion? Empathy? Fear? Anger? The list goes on... The actions and reactions that take us on our life’s journey have an impact on the people around us. Is that impact positive or negative, or just complacent?

When I read this quote, it really made me stop and reflect on the true meaning of it, and how I “behave” each day.

Do I really know how people will remember me? So, today I made a decision...

Today I shall behave, as if this is the day I will be remembered!



Fred Billups

G.A.R. Cemetery Maintenance

At G.A.R. Cemetery we are very fortunate to have an exceptional staff. In this edition we chose to ask two of our grounds men a few questions to give you just a little insight into who they are and the work they do to maintain the highest of standards for our cemetery.



Bruce Lawrence

G.A.R. Cemetery Maintenance



Fred & Bruce posing before mowing

Q & A's: Fred

Q: How long have you worked for the City?

A: "3 years"

Q: How long have you worked at the Cemetery?

A: "2 ½ years."

Q: What type of work do you do at the Cemetery?

A: "Mowing, weed eating, grave digging, tree trimming, marker setting, equipment maintenance and grave location."

Q: What do you like best about working at the Cemetery?

A: "The sense of history. Every person buried at G.A.R. has a story; also we have Veterans from every war, from the Civil War on. I just think that is cool."

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: "Love to tinker on anything that has a motor."

Q: What is something you would like people you serve at the Cemetery to know about you?

A: "I endeavor to do the Best Job that I can do."



Fred lending A helping hand



Bruce setting a marker

Q & A's: Bruce

Q: How long have you worked for the City?

A: "I think 5 years."

Q: How long have you worked at the Cemetery?

A: "1 ½ years"

Q: What type of work do you do at the Cemetery?

A: "Clean up, mow, weed eating, help with getting ready for funerals, put flags up, take them down."

Q: What do you like best about working at the Cemetery?

A: "I like working with the employees you work with. You know what your assignments are and just do them. I like working outdoors."

Q: What do you like to do in your spare time?

A: "Work on my yard, spend time with family."

Q: What is something you would like people you serve at the Cemetery to know about you?

A: "That I care about their loss and will help anyway possible to care for their loved ones."



Story and photography by:
Melinda Stotts
Miami News Record
July 18th, 2014

“Faith in Action” Volunteers Paint G.A.R. Fence

“It's not just saying that you believe, but it's portraying it through your actions,”

Youth Leader, Josiah Jones

MIAMI - 70 volunteers showed up Wednesday at the G.A.R. Cemetery in Miami with wire brushes and paint brushes in hand. A group of high school students from Lee's Summit, Missouri attending summer camp at Sky Ranch are volunteering in Miami painting the decorative fence at G.A.R. Cemetery on North Main.

“We give the fence a fresh coat of paint about every three years,” G.A.R. Cemetery Director Kim Horn said. “This is our busy time of year, so staff is always on the mowers and the weed-eaters. We have to get community service to be able to do this.”

The volunteers wire brushed and painted each section of the fence surrounding two sides, the south and east of G.A.R. Cemetery. According to Horn the decorative fence was built in the 1940s, and

to replace each panel would cost around \$500.

“It's distinctive, it's been here for years,” Horn said. “They are saving us many man hours and it's just awesome they are helping.”

Josiah Jones a youth leader with the Lee's Summit Abundant Life Church's Fusion Student Ministries said the students are at their annual summer camp at Sky Ranch this week. This was the camper's first visit to Miami.

“We try to leverage students when we go to camp and use them in such a way to be a blessing to the community,” Jones said. “One of our truths is that saved people save people. So, if we've truly been saved by Christ and if He is ours and we are His, we believe the best thing that we can do is serve others so that served people can be saved people. It's not just saying that you believe, but it's portraying it through your actions, being the hands and feet of Jesus.”

Jones said on Wednesday 70

students were out volunteering and 50 to 60 more would be back to volunteer on Thursday. A student ministries administrator from the church works with the community to find service projects for the student campers.

“She picked up the phone and called the City Of Miami, Mi-am-uh, that's how you say it, right?” Jones said with a smile, “To see what we could do to help this community. They put us in touch with the cemetery and here we are.”

The volunteers from Sky Ranch returned on Thursday to finish this project and to work on other projects at Riverview Park and the Coleman Theatre. The church group does community service in whatever community they visit for the summer. They have been to Boston this year also.

Two of the volunteers, seniors Jessa Kliever and Savvy Hughes, were busy painting the old iron fence surrounding the cemetery with forest green paint and paint mitts.

Center: Youth leader Josiah Jones with the Lee's Summit Abundant Life Church's Fusion Student Ministries pours paint for some of the 70 student campers volunteering to paint the G.A.R. Cemetery fence. Above: Jessa Kliever (left) and Savvy Hughes (right) were busy painting the old iron fence.

“We've gone to camp a couple of years but this is the first time out in Oklahoma,” Kliever said. “We're having a blast at Sky Ranch. I like helping.”

Community service projects were optional for the campers from Lee's Summit.

“I like doing community service,” Hughes said. “I like that they give us this option. I thought it would be fun, we didn't know what we would be doing. It's fun.”

Sky Ranch is a 1,480 acre Christian camp located at Cave Springs outside of Quapaw offering youth and children's camps, church retreats, men's and women's retreats, youth retreats, leadership retreats, church summer camps, corporate meetings, team building facilitation, staff retreats, strategic planning meetings and church and company picnics.

2013
EVENT SCHEDULE

❖ **British Flyers**
Remembrance Ceremony
Saturday, October 25th, 2013
@ 10:30 a.m.
Reception will follow:
Coleman Theatre Ballroom



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.miamiokla.net

Interested In Genealogy?

Visit our Library!

Miami Public Library **Barbara Becker**
200 N Main Genealogy Department
Miami, OK 74354 geniedept@miami.lib.ok.us
918-541-2292 www.miamipl.okpls.org

Staff Hours:
Mon, Wed, Fri. 10:00 a.m. - noon, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Tues 9:00 a.m. – noon, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

*Our Newsletter Distribution
List Is Growing!*

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, Please call (918) 541-2288, Or send your request to nbro@miamiokla.net

Follow this link to read the poem
"The Dash"
Written by Linda Ellis

www.linda-ellis.com

CONTACT US

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**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 October	10/06/2014
First Monday in February	02/02/2015
Second Monday Following Easter	04/13/2015
First Monday Following Memorial Day	06/01/2015
First Monday in October	10/05/2015

- 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.