



Charles Banks Wilson



Everett "Truman" Geouge

**MIAMI**  
City of Miami Spirit & Opportunity  
**G.A.R.**



# CEMETERY *Legacy History Tour*



Since 1892, the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Cemetery has served as the final resting place for many Ottawa County residents  
As well as fifteen B.F.T.S. #3 British Cadets.

This history tour is to honor and remember the life stories of several individuals, and to highlight the contributions they made to our community.



John Beaver

**Print your packet and take a  
Free Tour TODAY!**



The "Stone" Brothers  
WWII Veterans



"WOODMEN OF THE  
WORLD"

# **NOTES ON THE G.A.R. CEMETERY**

By Velma Nieberding<sup>1</sup>

It began, not as a carefully groomed park-like memorial enhanced by trees and roads and special plantings and statues. At first, only the prairie wind with its ageless secrets swept it. Wild flowers starred the tall grass that covered it and deer and buffalo roamed over it.

It was not a cemetery but Indian land.

On April 8, 1890, Peter Labedie, a member of the Confederated Peoria, Kaskaskia, Wea and Piankashaw tribes, received a patent from the United States Government for 200 acres of land. He reserved four acres of his allotment for "A Miami and Peoria Church". However due to a mistake in land description the patent was cancelled and not actually granted until September 8, 1890.

This land, as was all allotments to Indians of this area, could not be sold nor was it subject to levy, sale, taxation or forfeiture for a period of 25 years from the date of allotment.

However, the confederated Peoria tribe of which Peter Labedie was a member (he was of Wea descent) could have restrictions removed by special request.

The Miami Record of November 24<sup>th</sup>, 1899, carried a notice by R.M.J. Shriver, commander of the J.B. McPherson Post No. 11.<sup>2</sup> of the Grand Old Army of the Republic (GAR) that:

**"We have this year brought 36 acres of land and had it surveyed 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 the reserve."**

---

1. Velma Nieberding is a historian for the Ottawa County Historical Society: a newspaper columnist for the Miami News-Record (The Moccasin Telegraph) and author of three books including "The Quapaws" (Dixon Publishing Co. 1975)
2. After Statehood in 1907 the Post was known as No. 48.

The wounds of the Civil War had not been forgotten. It is not surprising that Shriver, a former deputy marshal for the United States Courts in Miami, Indian Territory, and a staunch Yankee should add the following paragraph:

**“And while we cannot take our late foes into the Post and thus give them a lot in the reserve, the Post has taken the necessary action to allow all ex-Confederates to purchase lots in the reserve so that when our beautiful and impressive memorial services are held on each 30<sup>th</sup> May, their graves may not be neglected and that this tie may have a tendency to bind their children and ours together and strengthen loyalty to our Government”.**

**The land had been purchased from Emily Ensworth, a daughter of Peter and Amelia Labedie. Peter Labedie had died in 1895, and apparently the original allotment had been divided among his heirs. Not included in this transaction were the four acres that had been set aside for a church.**

**On March 13, 1913, the United States of America granted to the trustees of the J.B. McPherson Post No. 11, four acres of land. It carries the same legal description as the land set apart by Labedie for “A Miami and Peoria Church site”.**

**Thus the Post’s holding by 1913 included 40 acres of land. Release of a mortgage made for \$400 on the four acres by the Post was released on June 14, 1917.**

**The four acres thus set aside went through several transactions. On October 10, 1917, the McPherson Post sold it to F. E. Millner and C. J. Fribley, for \$1,000. This firm had established a funeral home in Miami.**

**Two years later this firm sold it to the Mitchell-Fleming Undertaking Company, who had acquired the Millner-Fribley Funeral Home.**

**Apparently the Mitchell-Fleming Company did not remain long in business and in 1923 transferred the tract to Martin C. Fleming one of the partners.**

**A little later it was purchased by Virgil Cooper and given to the City of Miami to be added to the 36 acre plot the GAR had turned over to the City in 1910. The four acre plot is today known as the Cooper Addition.**

**By 1910, the ranks of the soldiers were thinning and they were concerned for the future of the cemetery. Shriver appealed to the City of Miami to take over the ownership of the cemetery on the condition that it would pay \$250 each for the remaining thirteen GAR veterans’ burials.**

**Trustees of the Post at this date were R.M.J. Shriver, W.L. McWilliams, S.B. Dobson, Charles Carmichael, Milton Drake and J.W. Bright.**

**In 1926 when the contract with the GAR veterans was reaffirmed by the City, only eleven were living.**

In the development of the cemetery the City has acquired new land, established perpetual care and become a constantly improving memorial.

It is generally believed that a son of Peter and Amelia Labedie was the first burial in the cemetery but memories of those early days have passed to the same vale of obscurity as many who now rest in unmarked graves. The Ottawa County Historical Society received information recently that the first grave opened in the cemetery was for the child of Jesse and Laura Dragoo. The baby shown in family photograph in 1895 "died at the age of six weeks".

In the thirties a fire destroyed many of the early records of burials. However, the oldest marked grave is that of Atha Josephine Cardin, born in 1872 and died in 1892. She thus would have been buried soon after the McPherson Post acquired the Labedie land.

Another marker that has survived change and time is that of a one-year child, Irene Isabel Thaxton, who died in 1897. Her father once operated a ferry across the Neosho River.

Other events in the history of the cemetery include the observance of Memorial Day each year. In 1901, the Miami Record carried a special news story. Decoration of the graves at the cemetery was to be done by children of the town. There was to be a band and everybody was to meet at the GAR Hall and go in procession to the cemetery. The children were to report to Mrs. W. C. Lykins, Mrs. H. L. Doty, or Mrs. G. W. Bigham.

Miami was invited to make it a day they could look back to "remembering that on May 30, 1901, no grave in our cemetery was forgotten or neglected."

Mindful that a few old Rebels might be in town and hesitate to participate in GAR ceremonies, the paper said graciously, "and especially are our friends who fought on the other side during the dark days of the Rebellion invited to come and participate with us in the festival of the dead."

The observance of Memorial Day has never faltered and the cemetery staff today actually works from one Memorial Day to the next to keep the grounds in good condition for the hundreds of persons who visit it to pay respect to their loved ones buried there.

The formal ceremonies are always centered around the beautiful memorial to the soldier dead which was erected by the GAR veterans.

It has not always been easy to maintain the cemetery. In 1923, the Miami city council asked the State Supreme Court if it had any rights to the cemetery, terming it "in deplorable condition."

This may have been caused by the many burials. In 1963, George Francis, Superintendent of the cemetery said in a typical year 220 burials would be conducted at GAR. The deceased in 154 instances or 70 per cent of the time would be from outside Miami. It is estimated this year (1978) that there are 18,000 burials in the cemetery.

In 1963, only 36 grave spaces remained unfilled in the charity (pauper) section which covered approximately eight acres, or one-tenth of all GAR property. Burials are now made at a cemetery at the former Ottawa County Poor Farm.

A perpetual care fund was established in 1942 with a donation of \$5000. The interest from this fund helps to maintain the cemetery.

In 1948, Sunday Funerals were discontinued except in cases of disease or epidemic because of labor costs and the additional burden of Ministers.

In 1966, an \$8,000 ornamental fence was installed on the half mile cemetery front plus a quarter mile at the south end. Previously the cemetery had been surrounded by a stone and hedge fence.

Fifteen British Flyers are buried in the cemetery. They died while in training at the Spartan School during World War II.

In 1956, the city officially combined the cemetery and park boards. George Francis has directed park-cemetery operations since that date.

That same year a regulation requiring concrete or steel burial vaults instead of wooden crypts was approved thus lessening much repair to the cemetery since graves with wooden crypts were estimated to sink several inches after a rain and to sink twelve times during the first seven years of burial. At that time cemetery crews were kept busy repairing some 250 graves after a rain.

In 1945, to add a touch of beauty to the Babyland section that was developed, a beautiful Italian white marble baby statue, forty inches high was obtained through members of the cemetery board. These included Mrs. L.M. Torbert, Mrs. Olaf Baker and Mrs. John F. Robinson. The superintendent that year was V.L. Krucker.

The prairie winds still sing over the cemetery reminding visitors that they hold answers to the many questions that concert its history. The beautiful plantings and the trees are a haven for birds and sometimes on a moonlight night a mocking bird sings for those whose graves are unmarked

## **TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

PRIVETT, SAMUEL THOMAS, JR [BOOGER RED] The Handbook of Texas Online ...

Page 1 of 2

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fpr29>

**PRIVETT, SAMUEL THOMAS, JR. [BOOGER RED] (1864-1924)** Famous bronc rider was born in Williamson County, Texas, on December 29, 1864. His family moved to Erath County when he was six years old. His father established the SP Ranch and Brand. By the age of twelve, Privett, already known as the Redheaded Kid Bronc Rider, had begun his career breaking horses.

At the age of thirteen, Privett and a friend decided to pack a hole bored into a tree stump with gunpowder to create a firework display for Christmas. The gunpowder ignited prematurely, killing his friend. Privett's face was severely injured. His brother put him in the back of a farm wagon to carry him to the local doctor. A small boy looked at Privett's mangled face and said, "Gee, but Red is sure a booger now, ain't he?" It took six months for Privett's injuries to heal. His eyes, lips and nostrils were burnt so badly that they had to be cut open many times during the six months it took him to recover. He lost the majority of sight in one of his eyes. His brother would repeat the remark made by the small boy concerning Privett's face when he was laying in the wagon. It always brought a smile to Privett's disfigured face. This remark gave birth to the nickname "Booger Red" which stayed with Privett the remainder of his life.

By the time Privett was fifteen both his parents had passed away, his father of Bright's disease. Over the next few years Booger improved his bronc riding skills and bought a small ranch near Sabinal, Texas. Around 1888 he decided to sell his ranch and stock and travel to West Texas with his uncle. Booger went to work breaking horses on a ranch twelve miles south of Sonora. His reputation as a top-notch bronc rider was growing, and ranchmen for miles around brought their wild horses for him to ride. Many stories tell of his keen instincts regarding horses and their training. On numerous occasions Booger Red defied the odds and amazed audiences with his ability to ride horses that were thought to be unridable, and he won many wagers along the way. Privett was proud of his reputation as a horseman. He moved to San Angelo and purchased a wagon yard with the money he had saved from bronc riding. At the wagon yard ranchers would bring their horses for Booger Red to ride. He had become a successful businessman, but self-conscious about his facial deformities and scarring from the burns, he made fun of himself at public events, introducing himself as Booger Red--ugliest man living or dead. At a local preacher's house he met Mary (Mollie) Frances Webb. They were married on December 29, 1895, in Bronte, Texas, when Mollie was fifteen years old and Booger was Thirty-three.

Booger and Mollie settled in San Angelo. Booger continued riding and breaking wild horses, and Mollie was an accomplished horsewoman. They decided to start their own traveling Wild West show, The Booger Red Wild West Wagon Show, in which both of them performed with Booger Red as the chief attraction. They had seven children' six lived to adulthood and participated in the family Wild West show. His children entertained with their trick roping and riding, but Booger had to ride at each performance. He was never thrown from a horse and never got off a horse until the ride was over. Once a horse fell on him and broke his leg, but he refused to get off, waiting for the horse to right itself and calm down before he got off. He maintained a standing offer of \$100 to anyone who brought a horse he could not ride, but he never had to pay it. He won twenty-three first prizes at various rodeo competitions, and his appearances included a performance at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

By 1920 Booger Red had sold his ranch and livestock and moved to Oklahoma. He knew that the family-owned Wild West show was a thing of the past as larger companies forced them out of business. Privett and his family were offered the chance to do acts for other Wild West shows and circuses operated by Al G. Barnes, Buffalo Bill, Hagenbeck-Wallace, and others. In 1924 Booger Red retired from performing. That year he was in the stands as a spectator at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show (see [SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION AND LIVESTOCK SHOW \(handbook/online/articles/llso2\)](#)). Booger had not been well, and Mollie knew this would be his last rodeo. As he watched the bronc riding the rider was thrown from the horse and lay motionless on his back, carried out of the arena by the handlers. The crowd began chanting, "Give us Booger Red," and a little old woman sitting beside Booger began screaming, "Here he is!" The crowd broke into a roar, shouting "Booger Red." Privett began slowly walking down the aisle when a group of sturdy young cowboys lifted him on their shoulders and carried him to the arena. The wild horse was brought into the arena, and Booger Red, with an ease that belied his years, leapt onto the horse's back. The horse leapt high into the air and landed on all fours and pitched sideways, but Booger Red was riding with an ease that was a sight to see. Many of the spectators realized they were watching the legend that their daddies had told stories about and broke out into cheers. No one would have disagreed that they had just watched one of the best bronc riders in history.

Two weeks after his last ride, Samuel Thomas Privett, Jr., "Booger Red", was on his deathbed. He was a victim of Bright's disease, inherited from his father. He died in March 1924 with his family by his side. 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." Booger Red is buried near his home in Miami, Oklahoma. His wife Mollie claimed that bronc busting was Booger's life. She estimated he rode between 25,000 to 40,000 broncs in his lifetime. In 1975, fifty years after his death, Booger Red was inducted into the Rodeo Hall of Fame in the National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City. Booger Red's Saloon, located in the historic [Fort Worth Stockyards \(/handbook/online/articles/dif04\)](#), is so named in honor of the famous rider.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** Thomas Mulvany, "Booger Red's Last Ride," Reader's Digest, June 1946.  
Charlsie Poe, *Booger Red: World Champion Cowboy* (Texas: Quality Publications, 1991)  
Mrs. Mollie Privett Interview, February 8, 1938, transcript from American Memory Collection, U.S. Work Projects Administration, Federal Writer's Project (Folklore Project, Life Histories, 1936-39). Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
<http://ftp.rootsweb.ancestry.com/pub/usgenweb/tx/bios/booger1.txt> accessed May 6, 2008.  
Vertical Files, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

*Cindy Jones*

### **Citation**

The following, adapted from the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15<sup>th</sup> edition, is the preferred citation for this article.

Cindy Hones, "PRIVETT, SAMUEL THOMAS, JR. [BOOGER RED]", Handbook of Texas Online, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fpr29>

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fpr29>

1. **GEOUGE, Everett Truman (1923-2009)** - Truman Geouge served in the United States Navy during WWII. His interest in aviation was cultivated during his service as a radio operator and tail gunner in the Pacific Theater. He was once quoted that **"Aviation makes for common ground among uncommon men. Up there, everyone is equal. When you're at the controls, it's you, the sky and the Almighty. There is nothing in the world to compare with the exhilaration you get from being up there."**

He operated a crop-dusting service and managed the airport from 1971-1986. He was instrumental in working with the B.F.T.S. #3 Association during their reunions, and during his management of the Miami Airport, he rebuilt and restored a number of aircraft. At the time of his death, he was constructing a Skybolt Plane.



2. **RAY, Gerald Ahniwake "Ahni" Sr. (1926-2013)** - "Ahni" Ray served in the United States Navy aboard the aircraft carrier USS Franklin during WWII. He was a proud member of the **"704 Club"**, which was comprised of the 704 survivors out of 3,000 servicemen who served on the USS Franklin CV 13.





3. **STONE, Louis Earl (1919-1997)** - Louis Earl Stone was a Radio Operator and trained the pilots at the British Flight Training School #3 for duty during WWII. He also founded the local radio station **KGLC** and a sister station in El Paso, Texas.

**STONE, Francis Elliott (1925-1978)** – Was the middle brother of the three “Stone Brothers”. He was a belly/tail gunner during WWII. All three brothers served during WWII. The third brother, and the youngest of the three, James D. Stone, is interred in Tulsa. He was a crew chief, flew a B-17, carrying supplies to Saipan and brought our wounded soldiers back to the states.



4. **KELTON, Richard Duane (1943-1978)** – Kelton was born in Lincoln, Nebraska and grew up in Miami, Oklahoma graduating in 1961 at Miami High School. He was an actor and debuted in **Gunsmoke** as “**Bud**”. Kelton’s acting took root while he attended Miami High School and Northeastern A&M College. He also appeared in **Wild Women** (1970) as “**Lieutenant Charring**”, and had a guest-starring role in **Charlie’s Angels**. Kelton died after one day of filming the TV movie series **Centennial**. He taught drama and social studies in Wellington, Kansas in 1968-1969. His father was principal of Nichols Elementary School.



5. **POST, Wesley (1876-1951)** - Wesley Post was a prominent business man of Picher Oklahoma, during his lifetime he was the 1st Mayor, 1st Police Judge, 1st Minister/founder of the Union Church, and 1st full-time minister, all in Picher Oklahoma. He was also the Foreman for the Eagle-Picher Lead and Zinc mining district.

6. **MANTLE, Elvin “Mutt” (1912-1952) and Lovell (1904-1995) (Parents of Mickey Mantle)**

Elvin “Mutt” and Lovell Mantle were the parents of Baseball Hall of Fame Inductee and New York Yankee Outfielder Mickey Mantle. Mickey was the oldest son of Elvin “Mutt” and Lovell and grew up in Commerce, Oklahoma. “Mutt” worked in the lead and zinc mines, and was a big baseball fan that had played semi-pro baseball himself. Their son, Mickey, played in 2,401 games during his career from 1951-1968, all for the New York Yankees.



7. **WEEKS, Franklin (1920-1948)** - Franklin Weeks was the son of William O. and Flora M. Weeks of Miami, Oklahoma. **Franklin was one of the first soldiers from Ottawa County that was killed during WWII.** He was originally buried in Sicily, 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. He was one of 8 brothers and he had 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 soldiers when they arrived on the train. Franklin attended grade school and high school in Miami, The Army Reserve Center is named after Franklin Weeks.

8. **MAYER, George A. (1915-1998)** - George Mayer came to Miami in 1941 as an advanced instructor with Spartan Aviation. He trained pilots at the British Flight Training School #3, and was instrumental in organizing reunions for the British pilots. Mayer flew 104 missions as a "Hump Pilot" in the China-Burma-India Theater while serving in the Army Air Corps during WWII. In 1949 he founded the ***Miami Stone*** company and its subsidiaries, ***Rustique Brick International*** and ***George Mayer Manufacturing***. In 1974 he was named the "Oklahoma Small Businessman of the year".

9. **BERKEY, Harry (1906-1999)** – Was a past Secretary of the Miami Chamber of Commerce, and instrumental in the British Flying Training School coming to Miami. He was also instrumental in the B.F. Goodrich plant being located in Miami.

10. **McALPIN, William Boaz (1849-1941)** - 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 an around the world horseback ride 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.

**11. COLEMAN, George L. Sr. (1859-1945)** – Was thought to be one of Miami’s most prominent business men. He was instrumental in building the Miami Baptist Hospital and Hotel Miami as well as a modern school system. Mr. Coleman moved to Miami in 1895 where he and his brother Alfred were partners in a water well drilling firm and went on to discover lead and zinc ore deposits. Their first strike came in the Picher and Commerce areas in 1905. In 1928, Coleman purchased the site for the construction of his legacy, the Coleman Theatre. The theatre opened in April 1929 to a sold out house of over 1,600. Mr. Coleman was a good friend of Bing Crosby as well as other current day actors and wanted to erect a theatre worthy of those talents. Bing Crosby and Bob Hope both held positions on the theatre’s board of directors. (www.colemantheatre.org)

**12. CHAVIS, Woodson (1861-1943)** – Horse trainer by trade for 50 of his 83 years. He was the horse trainer for the famed trotter Tarzan Axworth that legendary American Cowboy and humorist Will Rogers drove in his film characterization of David Harum. Chavis was a resident of Miami for 15 years and was well known all over the Midwest. He spent most of his time at the Miami race track.

**13. B.F.T.S. #3 British Cadets (1941-1945)** – Spartan British Flying Training School #3 opened in Miami, Oklahoma on July 31, 1941 and trained 2,124 RAF cadets and USAAF pilots before closing in August 1945. The Miami Chamber of Commerce first submitted a plan to the British Embassy entitled “A proposal for the Number One Royal Air Force Pilot Training Facility in the United States” in 1940. This proposal eventually led to the training school being located in Miami.

**Fifteen British Cadets, who were killed while attending the Spartan School, are interred side by side at G.A.R. Cemetery. The following is a listing of the names of those cadets and the messages their parents sent to be placed on each grave marker:**

**L.A.C. Fred Tufft, 31; died October 27, 1941: “He nobly gave life in all his fullness to save us.”**



**L.A.C. Peter McCallum, 19; died August 31, 1942: “Only son of M.M. and R.E. McCallum of England. Forever in our thoughts.”**



**L.A.C. Alan Brown, 19; died August 31, 1942:** "His short life was a life of service."



**L.A.C. Harold A. Burman, 21; died August 31, 1942:** "Live on Brave Boy! Thy spirit still inspires."



**L.A.C. Herbert H. Hacksley, 23; died August 31, 1942:** "Loved and remembered always."



**L.A.C. Donald A. Harfield, 17; died August 31, 1942:** "God gave him to us. God has taken him away. Thy will be

done."



**L.A.C. Ralph K. Price, 19; died October 3, 1942:** "God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform."



**L.A.C. William C. Speirs, 20; died April 8, 1943:** "Too soon, too soon comes death to show we love more deeply than we know."



**L.A.C. Walter E. Elliott, 29; died October 20, 1943:** "Rest in Peace."



**A.C.2 Kenneth Raisbeck, 26; died June 26, 1944:** "Greater love hath no man that he lay down his life for his country."



**L.A.C. James Boyd, 20; died December 14, 1944:** "At rest. Beloved only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Boyd, Prestwick, Scotland."



**A.C. 2 William G.M. Mann, 30; died March 21, 1945:** "Rest in Peace."



**A.C.2 Cecil Riddell, 20; died May 2, 1945:** “Our beloved boy. Deeply mourned by all at home. We will remember him.”



**A.C. 2 Frederick D. Beverley, 20; died May 30, 1945:** “Your smile, your song, your love will live forever in our hearts.”



*In Special Honor of:*

**L.A.C. Ronald Dennis Harrison, 19; died Aug 11, 1941:** He died the day he was to leave Tulsa to come to B.T.F.S. #3, located here in Miami, and is laid to rest in the American Legion Section of the Tulsa Memorial Park Cemetery.

**HILL, Mrs. F.M. (Francis) (1892-1982)** – Mrs. Hill at her request, is buried alongside the graves of the fifteen Royal Air Force Pilot Cadets who died while attending the Spartan School from 1941 to 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 #3 British Flying Training School Association.”



**14. WASHINGTON, Cyrus (1852-1944)** – Cyrus’s father was George Washington, named after President George Washington. This came about when his grandfather met with President Washington and asked his grandfather what his son’s name was. He told President Washington that he didn’t have a name. President Washington asked him to name him after him. It is not known why Cyrus’s grandfather met with President Washington. Cyrus Washington was born in Kansas in 1852. He and his parents moved to the Indian Territory during the Civil War. Cyrus Washington lived in Ottawa County for 75 of his 92 years.

**15. MABON, James S. (1860-1956)** – A staunch Republican, Mabon served three terms in the state House of Representatives from 1913 to 1923. He was instrumental in obtaining the School of Mines for Miami which later became Northeastern A&M College. Mabon came to Miami in 1908 and until his death in 1982 was one of the city’s most active boosters. Mabon was 95 years old at the time of his death.

**16. BEAVER, John (1855–1928)** – Second Chief of the Quapaw Indians. John Beaver was originally buried on his own allotment, 15 miles northeast of Miami, but was moved to G.A.R. Cemetery on September 18, 1933. He was one of the wealthiest members of the Quapaw Tribe due to the lead and zinc mines. His monument is a bronze sculpture of himself which was cast in Italy. It is one of the most distinctive markers in the cemetery, and people often place pennies in the folded hands of the statue for good luck.



**17. ENSWORTH, (Labadie), Emily (1855–1939)** – Emily was the daughter of Peter and Amelia Labadie who held the original Peoria Indian allotment land where G.A.R. cemetery is today. Mrs. Ensworth sold thirty six acres to the City of Miami in the early 1890’s for \$1,600 according to the W.P.A. Oral History documentation.

**18. "WOODMEN OF THE WORLD"** - Woodmen of the World is the largest fraternal benefit society with open membership in the United States. It is an insurance organization founded by Joseph Cullen Root in Omaha, Nebraska in 1899.

Early Woodmen of the World policies provided a monument benefit; the gravestones were originally furnished to members for free. These markers were hand-carved and varied greatly in shape and size, but most resembled tree stumps or stacks of cut wood. Although, the practice of providing free headstones was discontinued in the 1920's due to increasing costs, Woodmen can still request a bronze Woodmen emblem for their headstone.



**19. RICHARDVILLE, Thomas F. (1830-1911)** – Chief of the Miami Indian tribe, played a key role in Miami's beginning. In recognition of his support, Wayland Lykins invited Chief Richardville to name the new town and he chose to name Miami after his tribe. A glimpse at the extensive Richardville family history discloses that the Miami Chief was descended from the nobility of France, Joseph Drouet Dier De Richardville, a lieutenant of French troops in Canada who was married to a Miami Indian woman. The Richardville name appears in Miami tribal history down through the years as Indian chiefs and signers of treaties.

**20. DOBSON, Nellie (1885-1968)** – Nellie Dobson was one of the pioneer residents of Miami. She was only 7 years old when in 1892 she road 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.





**21. BAULCH, N.L. (1880-1926)** – Mr. Baulch was a Chief of Police for Miami from 1919 to 1921 during the administration of Mayor W.S. O’Bannon.



**22. PERRY, Floyd Leslie (1892-1918)** – Floyd was born in England, Oklahoma. Floyd died November 8, 1918 in Liverpool, England. The Miami American Legion Post is named for Floyd Leslie Perry.



**23. CARDIN, Atha Josephine (1872-1892)** – Atha Cardin was born in 1872 to Thomas and Esther Cardin. Her family moved to Miami Indian Territory in 1885. She was of Quapaw Indian descent. Atha Josephine died in 1892 before she was given her land allotment. It is believed that her grave is the oldest in G.A.R. Cemetery.

**24. FRANCIS, George E. (1921-1986)** - George E. Francis moved to Miami in 1944 from Kentucky. He was a World War II Army veteran. He worked for the BF Goodrich Company in Miami before starting a 27 year career with the City of Miami in 1952. Among his many accomplishments, he was responsible for the creation of the Little League Ball Parks, and for the enlargement of the Municipal Swimming Pool. When he retired in 1981, the city commission voted unanimously to change the name of Riverview Park to George E Francis Riverview Park in his honor.

**25. HUBBARD, Jeremiah (1837-1915)** – Jeremiah was born April 7, 1837 in Henry County, Indiana to a Quaker family. He was a teacher by trade and taught in a number of schools including the Wyandotte Mission School. After teaching for 27 terms of school in Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, and Indian Territory he engaged in missionary work among the Ottawa, Wyandotte, Modoc, and Seneca tribes. Jeremiah and his wife moved to Miami, Oklahoma in the spring of 1900, where he continued his ministry among Native Americans until retirement in 1913. He died in Miami in 1915 in his 79<sup>th</sup> year; his wife died in 1917. They had ten children.

**26. HUDSON, Henry G. (1851-1937)** – Henry was one of the first rural mail carriers in NE Oklahoma. In 1917, free mail delivery was inaugurated making two deliveries daily. Hudson was a resident of Ottawa County from 1891 until his death.

**27. SHRIVER, Richard M.J. (1843-1919)** – M.J. Shriver was a Union soldier in the 78<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Ohio Infantry. He began as a private and was discharged with the rank of Corporal. Shriver was the moving force in organizing a GAR post in Miami in 1894. He moved here from Nebraska, served as a Deputy U.S. Marshal, worked in the Indian Service and later went into real estate. During his service in the army he fought at Shiloh, Vicksburg, Kennesaw Mountain, Ga. and several other battles.

**28. WILSON, Charles Banks (1918-2013)** - Charles Banks Wilson was a painter, printmaker, teacher, lecturer, historian, and magazine and book illustrator. Wilson's work has been shown in exhibitions worldwide, and permanent collections of Wilson's work are housed in some of the most world renowned museums and art galleries, including New York's Metropolitan Museum. His historical murals wrap the State Capitol Rotunda in Oklahoma City.



**29. LYKINS, Wayland C. (1847-1909)** – Wayland was a son of a Baptist missionary to the Peoria Indians. The history of Miami is interwoven around the acts and energies of Wayland Lykins, who as president of the Miami Town Site was the leading spirit in the development of Miami from its earliest beginning. The township patent, signed by President Benjamin Harrison was issued in May, 1891, and the sale of lots began the following month.

**30. CAMPBELL, William Calvin (1873-1934)** – Known to all as Cal, a 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.



31. **“BOOGER RED”, PRIVETT, Samuel Thomas Jr. (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 that Redheaded Bronco Rider. His family estimated he rode between 25,000 and 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.



**If you have pictures you would like to share of these people on our Living History Tour, or any of your family or friends that are interred here at G.A.R. Cemetery, Please contact the office at**

**[nbro@miamiokla.net](mailto:nbro@miamiokla.net) or [fbillups@miamiokla.net](mailto:fbillups@miamiokla.net)**