



OTTAWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 P. O. BOX 1383
 MIAMI, OKLAHOMA 74355-1383

MEETINGS: Third Monday, 7:00 P.M., Nine Tribes Tower Dining Room
 ANNUAL DUES: \$7.00 (January 1 through December 31)

OFFICERS

- PRESIDENT ROBERT LEE WILSON (542.8174)
 VICE-PRESIDENT SHIRLEY MAHURIN (540-0775)
 SECRETARY JOANN TAYLOR (542-2033)
 CORRESPONDING SECRETARY VIOLA TAYLOR (542-4463)
 TREASURER IRENE THORPE (542-5225)
 COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS MARJORIE A. PATTON (542-8550)
- SMOKE SIGNALS EDITOR KENNETH L. CRABTREE (540-0068)

VOLUME 29, NO. 4 (FOURTH QTR), 1997

To My Fellow Genealogy Society Members

Can you believe it? Another year has passed! This AGE horse seems to gallop faster every year.

As I look back on my first year as your president, I am humbled to witness how many of you do so much for this organization with little or no fanfare.

I still have a lot to learn about being president but one thing I have learned is that I can learn something from each one of you. I will strive to put this knowledge to use in this second year.

We have had interesting, informative and entertaining programs for which I thank our vice-president and program chairman Shirley Mahurin. Our secretary, Joan Taylor, has provided us with accurate minutes and wonderful articles in the Miami News Record. I thank them and the other officers for their support as we've worked together this year to represent you the best we could.

The volunteer staffing at the Miami Public Library has been outstanding! Many hours have been donated to this worthwhile project. My appreciation goes out to those who have co-ordinated this program.

And of course I am grateful for the attendance at our meetings every month and the fellowship there in. Wouldn't be much fun to plan and no one come!

Anyone reading this who is not a member of our group: We invite you most warmly to come. We would welcome your addition to our membership.

Sincerely -- In Your Service -- Robert Wilson

CORNER STONE LAID FOR NEW COURT HOUSE

Impressive Ceremonies Carried Out Wednesday Afternoon under auspices of Masons in Formal Placing of Corner Stone of Ottawa County's Splendid Building

June 2, 1916 . . . With impressive ceremonies, the corner stone of Ottawa county's splendid building was laid to formally announce the construction and dedicate the county's building which is located on Block 96 in the City of Miami, in what has been the public park square, one block east of Main on Fourth street.

The building is well under construction, most of the walls being already built to a height of several feet, but the placing of this square of granite, appropriately carved and enclosing an iron box containing articles important to the moment was an occasion of deep significance to every citizen of Ottawa county and one long to be remembered by all as a forward step in the county's history.

The deed to the block on which the court house is being constructed was formally presented to the board of county commissioners in behalf of the city of Miami, as a gift pledged years ago by the city, the actual cost being some \$3500 but the valuation today is estimated at close to \$20,000 making the total value of the grounds and building close up to \$100,000.

The ceremonies were in charge of the Masonic organization of Ottawa county and the stone was put in place with impressive ceremonies in the presence of several hundred people. The work was under the supervision of Woodson T. Norvell, acting Grand Master of Masons of Oklahoma and of Deputy Grand Master Albert A. Small, both of Tulsa.

Prior to the ceremonies, the Masons, headed by the Fairland band, marched from the Masonic hall to the northwest corner of the court house where the stone was put in place. Selections were played by the band and some good vocal selections were rendered by a male quartet.

Addresses were delivered by Mayor W. S. Harned, Ray McNaughton, the county attorney, and by County Judge Vern E. Thompson, respectively on behalf of the city, the county and the Masonic fraternity. The ceremony of putting the stone in place was participated in by several of the officials of the order and most interesting and appropriate addresses were made by Messrs. Norvell and Small in behalf of Masonry. Mr. Norvell made a most interesting and appropriate address. The address by Hon. A.A. Small made a lasting impression on the assemblage and the speaker paid a beautiful tribute to the "Kingdom of Ottawa" in a few brief words. The address of Judge Thompson was also graphically replete with a fund of information regarding the early days before statehood and upon the organization of the county's business, the first offices being opened, all in one room in a dance hall in the rear of the Babcock building.

As is customary, documents were placed in an iron box which were fitted in a mortised opening in the cornerstone, same being under the supervision of M. R. Tidwell, assembled by the county commissioners and recorded by Claud Talbot. The recorded list shows mainly as follows. Holy Bible; copy of Record Herald, copy of Live Wire; copy of Republican report of extension work, State school of Mines; list of county officers souvenir booklet of Ottawa county pocket piece, F. A. Sweem; copies of commissioners' proceedings relative to court house, accepting deed, etc; pennies by J. H. Connolly, J. M. Fuser, M. R. Tidwell, Claude Talbot and possibly others; Masonic emblem, Judge Thompson; half dollar, Claude Fullerton; sheet stationery, J. K. Moore; piece Parisian marble from Solomon's Temple by J. L. Crank; proclamation of Grand Lodge of Masons; contract regarding deed by city of Miami and also deed to site of court house made by City of Miami to Ottawa county. Possibly other articles regarding which we were unable to secure detailed information.

This occasion was one of the most important in the history of Ottawa county and people from many parts of the county were present to witness the ceremonies dedicating a county home which is in part, a home of every man, woman and child in Ottawa county. It is indeed a pleasure to chronicle the proceedings of such an important event.

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OFFICERS FOR 1998

President	Robert Lee Wilson	(542-8174)
Vice-President	Garry and Judy Johnson	(442-5297)
Secretary	Joan Taylor	(542-2033)
Treasurer	Betty J. Pulley	(540-0937)
Corresponding Secretary	Viola Taylor	(542-4463)
Acquisitions and Library	Ramon and Sparkle Hale	(542-3200)
Hospitality	Shirley Ratliff	(542-8002)
Historian	Audrey Topliff	(542-7890)
Parliamentarian	Marjorie A. Patton	(540-8550)
Smoke Signals Editor	Kenneth L. Crabtree	(540-0068)
Callers	Mildred Jennings	(542-9340)
	Jannett Jones	(542-2537)

A GENEALOGIST'S CHRISTMAS EVE

Author Unknown

(With apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even my spouse.
The dining room table with clutter was spread
With pedigree charts and a letter which said
"Too bad 'bout the data for which you once wrote
It was lost in a storm on an ill-fated boat."
Stacks of old copies of wills and the such,
Were proof that my work had become much too much.

Our children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar plums danced in their heads
And I, at my table, was ready to drop
From work on my album with photos to crop.

Christmas Eve now was here, and such was my lot,
That presents and goodies and toys I'd forgot.
Had I not been so busy, with grandparents' wills,
I'd not have forgotten to shop for such thrills.
While others had bought gifts to bring Christmas cheer,
I'd spent time researching those birth dates and years.

While I was thus musing about my sad plight,
A noise on the lawn gave me such a great fright.
Away to the window I flew in a flash,
Tore open the drapes and yanked up on the sash.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But an overstuffed sleigh and eight little reindeer.
And then in a twinkle, I head on the roof,
The prancing and pawing of thirty-two hoofs.
The TV antenna was wrecked by their horns,
And we now had a roof with hoof-prints adorned.

As I drew in my head and bumped on the sash,
Down the cold chimney fell Santa -- CR -- RASH!
Dear Santa looked like he'd been in a wreck,
Tracked soot on the carpet (I could wring his neck!)
Spotting my face, good old Santa could see,
I'd no Christmas spirit, you'd have to agree.

"Like you, I'm too, a genealogy bug"
He said as he gave me a great Santa hug.

"While elves make the sleigh full of toys I carry,
I do some research in the North Pole Library.
A special treat, I am thus able to bring,
To the genealogy folks who can't find a thing.
Now off you should go to your bed for a rest,
I'll clean up the house from this horrendous mess."

I climbed up the stairs feeling gladness and glee
And looked back at Santa, who'd brought much to me.
While settling in bed I heard Santa's clear whistle,
To his team which then rose like the down of a thistle.
And I heard him exclaim as he flew out of sight,
"Family History is Fun!
Merry Christmas!
Goodnight!"

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WHAT'S IN A DATE -- WITH APOLOGIES TO SHAKESPEARE

So! You think you have all dates figured out! Well, I thought I did to. We know that dates in genealogy are written as 1 Jan 1998, or 1 January 98, or whatever. But I am not talking about the style we use to write dates. If you track your ancestors back far enough, you just might run into all together different calendars--the Julian calendar and the Gregorian calendar.

It has to do with converting from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar. Up until 1752, the Julian was used by England and her colonies. The first day of the year was Mar 25. To confuse this more, the whole month of March was listed as month # 1. (Oct, Nov, and Dec were named such because they are the 8th, 9th and 10th months under this system.) When the Gregorian calendar was used, the first day of Jan was the legal first day of the year. Also there was an 11 day difference that had to be made up. So that the day after Sep 2, 1752 was Sep 14, 1752. This was because the makers of the Julian calendar did not take into account that the year is slightly longer than 365 days. We have leap years to do that now. By the way, there is something called the 400 year rule. It says that every 400 years, you have to add a day to make up for the differences that are too small to make up otherwise. The year 2000 is divisible by 400, so does that mean we are going to have an extra leap day then? Is that what is being called Earthday? (Are you keeping this straight?)

Now the double date thing. Some European countries switched to the Gregorian calendar as early as 1600. Because of the confusion over whether the first month was Jan or Mar depending on which calendar was used, the practice became to either name the calendar used (OS for OLD STYLE for the Julian or NS for NEW STYLE for Gregorian) or to give any date between Jan 1 and up to and including Mar 24 a double year. (For example: 01 Feb 1710/11.) This is because it could either be

the last month of 1710 OLD Style or the second month of 1711 NEW Style. From Mar 25 to Dec 31, no correction would be needed so the date would be as is, (Example: 25 Mar 1710) Isn't this exciting! This is the very information you have always wanted--wasn't it?

Now to the Quakers! It seems they refused to use the names of the months (as they were pagan names) and used numbers. So you get dates like 3-1-1710/11. So unless they said the 3rd month or month 1 or something similar, it gets really confusing. You have to remember the American way of saying month/day/year was not the European way which was day/month/year. Some said this is a good argument for always writing out the month (or using the first 3 letters.) Others said it is best to write down the date as is and cite the source since you can't be sure how the date was interpreted in the past.

If you need further clarification, don't contact the Editor--I'm just as confused as you are. You may get clarification by contacting stephenL@indiana.edu on the internet. Lots of luck!

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TENTATIVE DATES FOR 1998 SMOKE SIGNALS

(With Everyone's Help, Of Course.)

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| 1. Deadlines for articles to be in to Editor. | 1st Qtr. | 1 March 1998 |
| " | 2nd Qtr. | 1 June 1998 |
| " | 3rd Qtr. | 1 September 1998 |
| " | 4th Qtr. | 1 December 1998 |

Please Note: Every attempt will be made to have each issue out by the last day of each month given above.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Some members have indicated they did not have a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. For your information, they are found on the following two pages.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In future issues of The Smoke Signals, we will be having some articles for the newcomer to Genealogy to help them with tracking their family tree. If any of you have tips that we can pass on to others, please get them to the Editor. If there are any suggestions on other subjects we might include in future issues, please pass those along also.

BY-LAWS

Article I. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees with the exception of the Nomination Committee. He/she shall appoint all committees necessary for the operation of the business of the Society. He/she shall perform all such duties that are required as President of the society such as responsibility for all incoming mail.
- Section 2. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President. He/she shall serve as Program Chairman assisted by two other members appointed by the President.
- Section 3. The Secretary shall keep proper minutes of the meeting and shall furnish a written cop of same to the President and he or she shall keep a current list of membership, addresses and telephone numbers, and provide same to officers.
- Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for official correspondence and publicity of the Society. He/she shall be the official representative of the Society to submit information to the media.
- Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive all funds payable to the organization. He/she shall pay all bills and keep an accurate record of all financial transaction.

Article II. MEETINGS

- Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held as follows: A night meeting shall be held the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
- Section 2. Additional Meetings may be held at the discretion of the President and/or the Board of Directors.
- Section 3. Each member, regardless of class, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to members for action.

Article III. AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at any regular meeting, providing all members have been notified of proposed amendments.

Article IV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

- Section 1. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern this Society in all cases to which they are applicable in which they are not inconsistent with these By-laws. Approved: September 21, 1992.

Article V. DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

- Section 1. Should this organization dissolve, all assets held shall be donated to the Miami Public Library to be used for genealogy materials.

OTTAWA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

Article I. NAME

- Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Ottawa County Genealogical Society. This Society shall operate as a non-profit organization.
- Section 2. The principal place of business of the Society shall be in the Town of Miami, County of Ottawa, and State of Oklahoma, at present (1992), Dining Room of Nine Tribes Tower in Miami.

Article II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society is included in the following objectives:

1. To encourage and promote the study and enjoyment of genealogy.
2. To discover, procure, and preserve whatever may relate to the civil, religious, social, cultural, and natural history of Ottawa County, Oklahoma and the surrounding areas.
3. To gather and/or diffuse genealogical research information so as to enable members of the Society to further their family research.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Section 1. Any person in sympathy with the aims and purposes of the Society and is willing to accept the rules and regulations adopted by this Society shall be admitted to membership in the Society upon payment of annual dues of \$7.00. The fiscal year of the Society shall be from January 1 to December 31. Dues paid after October 1 shall be applied to the following year.
- Section 2. Dues of members shall be payable prior to the first day of January each year. The payment of annual dues shall constitute a condition of membership.
- Section 3. Officers shall be required to pay dues before installation.
- Section 4. Those members delinquent in the payment of dues shall have their voting privilege suspended until such time as their dues are current.

Article IV. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Section 1. The officers of this Society shall be: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- Section 2. There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the officers of the Society and the immediate past President of the Society.
- Section 3. Terms of Office shall be one year -- January through December 31 -- and no officer shall hold the same office for two consecutive terms unless the nominating committee deems it necessary to continue an officer due to particular reason.
- Section 4. Nomination of officers shall be made by a nomination committee of three (3) members of the Society appointed by the President at the October meeting.
1. Officers shall be presented, voted on, and elected at the November meeting.
 2. Officers shall be installed at the December meeting.

Article V. MEETINGS

- Section 1. The membership of the Society shall meet as specified in the By-laws.

Article VI. INUREMENT OF INCOME

- Section 1. No part of the earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

