



The Round Tower

A Quarterly Publication of the Cleveland County Historical Society

Spring 2014 Vol. 13 No. 6

Cleveland County Historical Society

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Welcome to new members : about The Cleveland County Historical Society



Thank you for joining the Cleveland County Historical Society as a valued member. Your financial support contributes directly to the care and operation of the museum. We look very forward to updating you about future projects, events, and publications.

The Cleveland County Historical Society was chartered in November of 1967 to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cleveland County. The Society has promoted the awareness of local history with programs and speakers, publications and historical markers. The Moore-Lindsay Historical House, owned by the City of Norman and operated by the Society, opened its doors on March 16, 1975. Through the recreation of period rooms and interpretive exhibits, the museum presents a cultural history of Cleveland County's territorial era.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, BOARD MEMBERS,
VENDORS, MUSICIANS, AND CORPORATE SPONSORS FOR
MAKING CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE 2013 A GREAT SUCCESS.
WE APPRECIATE YOUR HARD WORK AND PARTICIPATION!**



**STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ABOUT OUR NEXT CHRISTMAS OPEN
HOUSE COMING UP ON DECEMBER 12 , 2015!**

Attention, all museum members!

The password to access our online historical archives has been changed to : **cchs14**



Go to our website home page at **www.normanmuseum.org** and click on the **Archives** section to view historical photos, maps, documents, and pioneer stories.

Have questions or suggestions about the website?
Please call us in the museum office at 405-321-0156.

STATEWIDE PRESERVATION CONFERENCE COMING TO NORMAN: JUNE 4-6, 2014

“Save the dates, June 4-6, 2014, for *Historic Preservation ABCs: Oklahoma's 26th Annual Statewide Preservation Conference*. Start packing your bookbags and plan to enroll for historic preservation summer school in Norman on the University of Oklahoma campus.

The three courses of study include:

TRACK A: Academic Pursuits, which focuses on Norman's and the state's architectural legacy; research collections and tools for historic preservation; and a half-day visit to the Oklahoma Archeological Survey to tour the archeological laboratories and learn about current field work, research projects, and cooperative efforts with the SHPO and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Cultural Resource Program.

TRACK B: Back to Basics, which includes an introduction to the National Register of Historic Places and the Secretary of the Interior's Rehabilitation Standards; rehabilitation project case studies of all sizes; and highlights of how the arts and historic preservation combine to promote community revitalization.

TRACK C: Comprehensive Community Preservation, which features two workshops. First is the National Alliance of Preservation Commission's one-and-a-half-day Community Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP) for design review commissions and local government staff. Second is a half-day workshop about heritage areas and corridors and how they support economic development and heritage tourism, presented by Elizabeth Watson, Heritage Strategies LLC.

Special events include the opening reception on Main Street in historic downtown Norman; local tours; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.'s annual meeting and luncheon; the State Historic Preservation Office's annual awards banquet; and the Plenary Session, featuring Linda Caldwell, Executive Director, Tennessee Overhill Heritage Association, who will deliver a lively discussion about how small towns can realize economic benefits and strengthen rural heritage tourism programs through spin-off from nearby, larger cities.

Conference cosponsors include State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society; Oklahoma Main Street Center, Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Preservation Oklahoma, Inc.; University of Oklahoma, College of Architecture and Institute for Quality Communities; Campus Corner Merchants Association; City of Norman; Cleveland County Historical Society; Norman Arts Council; Norman Chamber of Commerce; Norman Convention and Visitors Bureau; Norman Downtowners; and Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

Full conference program and registration information will be available in late April. Follow conference developments on <http://www.okhistory.org/shpo/spevents.htm>; <http://www.facebook.com/okshpo>; <http://www.twitter.com/okshpo>; and <http://www.okpreservationconference.wordpress.com>.

If you may have questions, contact Melvena Heisch, Deputy SHPO (405/522-4484 or mheisch@okhistory.org) or Umit Hope Mander, Associate Director, Institute for Quality Communities, College of Architecture, University of Oklahoma (405/325-2434 or umander@ou.edu).”

(Source: www.okhistory.org/shpo/conferencedetails.htm?full)

SETTLER STORY

Vincent Eugene Breese Family

By: Ralph Lee Breese

Excerpt from Pioneers and Early Settlers of Cleveland County, Oklahoma, 1889-1925
(Cleveland County Historical Society 1974)

“Vincent Eugene Breese, my father, was born on July 30, 1853, at East Paw Paw, DeKalb County, Illinois, near Quincy, of English parentage. He married Rachel Riggs on March 17, 1879 at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, where she was born on June 3, 1862. They lived at Colwich, Wellington and Wichita, Kansas. He died in October 1920; she died in October 1956 in Willow, California at the age of 94 years. They had 9 children: Nellie, Maude, Jay, Ralph, Mattie, Beulah, Nina, Joubert, and Lissie.

My father came to Oklahoma in 1891, and leased the SE ¼ of Sec. 16, T. 10 N., R. 4W., (School Land) 8 miles west of Moore, in Cleveland County. There was a shack on the property, and he built a 4-room, 1 ½ story house on the southeast corner of the quarter, moved the shack up to the house and used it for the kitchen. When the house was completed he sent for the family, my mother and the six older children, who came by train, got down to Oklahoma City in the dark, and stayed with the Alair family, who lived across the road, a few days until the house was ready. He raised cattle and hogs, had a garden and raised fruit.

He started a store and Post Office located in the front room of our home and then added another room to the store. He also built a store building and a storehouse there.

The store and Post Office was first named “Eagle Center”, and Maude and I both worked in the store. “The Post Office Department would not accept the name ‘Eagle Center’ as the name for the Post Office, as another Post Office had already established and was too near the same name and they thought it would cause trouble in handing the mail. When my father got the word he just said ‘We will call it Quincy and that was settled just like that. Mail came once a week at first, then twice a week; and finally three times weekly.

The Quincy Post Office was established in the SE corner of the SE ¼ of Sec. 16, T. 10 N., R. 4W., on March 27, 1892, with Vincent Eugene Breese as Postmaster. It was later moved to the SW ¼ of Sec. 7, T. 10 N., R. 4W., across the road west from the Antioch Christian Church, 4 ½ miles east of Ricketts Store, and in a house and store run by Bob Watkins. The Post Office was officially closed on February 29, 1904.

My father sold the store to Gene and Jan Fulp, who were from Paoli,-- traded it for 25 horses, and bought the quarter across the road, the NE ¼ of Sec. 21, T. 10 n., R. 4 W., which had been homesteaded by Nicholas Hoyle, and moved over there in January 1905.

The store was held up one day about four o’clock in the afternoon by the Dalton gang when my mother was taking care of it. My father was out in the wheat field. They took what they wanted, socks, shirts, underwear, clean clothes, and left. It was held up another time about midnight, and when the Winchester was used the thief was hiding behind a barrel and the bullet cut a barrel stave partly in two. My father helped catch lots of out laws in those days, and maybe let some get away. There were lots of horse thieves, but I cannot remember of but a few cattle being stolen, maybe one at a time when somebody got hungry. My father also served on the Federal Jury.

The first school, named “Beulah Land” opened in 1889 and was located on land which would have been the right of way for the north-south road, had it been extended north of the section line road, which comes to a dead-end as the terrain would not permit a road without bridges over the Cow Creek. The school land adjoined the store and Post Office on the east. (Continued on page 6)

SETTLER STORY (CONTINUED)

The first teacher at Beulah Land was a Mr. Jordan, an old gentleman who, as I remember, chewed tobacco in time of school and his order in the school room was equal to the Hanging Judge Parker. He was my teacher when I first started to school and had not been in school five minutes until he gave me a whipping, for what I never knew. He carried a switch 5 or 6 feet long and used it on us all.

The next teacher was a Miss Poole, I think her given name was Ada, a really nice girl with plenty of guts. She whipped 15 of us boys one morning, and the 15th boy was Willie Hisel about 15 or 16 years old, who got away from her and never came back, and she went right ahead and whipped his younger brother, Andy,--16 in all.

Then there was an old lady, real gray, a Mrs. Cox. They all liked her and her school seemed to go along without a hitch. We sang religious songs and had prayer. It seems I went to school with her more than one term.

My father was nearly always on the School Board, and I heard some contracts made. In 1899, Theodore Dorland taught school for \$20.00 per month. He wanted \$25 per month, but my father told him we just could not pay that much. Our schools in those days were called conscription schools. My father would canvass the neighborhood for the money to hire the teacher and how many children they would send, and the schools were generally for a three month term. Two and a half miles is the farthest I can remember walking to school.

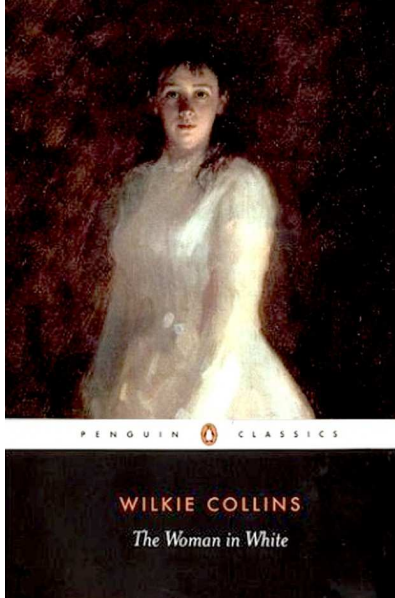
The school, later called Quincy School, was moved from the first location to the NW ¼ of Sec , 21, T. 10 N., R. 4 W., as set up by law, and a new building constructed. It was this building which was sold to John Dobbs when the school was discontinued and he used the lumber to build his home.

On June 16, 1906, there was a consolidation of school districts, as several farms in the Quincy School District #11, had gone into the river or were on the other side of the river now. Property east of the center line of Sec. 16, T. 10 N., R. 4 W., was transferred to School District #12, with the school at Elm Grove; and property west of that line was transferred to School District #10, the Grand Valley School, in the NE corner of the NE ¼ of Sec. 8, T. 10 N., R. 4 W. The petition was signed by my father. We went to Grand Valley School. In the 1940's both Grand Valley and Elm Grove schools were closed and the children went by bus to Moore to the Consolidated School there."





THE VICTORIAN ERA IN LITERATURE



The Woman in White

By: Wilkie Collins
(1860)

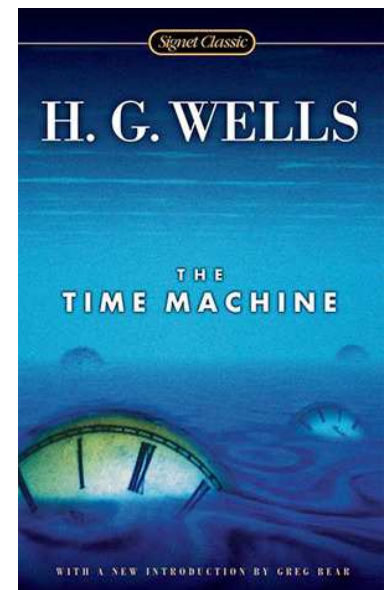
*“The Woman in White famously opens with Walter Hartright's eerie encounter on a moonlit London road. Engaged as a drawing master to the beautiful Laura Fairlie, Walter becomes embroiled in the sinister intrigues of Sir Percival Glyde and his 'charming' friend Count Fosco, who has a taste for white mice, vanilla bonbons, and poison. Pursuing questions of identity and insanity along the paths and corridors of English country houses and the madhouse, *The Woman in White* is the first and most influential of the Victorian genre that combined Gothic horror with psychological realism.”* (http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/5890.The_Woman_in_White)



The Time Machine

By: H.G. Wells
(1895)

“So begins the Time Traveler’s astonishing firsthand account of his journey 800,000 years beyond his own era—and the story that launched H.G. Wells’ successful career and earned him the reputation as the father of science fiction. With a speculative leap that still fires the imagination, Wells sends his brave explorer to face a future burdened with our greatest hopes...and our darkest fears. A pull of the Time Machine’s lever propels him to the age of a slowly dying Earth. There he discovers two bizarre races—the ethereal Eloi and the subterranean Morlocks—who not only symbolize the duality of human nature, but offer a terrifying portrait of the men of tomorrow as well. Published in 1895, this masterpiece of invention captivated readers on the threshold of a new century. Thanks to Wells’ expert storytelling and provocative insight, The Time Machine will continue to enthrall readers for generations to come.” (http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2493.The_Time_Machine)



CLEVELAND COUNTY TRIVIA

Norman: 1889-1949 (Arcadia Publishing 2013)

During World War II, the Navy enlarged _____ Airfield and purchased 1,500 acres to provide ground and air Training for combat pilots.

- A) Velmer Pedigree
- B) John C. Rothmore
- C) Max Westheimer

.....

Norman's Naval base was officially commissioned on _____.

- A) May 20, 1942
- B) September 12, 1943
- C) January 4, 1941

.....

Documentary photographer _____, most famous for her photograph titled "Migrant Mother", spent some time taking photos in downtown Norman during the Great Depression.

- A) Georgia Nelson
- B) Hermoine Landfordshire
- C) Dorothea Lange

Answers: C, A, C

PIONEER REMEDIES

http://www.mendonutah.net/history/pioneer_medicine.htm

BEETS:

"Juice from red beets was drunk as a cure for kidney stones."

ELM BARK:

"Combined with yeast, crushed elm bark was used as an antiseptic and a poultice for ulcers, especially when there was danger of gangrene."

PEACH TREE LEAVES:

"Tea made of these leaves was used as a sedative, thus controlling nausea and vomiting."



NORMAN, WHERE GREAT THINGS {MEET.}

NORMAN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

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PIONEER RECIPES



Source: Foods of the Frontier by Gertrude Harris (101 Productions 1972)

SCOTTISH HODGILS

1 cup oatmeal
Salt and pepper
Broth skimmings
2 tablespoons chopped chives



“Put the oatmeal into a bowl and add salt and pepper to taste. Add the fatty skimmings from the broth, enough to moisten the oatmeal and form a thick dough. Add the chives and blend well. Drop by tablespoons into simmering broth. Cook for 20 minutes and serve with meat from the soup.”

WILD ROSE HIP JELLY



2 cups cut-up rose hips
2 pounds crab apples, quartered
1 pound sugar for each pint of juice

“Wash rose hips and crab apples; do not peel or core. In a heavy enameled pan, cook them with water to cover, until very soft. Pour into a jelly bag and let drip; *do not squeeze*. Lightly grease a saucepan with sweet butter, pour in the strained juice and 1 pound of sugar to each pint of juice. Boil until syrup jells when tested in a cold saucer. Pour into hot jars, let cool and seal tightly.”



A PAGE FROM THE PAST



Football fans gathered in downtown Norman during away games to hear the latest score, which was available at the Western Union Telegraph office and Barbour Drugs.



Get Involved!



Volunteer:

The Moore-Lindsay Historical house is looking for docents and capable volunteers to assist with preservation, record-keeping, publicity, events, and museum operations.



Donate:

The Cleveland County Historical Society needs your donations of artifacts, photographs, and books to help us bring the stories of our region's past to the present generation. We also need your financial support, so that we may continue to preserve the collections entrusted to us, and to share the stories they tell with our community now and into the future.



Exhibit:

As a member of the Norman Arts Council, The Moore-Lindsay Historical House looks for artists and collectors to exhibit original artwork throughout the year.



Contact Us:

Contact Erin Smith at (405) 321-0156 or by email at catdiva83@yahoo.com
www.normanmuseum.org.
We are also on FACEBOOK!



Join the Cleveland County Historical Society

The Cleveland County Historical Society's goal is to collect, research, and preserve the history of Cleveland County. As a member, you become a part of a network of individuals and organizations helping to preserve the history of our community.

Membership Levels:

Standard... \$10

Includes quarterly newsletter (with password to our online archives)

Heritage....\$30

Includes quarterly newsletter and limited edition museum replica Christmas ornament

Premium.....\$50

Includes quarterly newsletter, limited edition museum replica Christmas ornament, and copy of Norman 1889-1949 (Arcadia Press 2013)

name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please make checks payable to the Cleveland County Historical Society and mail to:

Cleveland County Historical Society
123 Beal street
Norman, ok 73069

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123 Beal Street, Norman, OK 73069

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