

# Pioneer Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

P.O. Box 1965

[pgskaycntyok.org](http://pgskaycntyok.org)

Ponca City, OK 74602

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May 2023

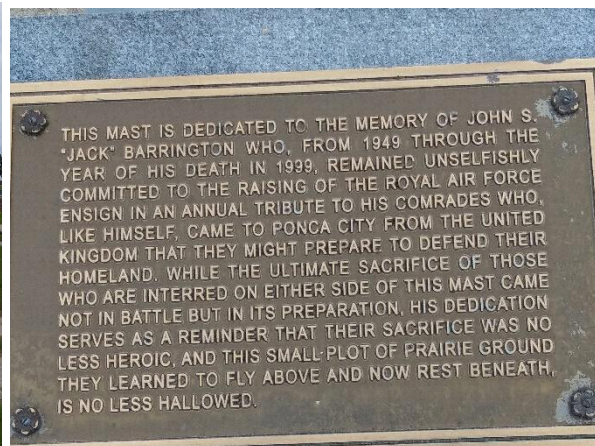
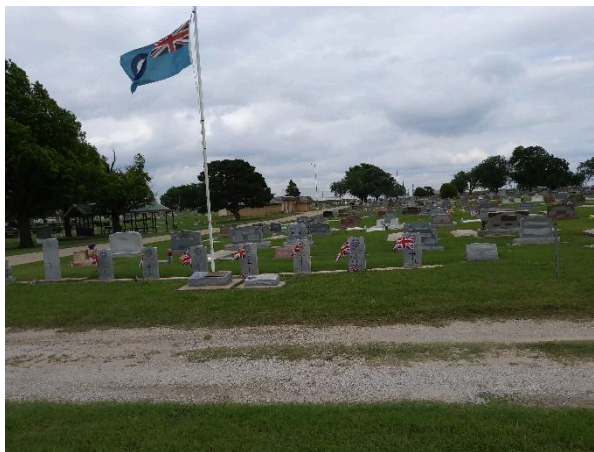
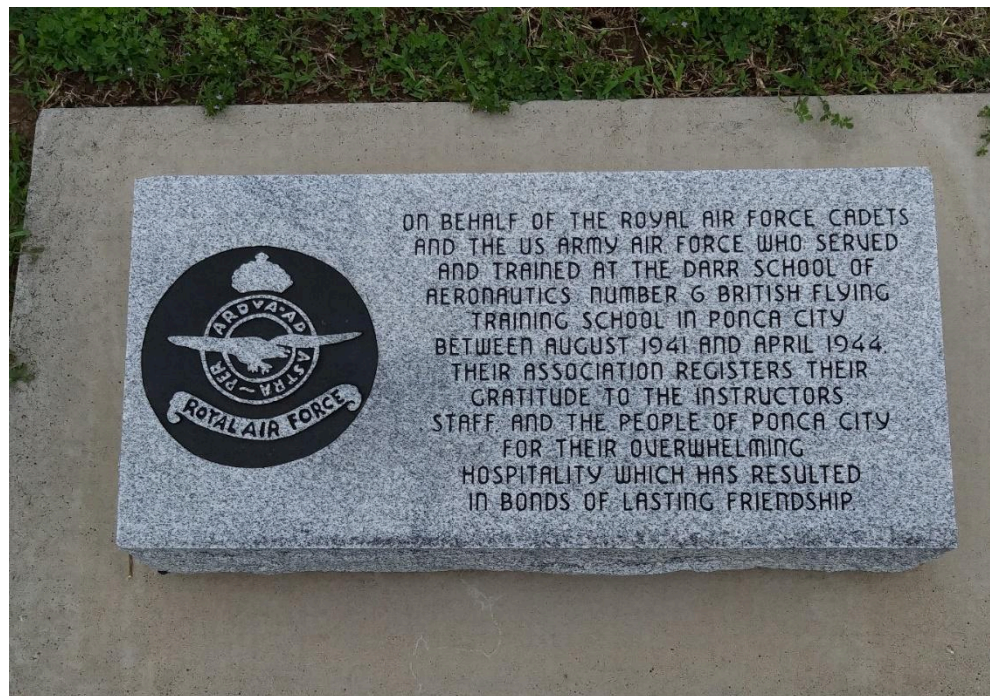
This isn't Louise, so it won't be anything like her wonderful newsletters. I do hope it is a way to communicate with everyone about some of the exciting things happening in our society.

### **Jerry's Message**

I know a lot of people have to travel to distant cemeteries to put flowers on family graves. But not everybody will be able to go out of town, and I would just like to say if you are staying in town and have never gone out to the IOOF Cemetery on South Waverly, Decoration Day is a humbling experience. I know for a fact that Joe Glaser, Gary Miles, the Boy Scouts, and other volunteers do a tremendous job of putting out flags on the graves of our nation's veterans. The oldest graves of Veterans are near the entrance, and the grave markers are in white marble. Also, for those history buffs, Memorial Day weekend is one of the few times the doors of the P.C. Mausoleum are ever open to the general public. Inside this building everything is stunning floor to ceiling white marble and beautiful stained glass windows. Here lie the crypts of some of Ponca City's most famous citizens, the likes of which are E.W. Marland and his first wife Mary Virginia, also his second wife Lydie Roberts Marland, and Marland's adopted son, George Roberts Marland and his wife, Laverne. I'm from a small town, and we certainly didn't have a mausoleum in our little town.

Also, people new to Ponca City may not know that during WWII we trained approximately 1,400 British Cadet Pilots of the Royal Air Force here over a span of a couple of years at the Ponca City airport Darr Flight School, or as it was known, British Flight School #6. During that time, 7 of the cadets lost their lives in training or flight accidents, and they are all buried here near the Flag Plaza close to the center of the IOOF Cemetery. Each year the British Government sends flags and many times flowers to be put on the graves of these airmen who gave their lives in service to their country and to the world's freedom. If you go to look for the British graves, there is a flagpole, monument, and tiny Union Jack flags marking each grave during Memorial Day, which will be on May 29<sup>th</sup> this year.

These are Jerry's pictures of IOOF Cemetery..





### **\*June Meeting\***

Our meeting for **June will be on the 5<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 in the library. Our speaker once again will be our own Hallie Godbehere. Her topic will be on "Find a Grave." Do you know how to use this awesome site? Hallie has been working for Find a Grave for many years. She is a contributor for those who have picture requests. It is suggested that you have your phone with you so you can follow along as she teaches us how to use this tool for genealogy research. Come join us and bring a friend.

Our **May program** was delivered by our very own Hallie Godbehere. She did an excellent job of showing how to use the Leeds Method and using DNA to discover living relatives.

Our **April program** was by a fellow Ponca Citian, Marshall Grant. He told of the experiences of finding a lost ancestor by the name of Michael Grant.

Our **March meeting** started us off with a bang. Laura Martin, Director of the Research Division at the Oklahoma Historical Society, came to tell us about the vast resources available. She also gave everyone a bag full of useful goodies to bring home.

### **Sad News**

It is with great sadness that we just learned of the passing of Barry Wright, PGS member Margaret Wright's husband. Barry, passed away Tuesday, May 23. He had been ill only a very short time.

The most **wonderful news** that many have been waiting to hear----**we have a website**. Calvin Golliver has spent many, many hours finding a home for our website and then developing it. It is still a work in progress. The Kay County cemetery records are up and useable. If you have something you would like to see on the website, please let Calvin know. You may find our website at <http://www.pgskaycntyok.org>.

Eddie Manley has spent several hours on his computer developing this **trifold brochure** with PGS information to be given to the libraries and museums in surrounding communities. We want to let people know more about us and how to reach us. It even has a QR Code that takes

us to our website.

## The Genealogy Room at Ponca City



In the basement of the Ponca City Library one can find one the largest Genealogy collections in northern Oklahoma. As one can see from this picture, there are rows and rows filled with research books and resources.

In the far end of this picture, you can see a row of vertical file cabinets filled with microfilm containing US Federal Census from 1790, marriage, birth and death resources.

A lot of Kay County records are stored here including the names and families of Pioneers that homesteaded in Kay county.



### Resources in many places.

- ♦ In vertical files
- ♦ In archives
- ♦ In cemetery records
- ♦ Online

### Cemetery Guides

These records are in the white binders on top of the file cabinets:

- Plot maps of local Kay County cemeteries
- Master Name Index
- Name Index for each Kay County cemetery

[The PGS also has CD's for each of these cemeteries—for sale]

## The Genealogy Room (continued)

### One can Find

- ♦ Census Records
- ♦ Family Histories
- ♦ Old Newspapers articles
- ♦ Obituaries
- ♦ Cherokee Dawes Roll
- ♦ Marriages
- ♦ and more

### Online Help

- ♦ Ancestry.com is available ONLY in the library's computer center. **It is FREE!!**
- ♦ Heritage Quest
- ♦ Free Wi-Fi is available at the library's computer center



### Vertical Files

Items kept in these files contain loose papers, newspaper clippings, and subjects of local interest, such as:

- ♦ Historical articles of Kay County people
- ♦ Articles of the Cherokee Outlet and 1893 Run
- ♦ 101 Ranch Drive—E.W. Marland
- ♦ Kay County War Veterans
- ♦ Five Civilized Tribes and other tribes in Oklahoma

### Archive Room

The library maintains a LOCKED archive room. It is accessible to the public one on one ....

It contains:

- ♦ Scrapbooks and Memorabilia of local organizations
- ♦ Old Ponca City records
- ♦ Indian roll records
- ♦ Photographs of early days in Ponca City
- ♦ Kay County Court records
- ♦ Some VHS tapes of local history
- ♦ Pioneer Homestead Descendants of Kay County

**Books on how to get started with your FAMILY HISTORY**

## PROGRAMS

Meetings of all of the members and guests take place immediately after each of the Board Meetings. These take place each month during the year, except January and February. We suspended General Meetings during those months because of the possibility of winter weather.

Some of the more interesting programs during 2022 were the Beginnings of Ponca City, the POW Camp in Tonkawa, the history of the Cherokee Outlet, before settlement and many other historical topics such as;



On Monday, July 12, we heard about how the Oklahoma Flag was developed by Louise Fluke, a longtime citizen of Ponca City.

Mrs. Fluke designed the Oklahoma flag for a DAR contest, which was held in a statewide competition, in 1925. Throughout her life she continued her artwork and patriotic undertakings.



Scan this QR code to go to our WEBSITE!



January 2023 PGS Board Meeting  
Ponca City Library

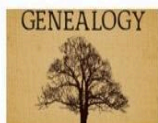
### PGS Board Members:

|                             |                                                                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jerry Cathey                | President                                                               |
| Norris Frederick            | Vice President                                                          |
| Colleen J. Fleming          | Treasurer                                                               |
| Nancy Stevenson             | Secretary                                                               |
| Marvis Soucek               | Corresponding Secretary                                                 |
| Marian Lippard              | Assistant Corresponding Secretary                                       |
| Karen Hunter & Eddie Manley | Historian/Archivist,<br>Pioneer Certificates,<br>Cemetery CDs Co-chairs |
| Louise Willison             | Parliamentarian                                                         |
| Dottie Golliver             | Membership                                                              |
| Hallie Godbehare            | Program & Publicity-<br>Social Media                                    |
| Nancy Stevenson             | Publicity-Newsletter                                                    |
| Calvin Golliver             | Website                                                                 |
| Colleen J. Fleming          | Social/Hospitality                                                      |
| Linda Willison              | Member at Large                                                         |

## Contact Information:

**Corresponding Secretary**  
**Marvis Soucek**  
**Assistant Corresponding Sec.**  
**Marian Lippard**

**Pioneer Genealogical Society**  
**PO Box 1965**  
**Ponca City OK 74602-1965**



Join us on facebook

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## Pioneer Genealogical Society of Kay County, Oklahoma

Our Society was organized in 1971 and draws its name from the Pioneer Woman Statue in Ponca City.



We honor the Pioneers and their descendants, along with our Native American inhabitants, who continue to play a major part in our lives today.

Our monthly meetings are on the 1st Mondays of the month at 7 pm and are open to the public and they are presently held in the Ponca City Library.



We invite 'queries' and assist genealogy research with a mentor program and our large Genealogical Section located in the basement of the Ponca City Library.

## Thanks to the Ponca City Library

In the beginning, Genealogy occupied a small space in the Library. Seen here is Rosanna Ratliff in our early attempt to establish a research library.

During that time a lot of historical documents, including US Federal Census' were on micro-film. In this second picture, Rosanna is looking at the screen of a micro-film reader.



Email us:

<pioneergenealogicalsociety@gmail.com>

### Join our Society:

Our Membership year starts March 1st each year.

Our dues are \$15.00 per year.

Email us and we will send you a Membership form.

Did you know that we are starting our 52<sup>nd</sup> year of the Pioneer Genealogy Society? Karen Hunter found this information in a PGS scrapbook:

### **Pioneer Genealogy Society**

#### **The First Twenty-five Years**

The Pioneer Genealogy Society was organized March 29, 1971, following a workshop presented on genealogical research by E. C. Rivers. Seven members had joined the group by April 26, 1971, less than one month later. Some of them were E.C. "Gene" Rivers, Edythe Giescker, Marlene Stewart, Tom Maddox, Howard Pruyne, Jesma Bellmard, and Kenneth Wright. Less than six months later, the group had grown to twenty-two members. By then the minutes showed the presence of Paul Hildebrandt, Thaylia Boxley, Gertrude Scott, Johnnie Mae Franklin, Jewell Colvin, Faye Cook, Mrs. Cassidy, and Mrs. Jones. Not only programs were presented, but the initial group was instrumental in focusing on projects which would benefit the community as a whole, including the purchase of genealogical reference books for the Ponca City Library and instructional workshops. The group was also active in getting the first microfilm reader purchased for use in the genealogy section.

In 1978, the society published a 562-page book, *Cemetery Inscriptions: Kay County, Oklahoma*.

The book was made possible by the members donating hundreds of hours to the copying and compilation of all known cemeteries in Kay County.

Over the years, the society has grown to a membership of over 300. In addition to the purchase of hundreds of books which had been donated to the Ponca City Library, the society has also donated a large collection of microfilmed census records for use by area residents. Speakers of note have visited the group throughout the years and excellent workshops have been conducted—the latest of which were a beginner genealogy workshop which was planned by Ruth Starnes and which drew 119 new members and a demonstration of the variety of computer genealogy software programs displayed on the latest desktop computers. This project was due to diligent efforts of Sandra Jones Graves.

Other projects of note have been the hosting of the descendants of the pioneers of the Cherokee Strip Run when it is celebrated near September 16 each year, usually headed by Edith McCallick, the publication of a surname Index of members, and a quarterly newsletter, which is exchanged with a number of other societies nationwide, as well as being distributed to most members. Royce Caldron, Louise Willison, Dora Belle Steffey, Birdie Taylor, Melba Mourer, and Maxine Prather have all joined efforts at one time or another to accomplish this project.

Presidents who have assisted the society since its inception are: E.C. Rivers, Edythe Gieseker, George Hill, Valda Johnson, Marion E. Lee, Beulah McKay, Sharon Primeau, Romona LeBaron, Dora Belle Steffey, Marlene Stewart, Edith McCallick, Bill Ziegenhain, Hanford Hull, Graydon Brown, and Paula Carmack Denson.



**Oklahoma Genealogical Society** will meet Saturday, June 3 at 1:00 in the OGS Resource Center. Their title is Runnin' Down Grandma: Tips for Researching Females. The Presenter is Nancy Calhoun. It meets in person or by zoom. Fee is \$20.00. Then on Monday June 5 at 6:00, They have speaker Kelvin Meyers, Forensic Genealogist talking about "Marriage and Divorce Across the South". This is free and a webinar. You must register for both.

**The Wichita Genealogical Society** is having a 2 day course on Native American Research. The first session is June 24 at 10:30 and will be Beginning Research and Enrollment Records. The second session is on June 29 at 10:30 and will include Tribal Records and DNA and the Native American. You will need to enroll in this course. They will have their annual conference on October 7. Cheri Hudson Passey is the key speaker. She is the owner of *Carolina Girl Genealogy* and is the host of a You Tube genealogy chat show called *Genfriends*.

**Payne County Genealogical Society** in Stillwater meets at 6:30 Thurs. June 15 in the Stillwater Public Library. Their speaker will be Shawn Irons, who used OK2Explore and was able to find her father whom she had not seen since she was 2 yrs. old.

**Edmond Genealogical Society** meets at 6:30 Mon. June 19 to hear members tell their stories of "I'm in Oklahoma because...." What brought you to Oklahoma? Pictures and artifacts can be shown.

**The US National Archives Genealogy** Series started on May 3 and will continue until June 14. They are live, but we can watch the recordings at any time after the live event. The programs start at 1:00 and the titles are: [May 3](#) Civilians at War records of participation in U.S. Military Conflicts; [May 10](#) Basic Military Records at the National Archives: Revolutionary War to 1917; [May 17](#) National Archives at St.Louis: Understanding the 1973 Fire and its impact on Genealogical Research; [May31](#) Civilian Conservation Corps Indian Division on the Reservation; [June 7](#) Accessing and Understanding Korean War Army Unit Records; [June 14](#) Planning, Techniques, and Strategies for Preserving Family Collections and Stories. The programs are free and require no registration.

**When working with certain documents** do you ever come across legal terms that you do not know the meaning? You can read or download a digital copy of Henry Campbell Black's *A Law Dictionary*. The second edition is available as a digital download through Google Books.



## 5 things to Know About Your Ancestor's Probate

By Amy Johnson Crow

Probate records are created to settle a person's estate after they die. They can have tremendous amounts of information in them. However, there are some misconceptions about what some of them mean. Here are 5 things you need to know when looking at your ancestor's probate records.

1. Heir doesn't automatically mean "child." "Since probate records do often include children of the deceased, it's easy to assume that "heir" means "child." However, "heir" just refers to someone who is legally entitled to inherit from the estate. If a person leaves their cousin something in the will, that cousin is an heir. If a person dies intestate (without a will), the laws in place at the time determine who the heirs are. Those heirs could be children, grandchildren, siblings, or even nieces and nephews, depending on the law.
2. Having a guardian doesn't necessarily mean both parents are dead. A guardian (in the legal sense) is someone who is responsible for representing the legal interests of the ward. It isn't uncommon at all for one of the parents to still be living. A common situation is that the father died, leaving young children. His widow didn't have many legal rights (by virtue of being female). Since she didn't have legal standing, she couldn't represent the legal interests of her own children. A guardian would be appointed to take over those legal needs. (The ward didn't have to live with the guardian. It's a legal arrangement, not a custodial arrangement.)
3. Wills don't necessarily include all of the children. There's no law saying that someone has to leave something in the will to each child. Older children who were already married and on their own might be omitted, especially if the deceased had given them land or other large gift when they got married. Some might be omitted because of differences in the family. (Like, "If any of my heirs contest this will, they are to be removed and inherit nothing.")
4. Will books are not original wills. Have you ever noticed that the wills in a will book have the same handwriting? It's because they were copied into those books by the clerk. Will books were created as a sort of "ready reference." Rather than having to dig through the loose probate papers or probate packets each time they needed to reference the will, they copied them into big books. Like any other derivative source, mistakes could happen when copying the wills into the will books. Whenever possible, see if you can obtain the probate packet that contains the original will. (Some have been digitized, many more have not. If you're trying to track one down in a particular county, contact the local genealogy society. They can point you in the right direction.)
5. You might be better off if they didn't leave a will. If a person died intestate, but they had assets (or debts) that needed to be distributed, there would still be probate. Ironically, our research can be better off when they died intestate. If they left a will, they could omit any or all of their children, they could name the spouse as "my beloved." But when they died intestate, the law took over. All of the heirs need to be included. There is usually a statement as to how theirs are related to the deceased. You don't always get those details when a person left a will.

**Genealogist, Kim Richardson:** When searching a document for information, you should make a print copy of the document, touch each word as you read it; cover other lines so you see only one line at a time; then circle or underline names, dates, places, etc., and make notes of any clues or questions you might have.

**Jayne McGarvey Genealogy:** “Genealogy is like a scavenger hunt and a jigsaw puzzle all rolled into one.”

The following article caught my attention because I located a distant relative when interviews were done on some of the early pioneers of Oklahoma. (These can be found at <https://digital.libraries.ou.edu/cdm/ref/collection;indianpp/id/4360>)

Even though these will be stories passed down, they will be very interesting especially to descendants.

### **The Underground Railroad's Oral Histories**

The Underground Railroad, which helped people escape slavery to freedom, necessarily operated in secrecy until the end of the Civil War. Now a grant from the National Park Service will support the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program at the University of Florida in highlighting the history of this pivotal social movement.

The \$350,000 grant through the U.S. Department of the Interior will allow the program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to gather, preserve, transcribe and promote digital video and audio recordings for use in museums, K-12 classrooms and documentaries.

The Network to Freedom Underground Railroad Oral History Project is a collaborative research project designed to shed light on one of the most important and least-understood social movements in American history.

“Conductors and freedom seekers on the Underground Railroad struggled against the power of Congress, the Supreme Court, and the executive branch for generations and in doing so left an unrivaled record of democratic striving and intersectional coalition building uniting African American, white, and Hispanic antislavery activists against tyranny,” said Paul Ortiz, director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. This is an incredible opportunity for University of Florida undergraduates, graduate students, and staff to learn the legacies of the most important grassroots democratic institution in American history.”

Under the guidance of the National Park Service and the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, UF staff and students in the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program will record the oral and family traditions of Underground Railroad descendants and representatives.

The underground Railroad oral histories will be jointly housed at the National Park service and the University of Florida Digital Collections at George A. Smathers Libraries.

(You can read more in an article by Douglas Ray published in the *University of Florida* web site at: <https://www.tinyurl.com/mrxfkcvd>.)

This article was found on Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at <https://www.eogn.com>)

Along this same line of thought, Ancestry now has a collection of **New York City, Ellis Island Oral Histories** from the years 1892-1976.

## Pioneer Genealogical Society Officers:

President – Jerry Cathey

Vice President – Norris Frederick

Treasurer – Colleen J Fleming

Recording Secretary – Nancy Stevenson

Corresponding Secretary – Marvis Soucek    Assistant – Marian Lippard

Membership – Dottie Colliver

Program Committee – Hallie Godbehare, Norris Frederick, Nancy Stevenson, and Marian Lippard

Historian / Archivist / Pioneer Certificates / CDs – Karen Hunter & Eddie Manley

Publicity & Social Media – Nancy Stevenson & Hallie Godbehare

Web Site Manager – Calvin Golliver

Newsletter – Marvis Soucek

Hospitality – Colleen J Fleming

Member at Large – Linda Willison

Parliamentarian – Louise Willison

**Meetings:** Pioneer Genealogical Society meets the first Monday of each month, except January and February, in the Programming Room of the Ponca City Library. Because of Labor Day, the September meeting is held on the first Tuesday.



## PIONEER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PO BOX 1965  
PONCA CITY OK, 74602

Date: -----

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_ If married Maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_, Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Make checks payable to Pioneer Genealogical Society or pay at your first meeting.** Mail your check and this application to PGS, PO Box 1965, Ponca City, OK 74602. Membership dues are \$15.00 a year, for an individual and/or your family.

**The Pioneer Genealogical Society** meets in the basement Programing Room of the Ponca City Library, on the first Monday of each month. Our General Meetings start at 7:00 pm, and we have a short business meeting, followed by an interesting program. We do NOT meet during winter months [January and February] because of the weather. Please see our website: <https://www.pgskaycentyok.org> and “Like” us on Facebook.

Revised 5/23