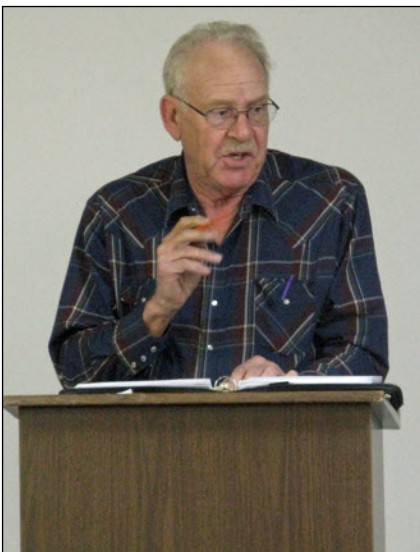


The Searcher

Garfield County Genealogists

February 2012

JANUARY MEETING



The new president of the Garfield County Genealogists for the year 2012, Harold Cooper, opened the meeting on January 14th with a presentation about the new, soon-to-be-released, 1940 Federal Census. He explained that it would first be released on April 2nd to be readied for publication, and then to the general public by the end of the month. There will not be an index with it, which will make searching difficult.

In the business meeting which followed, Connie Hammond, parliamentarian for the new year, gave a thorough explanation of the changes that were made to the GCG's constitution, before a vote was taken. The revised constitution was unanimously approved by a voice vote of all of the members who were present.

Norman Britt spoke about the importance of having a living will.



[TOP] Harold Cooper
[ABOVE] Connie Hammond
[BELOW] Norman Britt



UPCOMING MEETINGS

The following schedule of future meetings was provided by Harold Cooper:

Programs

Feb. 11	Tombstones
Ann Pellow Rus	
Location	Enid Library
Mar. 10	Germans from Prussia
Freddie Baker	
Location	Enid Library
Apr. 14	War of 1812
Billie Fogarty	
Location	Enid Library
May 12	Dowsing for Graves
Harold Cooper and Beverly Evans	
Jun. 9	Cemetery Records Okla. Cem.
Lois Burdick	
Location	Enid Library
Jul. 14	To Be Announced
Aug. 11	Annual Picnic
Location	North Enid Community Center
Sep. 8	To be Announced
Sep. 15	Cherokee Strip Parade

President Lincoln's Birthday - February 12th
St. Valentine's Day - February 14th
Ash Wednesday - February 22nd

DID YOU KNOW....???

....That this is Leap Year? (February 29th)

....That the city of Enid was probably named after a character in Tennyson's "Idylls Of The King?"

....That in Oklahoma, juror's names are collected from driver's license lists, not from voting registrations?

....That February 2nd is "Candlemas" Day? (It is halfway between the shortest day and the spring equinox.)

....That the web site of the *Garfield County Genealogists* (www.garfieldokgen.org) has a tremendous amount of information?

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY:

Margaret and Don Douglas
Glenn Downing
Betty and Don Herth

FEBRUARY:

Marilyn and Harold Cooper
Teresa Fiala
Jeanette and Gene Heitfeld
Wanda & Larry Hime
Ginger Hitt
Margaret and George Hughes
Betty McGee
Pam Pattillo
Anne and James Reim

ENID TRIVIA

By Harold Cooper

QUESTION: Location in Enid, Oklahoma where there is a Columbarium?

ANSWER: Will be given at the February Meeting.



LDS Family History Center

Are you in need of a quiet place to work on your genealogy research, away from the distractions of the home or the outside world? Think about a visit to the LDS Family History Center.

LDS Family History Center
419 N Eisenhower
Enid, Oklahoma
Open Wednesdays, 12-6 P.M.
For an appointment, call Debbie Cox
(580) 747-4685

RESEARCH TIPS

There were no contributions of research tips this month from any of our members.

MEET THE MEMBERS!

None of our members sent in their "Bio" this month.

JUROR NO. 4

By Gene Heitfeld

Just before Christmas 2011, I received a call to jury duty from the Court Clerk's office of Garfield County. While this was not welcome news, I'd known that it would most likely be coming at some point in time. I had gotten the official letter in December of 2010, notifying me that I had been selected to serve as petit juror in Garfield County for the year 2011. There was a questionnaire to fill out and return, and then I was to wait to be called. With the end of the year approaching, I actually began to think that I might not be called, but that was a mistake!

It really wasn't a traumatic moment for me, though, because I knew what to expect, and therefore knew that it really isn't all *that* bad! After all, I had done this before; twice, in fact. The first time, many years ago, I had been selected to actually sit on the jury for a criminal trial, while the second time I was not chosen, and was dismissed.

The check-in process at the Court Clerk's office is really quite efficient and painless. You just form a line, sign in, and, if you didn't take the directions on your letter seriously, you will then surrender your cell phone to a bailiff. When you've done all of that, you take a seat in the hallway, and wait until everyone is checked in. An assistant to the Court Clerk will then address the crowd with a speech that is part instruction, and part pep-talk.

Everyone is then asked to enter the courtroom and take a seat in the spectator gallery. The young lady sitting next to me said that this was her first time on jury duty, and she dreaded it because "...what if it is one of my friends on trial?" With that assessment of the caliber of her friends hanging in the air, I assured her that if it happened, she would surely be excused from duty.

After everyone was seated, the Court Clerk began to draw names from a hopper, and each person whose name was drawn then took a seat in the jury box. I was not surprised, and actually chuckled to myself when, on the fourth draw, my name was announced.

For some reason, I had just known that I was going to be selected! I made my way to the comfortable chair that would be mine exclusively for the next three days, all the while thinking that it was my lucky day, and I should have bought a lottery ticket that morning!

Twelve people were selected for the jury, and one more to be the alternate juror. The potential jurors were questioned by both the prosecution and defense, to determine their suitability to serve on this particular trial. Several people were rejected, for one reason or another, so additional names were drawn until a jury was selected that was acceptable to both sides.

The entire court procedure is very ritualistic, steeped in procedure and tradition, and the jurors are treated with utmost respect, since they are officers of the court for the duration of the trial. Also, the members of the jury share a sense of responsibility that can create a feeling of mutual respect for each other.

The experience of serving on a jury reminds one of the rights that we as American citizens are guaranteed by the law, and is a good civics lesson that we all should be glad to re-learn!

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The Garfield County Courthouse



Have you ever looked closely at the murals in the Garfield County Courthouse? Why not plan on taking the "Downtown Walking Tour" with the Chisholm Trail Coalition when the season begins in April? One of our members, Maxine Shepard, will portray Ruth Monro Augur, the artist who created the murals!

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P.O. Box 1106, Enid, Oklahoma 73702

On the Web at: www.garfieldokgen.org