

# OLIVE HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Number 6

March 2002

## ANNUAL MEETING Monday, May 27, 2002

Since 1933 when OHCA incorporated, an annual meeting has been held on the legally designated Memorial Day. According to our bylaws, a quorum for the transaction of business consists of the number of members present. We urge all OHCA members to attend and feel free to invite guests. Whatever your interest in Olive Hill, you are welcome and we look forward to meeting new people each year.

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

You may have seen the story about Olive Hill in The Daily Oklahoman December 20, 2001. Our hard-working historian, Donna Hocking, had contacted Ann DeFrangé via the Internet about the unmarked graves project and Ann did a great column about the babies from the Home of Redeeming Love that were buried at Olive Hill in the early 1900's. Within days the Deaconess Hospital Auxiliary contacted us and they've now donated \$3,500 to develop an appropriate memorial for the babies. Your OHCA officers have been working with the Auxiliary, a monument company and a landscape architect to prepare a very special area at the site -- one that will not only memorialize the babies but add new beauty to the cemetery. OHCA and the Auxiliary will host a dedication ceremony Sunday, May 26 at 2:00 p.m. - that's the day before Memorial Day and I hope everyone will be there to show our appreciation to Donna and the Auxiliary for this wonderful addition to the cemetery.

### FROM THE HISTORIAN

Two of the unmarked graves at Olive Hill are those of Bernard and Woodrow Colson, infant children of Henry James Colson buried about 1917. To date we have not found any relation of the Colson family to any other family at Olive Hill. The following information about Henry James Colson was supplied by Jim Tullio [mrjimmyace@msn.com](mailto:mrjimmyace@msn.com).

Born August 5, 1867 in Lee County, Virginia, Colson's mother died when he was seven and his father a year later. He did not want to live with his stepmother or go with other relatives so in 1875 he set off on foot alone. Barefoot and with only the clothes on his back, he did not eat for two days, then a black man took him in, letting him sleep on some hay bails and feeding him some turnips. This made him very sick in the night so he took off in the dark to continue his journey. Many kind-hearted people helped him as he worked on farms for food and shelter. He had a brother named Bill and two sisters, Janie and Lanie, who went with a family and stayed in touch every few years. He met a man who told him about homesteading land. He had virtually no education but a mind for making money so he became a land runner and on April 22, 1889 he

went to Guthrie, Oklahoma and settled for a short time. Then he traded his farm for a herd of Mustang horses and moved to Sherman. About 1895 he returned to Richmond, Kentucky where he married Malissa Elizabeth Foster and they had 12 children. His brother Bill was the last of the four children to die in 1959. Mary Neal Routzohn (or Routjohn) wrote two books about the Colson family that included a story about a big family feud the "Colson Clan" had with another family over land. Henry died July 5, 1924.

If anyone has more information about the Colson family, please contact the historian at [olivhill@flash.net](mailto:olivhill@flash.net).

## FROM THE TREASURER

The last week of January Oklahoma had one of the worst ice storms we've ever seen. Olive Hill was devastated. We lost one tree and every other tree in the cemetery was damaged to some degree, especially the old cedars along the south side. The final cleanup has just been completed and while things look pretty bare right now, we are hopeful that by Memorial Day, everything will have leafed out and look close to normal again. As you can imagine, because of this, we have already gone over our year's budget for maintenance. We have already received a couple of special contributions from local residents who were aware of the situation. If you'd like to contribute to the perpetual care fund for this purpose, just indicate on your check that it is for storm damage and we'll honor your wishes.

## NEWS AND NOTES

\*We have had one burial at Olive Hill this year. Velma Davis Marrs passed away February 1, 2002 following a short illness. She was buried on Lot #65 where she buried her daughter, Sue Ann Davis Salladay, just a year ago. We send condolences to Velma's daughter, Cecilia Yager and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

\*Good News-Bad News Story: We are sad to report that the Dorothy Meeker Choate Memorial Tree did not survive the summer drought and winter ice storm. The good news is that the man from whom we purchased the tree has made good on his promise and is replacing the tree this week. We have also ordered a beautiful memorial stone duplicating the granite and design of Dorothy's marker at Memorial Park and will still have the dedication May 26th at 11:00 a.m.. Here is how your appointment book should read:

May 26, 11:00 a.m.: Dorothy Choate Memorial Tree Dedication  
May 26, 2:00 p.m.: Deaconess Baby Memorial Garden Dedication  
May 27, 10:00 a.m.: OHCA Annual Meeting

We have quite a team working together to make sure that everything is ship-shape for these occasions. After the dedication, we'll have cookies and lemonade under the cedars and think about the good old days.