

TYNER, JARVIS

CEMETERIES--CHEROKEE  
STOKES.

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TYNER, JARVIS. CEMETERIES-CHEROKEE. 13678  
STOKES.

Jarvis W. Tyner  
Investigator  
April 21, 1938

THE OLDEST BURIAL GROUND  
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

Due to the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Georgia Stokes Brown, who has taken the initiative in the matter, the first buryingground in this portion of the Indian Territory, the Stokes graveyard, five miles north of Partlesville, which has been neglected lately, is to be restored to proper condition. A call issued by Mrs. Brown for an assembling of the people of that locality has called popular attention to the burying ground, a place of large local historical interest. Though this was the first place of interment and is in Indian country, it is by no means the Indian burying ground of the popular understanding. The Cherokee and Delaware people were advanced in civilization many years before their removal to Indian Territory. As the owners of the cemetery land, they were the landlords

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here, and the whites were their tenants. The Stokes cemetery contains the remains of Cherokees, Delawares, Osages and whites but no barbaric or heathen ceremonies accompanied the interment of remains. The memory of persons now living does not run to the time when there were "blanket Indians" among the Cherokees or Delawares. The Osages who are represented in the roll of the dead here interred were in every instance descendants of parents in whom white blood ran. The Hampton family of whom numerous representatives live in the territory of Bartlesville, are of this class. Until a few years ago and occasionally even now, it was the custom of the blanket Osages to place their dead on top of the ground-usually on hilltops. Sometimes the body was seated and again it was placed in an upright position and supported and covered with rocks. There mourners came, dressed in the fashion of the early Jews, wearing torn clothing and also having fasted for a week beforehand. The winds blew away the rocks, and the stones would fall and the wolves would fight for the body. All of these forms are now disposed of.

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CEMETERY - CHERRILL  
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In the Stokes cemetery are many nice monuments and the proportion of unmarked graves is not large. Many of the mounds are protected by iron railings or neat wooden fences. A low stone fence divides the burying ground from the road way. Mrs. Stokes Brown recalls that the first funeral at this graveyard was in the spring of 1875. When a child of George Tyner ( a cousin of Jarvis Tyner) was buried. The earliest interment shown by inscription upon tombstone was Mrs. Stokes' father. The name was Hugh Russel, who died July 19, 1875. A double slab marks his resting place, the second grave being that of his wife, Ruth A. who was also a cousin whose death occurred less than a month later, August 15, 1875, and is attributed to grief over the death of her husband. The stones bear the following inscription:

Remember, friend as you pass by,  
As you are now, so once was I.  
As I am now, so you must be;  
Prepare for death and follow me.

Within a few feet of these two graves is that of Mollie Kenyon who died at the age of twenty years, the date of her death being February 14, 1877. The stone

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marking this grave bears the same inscription as above.

This epitaph was a popular one and is found on several other tombstones in this cemetery. Mollie Kenyon was a sister of Mrs. Stokes' mother.

Mrs. Brown's grandfather espoused the cause of the Confederacy at the outbreak of the Civil War and at the close of the war he and his family went to Texas. There the Butler family met the Russel family. Mrs. Brown was seven years of age when in 1873 she came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Russel, to the place where she now lives. They had no neighbors nearer than three miles. Shortly before that a party of intruders (as all whites not intermarried were known), a colony of people who had mistaken the boundary line and who thought they had located in Kansas, had been evicted. There remained standing at the time the "Shanghai fences" which were erected to hold the title to the land squatted upon, staked and ridged fences but only a few feet high. "Delaware Charlie" a man of that tribe well known throughout this part of the Cherokee Nation for many years, lived three miles north. George Wilson lived on the river, Jack Shailer had a place he still makes his home.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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Although the ground set apart from the Stokes land as a place of interment was primarily for members of that family, funeral parties came to it from long distances--from points known as Oologah, Ocheokta, Vera, etc. No charge was ever made for lots in this cemetery. The third interment was William Ringo, who was buried there in the fall of 1875. The tombstone over his grave shows that Mr. Ringo was born in the century of the American revolution, March 13, 1879, was the date and he died October 9, 1870. Pres Ringo and Joe Ringo who live at Nowata are his grandsons. A granddaughter Mrs. H. Bennett, widow of Joe Bennett, lives at Silver Lake. Joe Bennett's name occurred recently in connection with the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of the claimant intermarried whites. He was one of the two white men who bought head rights in the Cherokee Nation. His first wife was a Cherokee woman, and after her death he bought a right in the Nation. That Cherokee law remained in force but one year. So many whites took advantage of it that it was necessary to repeal it or the Cherokee Nation would have been swamped by the whites.

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CHARLES-CHARLES  
STOKES

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Buried in the Stokes cemetery are the remains of J. W. Lackey, the first physician in this part of the country. He died August 4, 1892. He is spoken of as a man whose splendid talents were lessened by the use of drugs. For several years Dr. Lackey made his home with John Sarcoxie. - My grandfather Tyner, Reuben P. Tyner got Dr. Lackey the job doctoring the Delawares. He received \$1,200.00 a year. If he doctored the white people they paid him extra.

The lack of uniformity in the spelling of Delaware proper names is strikingly illustrated in the inscriptions on the tombstones of a well known family.

Minnie Swanick, daughter of J. J. Swanock, died February 1, 1882, aged one month, and the name was then spelled in the manner here shown. Lucinda, aged one year, died June 27, 1884, and the surname is there spelled the same way. The head of the family, John, died December 15, 1889, and the surname is there spelled Swanuck. Another variation of the spelling is Swanock.

W. H. Briggs and wife are buried side by side. Her death occurred July 19, 1881, at the age of thirty years,

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and he followed in the succeeding December. The Masonic emblem is engraved on his tombstone. Parsons who remembered Mr. Briggs in life say that he wore whiskers which reached his waist. A daughter of Mr. Briggs married Arthur Carr.

John Wilcox, aged fifty-one, who died August, 1883; Leroy, son of J. V. Wilcox, died December 28, 1883, aged twelve years; Cenett W., wife of George, died December 3, 1885, aged twenty-five and James Wilcox, died February 25, 1900, aged thirty-nine, find their resting places here. One of the Mr. Wilcoxes died a violent death, though whether it was accident or suicide was never known.

The Hampton lot contains the graves of the following: Rowland T. Hampton, who died October 19, 1870, at the age of sixty eight years. The stone bears the following inscription: "Rest, father, rest in quiet sleep,  
While friends in sorrow o'er thee weep,  
Freed from all care and pain, asleep". That of his wife, Ruhana, who died January 26, 1889, is the adjoining grave and the stone bears the following inscription:



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CHARLES-CORCORAN  
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"Dearest mother, thou has left us,  
Here thy loss we deeply feel,  
But 'tis God that hath bereft us,  
He can all our sorrow heal."

Has. H. Hampton is buried in the same lot. He died July 13, 1876, aged thirty years. The inscription is: "They who knew him best will bless his name and keep his memory dear while life shall last". A small granite shaft marks the grave of Milton D. Hampton who died December 18, 1891, aged twenty-seven. Erie, the daughter of H. and R. Hampton was born August 1, 1891, and died January 1, 1895. The stone bears this inscription:

"The self same hand from whence  
  'twas given,  
Has taken our best to heaven.

Julia I. who died October, 1887, aged five months, and Gracia, August 17, 1888, age seven months, were both infants of J. H. and J. Hampton. A double slab marks the grave and bears this inscription:

"Such a heavenly purity dwelt in thy  
  breast,  
Such a world of bright thoughts in  
  thy Soul".

Without any attempt at consecutive statement, here are given the inscriptions on some of the tombstones:

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CL. STOKES-CHARLOTTE  
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Littleton Eaton, Died October 21, 1889, aged  
twenty years.

J. M. Goodhue, died March 28, 1889 aged twenty  
three. Lizzie wife of J. M. Goodhue, father and son  
it is the son who is referred to first.

Martha Ann Bershears, died August 8, 1864. aged  
twenty-three years.

E. C. wife of A. Webster, died Jan. 8, 1901;  
"The lovely flower has faded".

Infant son of C and Ja. Weis. "A little bud of  
love to blossom with God above".

J. M. Bronson, Died October 26, 1896.

Effie, daughter of . . . and A. C. Christian,  
died October 28, 1888, aged two months. "Earth counts  
a mortal loss, heaven an angel more".

Mary F. Prather, wife of S. Prather, died April  
19, 1883, aged twenty-six years.

Mrs. Stokes' grandfather is buried in the South,  
but here all the others of her family were interred.

G. G. Stokes, aged fifty-three died April 6, 1892.

B. F. Stokes, aged twenty-five died November 27, 1893.

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John W. Stokes, son of G. G. and Phoebe J. Stokes,  
died January 10, 1890, aged twenty-six. There are  
also graves of children and infants of the Stokes  
family.