

KELLEY, GRACE CEMETERIES--CREEK
OLD OKMULGEE

#6623

BURIAL GROUND FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

8

Field worker's name Grace Kelley

This report made on (date) July 13, 1937

1. Name (if any) of burial ground Has none unless "Old Okmulgee"

2. Founded (date) The first dated stone in 1878 By might be older.

3. Abandoned (date) Newest grave 1932 Why abandoned Seemed to be full.

4. Present owners of premises City of Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Address of present owners _____

NOTE: Answer fully, if possible, questions 5 to 13 inclusive, here or on sheets firmly attached to this form.

5. Original owners of premises.

6. Give names of other persons who at one time owned the premises.

7. Approximate number of graves. 70

8. Approximate number of marked graves all rock markers but no names.

9. General condition of headstones, including inscriptions. Bad, broken tombstones

10. Number of inscriptions copied and attached. 24 (some good each inscription on a separate sheet and attach all to this form).

11. Any other information you were able to gather about the burial ground including its history.

12. Condition of the premises Main part fenced in but otherwise uncared for.

13. Detailed location of burial ground. On 2nd street close to railroad in Negro town.

14. Legal location of burial ground, County Okmulgee, Okmulgee County

Section S.E.S.E. of 5 block Township 13 Range 13

(north)

The plat on this form represents 640 acres, one square mile, and is subdivided into 40 acre tracts. The center of the section, and burial ground should be located accordingly. If possible, make additional subdivisions on plat to give more accurate location.

Number of sheets attached

to this form 4

Grace Kelley,
Interviewer
July 13, 1937.

OLD OKMULGEE CEMETERY

I don't think this cemetery has a name. I have heard that it was called Captain Savers' cemetery but know no reason for this except that his cattle were around it.

It consists of the whole block 32 of the original town of Okmulgee and was laid out before allotment, so was never allotted to anyone. The location is the SE SE-6-13-13, according to the County Assessor at the Court House in Okmulgee.

A tract about one hundred fifty feet by two hundred feet is fenced in. There is a road or passage way, then a corn field and a negro's house on the other part. Two tombstones are in their yard and the grass is mowed nicely around them, but if there are other graves it is impossible to find them in that part.

The other part, the fenced in part, is in bad condition. There are headstones scattered on the ground so that you can't tell where they belong, and other graves have rocks for markers but no names.

There are ten rock covered graves, no names, but I would call them Indian houses. Rocks are at the edges of the grave, and a rock is placed at each end to hold a large flat rock up about six or eight inches between the rock and the grave, or earth.

One has a sunflower and a poinsettia carved on the flat rock and another has engraved lines crossing each other making inch squares. This is pretty hand work but there is no writing. The top of it is gone or else it never had one, for the side rocks are high, between two and three feet high.

There are at least thirty-five graves which have no names on them, besides the covered ones. I looked as carefully as I could but I certainly wouldn't say that I saw them all.

On one place was a tree fenced in by large flat rocks, standing on their edges making a wall. They were alike in the dimensions which were three by four feet by eight inches thick. There were probably three graves in this place but you couldn't tell that there were any for sure.

KELLEY, GRACE.

CEMETERY -- CREEK
OLD OKMULGEE

6623

3

The cemetery contains the following:

An American Legion tombstone inscribed:

"W. G. Fryer,
Co. 1, 17 Ill, Inf"

A bought tombstone inscribed:

"Ionia B. Dau. of
H. M. Rippitoe
Sept. 1, 1880
April 28, 1932.

One all broken off except:

"Walter died
June 17, 1882
Age: 6 yrs, 2 mos. 11 days.

One inscribed:

"James W., son of
G. W. & M. B. Adams.
Stone is broken.

Another broken one inscribed:

"Died April 16, 1885
Aged 21 y 4 m 13 d"

"Dearest Brother, thou hast left us
And thy loss we deeply feel
'But 'tis God that has bereft us
He can all our sorrows heal."

A double tombstone:

Martin L. Grissom May 25, 1895
Aug 21, 1895

Maggie T. Grissom Sept. 26, 1887
Nov. 9, 1888

KELLEY, GRACE.

CEMETERY - - CREEK
OLD OKMULGEE

6623

4

I. E. F. & M. F. GRISSOM

A good marker:

Caroline wife of David Carr

Jan. 1, 1839

April 15, 1890

A rock covered grave is beside her.

Double tombstone:

Rentie Nero

Died: Feb. 22, 1891

Aged: 38 yrs.

Texanna Nero

Died: Oct. 15, 1891

Aged: 26 yrs.

Eunes C. Grayson

Died: June 23, 1882

Aged: 25 yrs.

In God is our hope.

A broken one reads:

6 mo. and 8 days.

Jessie Dau. of

G. H. & H. E. Thomas

Born: May 23, 1881

Died: May 11, 1883

William Shields

Born: Feb. 8, 1873

Died: June 10, 1899

26 y 4 m 2 d

Daniel Harridge

Died: in July 1882

Age 16 yrs.

Stone lying down.

KELLEY, GRACE.

CEMETERY -- CREEK
OLD OKMULGEE

6623

5

 Arthur, son of
A. & M. O. Dunn
Died -----

 Eliza Belgher
Died: Feb. 28, 1878
Aged: 78 y.

 Jane, dau. of
John and Annie Freeman
Died: Sept. 9, 1884.
Aged: 14 yrs. 8 mo. 21 days

 The Lord Giveth and the
Lord taketh away.

 Bob Parkenson
Died: Jan. 1888
Aged: 6 yrs, 9 mo.

Stone lying down.

W. R. H. (broken stone).

 Hand engraved on native stone tombstone heart
shaped:

 Redford Saulsberry
Died: March the 5th, 1891
Aged: 23 yrs:

 L. B. Saulsberry
Died: March, 1891.

This is also hand engraved on native stone.

MELLEY, GRACE.

CEMETERY -- CREEK
OLD OKMULGEE

6623

6

~~In the negroes' yard are two good manufactured~~
stones:

Jackson Bruner
Died: Jan. 16, 1901
Aged: 77

Stone can't be read but the verse is
about a husband and father.

Irene, Dau. of
P. K. & Anna Morton
Born: Dec. 2, 1898
Died: Feb. 14, 1900.

Our Darling has gone above to
Greet us on the other shore.