

**2018  
Fort Towson Cemetery Tour**

**“the longest, continuously used cemetery in  
Choctaw County”**



**A self-guided tour through the  
Doaksville / Ft. Towson  
Cemetery**

## **Fort Towson / Doaksville Cemetery 1824 - 2018**

Doaksville began with the establishment of a trading post during the early 1820s by Josiah Doak. With the signing of the treaties Dancing Rabbit Creek and Doak's Stand, Doaksville became a major destination in what later became known as Indian Territory. With the rise in population, the town found the need for a designated cemetery and began using a plot west and north of the military road (the present site) leading to the crossing on the Kiamichi River.

In the early years the graves were marked using a type of wooden marker or more traditional grave houses, with most lasting only a few years. With improvements to roads and the innovations in transportation by the mid 1840's head stones began to arrive which offered a more permanent type marker. By the 1870's when the town moved to the railroad, the cemetery site had become a permanent burial place for the area. In 1873, it was renamed the Fort Towson/Doaksville Cemetery.

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## Cemetery Etiquette

### **Keep children in 'check.'**

No running, yelling, or rolling around on the ground. This is not a place for childhood games. Don't let them play on any of the monuments. While it is good to get children used to paying respects at a cemetery, they often don't fully understand the meaning of everything in the cemetery.

### **Follow the roadways and don't drive on the grass.**

Drive slowly and obey any traffic signs posted in the cemetery. Be careful to avoid any people since they might be upset and not paying complete attention to where they are going.

### **Don't touch any monuments or gravestones.**

They are very meaningful to the families who placed them there. Some older memorials might be in disrepair and might fall apart under the slightest touch.

### **Follow cemetery rules.**

Most cemeteries a sign near the entrance stating hours, rules about decorations, etc. Obey these rules. Rules about decorations serve to make sure the cemetery doesn't collect too much debris that the caretakers need to clean up. Flowers and other things can blow in the wind. It would be especially nice if any trash along the way was picked up, regardless of who left it.

## Self-guided Tour Instructions

This is a self-guided tour of the cemetery. The tour includes many interesting stops. Some stops are from the 1800's, when this area was Indian Territory, others are from the 1900's as the new state developed, and others are from a more recent time, in the 2000's.

In the center of the booklet is a map, each featured person is identified by: a star, a number or a box with a number.

The **stars** show the location of American vets who were killed in wars; some were Killed in Action(KIA) while others died overseas during the war.

The **numbers** show where a World War I (WWI) vet is buried.

A **box** around a number, are people featured in this booklet, who contributed to Fort Towson during the last 3 centuries. The number on the top of the page beside their name, matches their interment location shown on the map.

Enjoy yourselves...

**2018 is the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the end of World War I.**

The war ended on 11 Nov. 1918.

The following is a typical newspaper ad that was found in newspapers across the country. The entire country contributed to the war effort by conserving their food so it could be shipped to the men fighting in France and Belgium.

**FOOD CONSERVATION**

is the First Duty of Every American  
**WHEAT, BEEF AND SUGAR**

are urgently needed for shipment abroad, for the sustenance of the American and Allied forces in the field, and the relief of suffering France and Belgium

**The United States Food Administration**

requests the help of

**EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD**

in Winning the War.

**LET US ALL HELP**

**W. W. WILSON**

Newspaper Advertisement: Ft. Towson Enterprise, January 11, 1918.

The war started in 1914 and end on 11 Nov 1918. Over 4,700,000 Americans fought in the war. There were 53,402 men who were Killed in Action (KIA) and 63,114 who lost their life due to disease or non-threatening actions. The last WWI vet to die was Frank Buckles who died in 2011 at 110 years old.

The following WWI veterans are buried in the Doaksville / Ft. Towson Cemetery.

A veteran's location, on the map is identified by the number beside his name.

16	John W	Adams	29	Robert E	Melton
12	Earl	Anderson	27	Samuel L	McCullough
15	Stephen	Anderson	18	John Paul	Moore
35	Chester C	Brown	20	Ores E	Ozbun
24	William A	Brown	25	Robert E	Parker
9	Ben F	Cline	21	Daniel J	Patrick
39	Floyd F	Davidson	17	Harvey Lee	Pike
28	Robert L	Davis	23	Luther B	Ridenour
2	Everett L	Derryberry	4	John Y	Snead
14	Edward A	Gardner	3	Will	Stamey
7	Artie	Groves	8	James N	Tabor
10	Thomas Leroy	Groves	22	John W	Tabor
13	John E	Hamilton	19	Bill	Thomas
11	Cecil E	Hopson	34	Roy	Thomas
33	George W	Hutchings	41	Bryan	Thompson
31	William	Jones	5	Mancel C	White
1	Rafe K	Kelley	6	Willie J	White
37	Clarence W	Key	40	Haney	Wilson
36	James E	Loar	30	Claude Milton	Windham
26	James M	Maddux	38	David D	Wolfe
32	Elige Gregg	Maeger			

The following veterans are buried or memorialized in the cemetery. They were Killed in Action (KIA) or died overseas while in service.

**WWII:**

Finnace Wallace (KIA)

Glenn L Reding (KIA)

Robert W. Tillman (KIA)

Buried in Lorraine, France

Memorial stone in this cemetery

**Vietnam:**

Gary Howard Jones (Non-Hostile)

William Loyd Foley (Hostile)

They made the ultimate sacrifice for you and me.

If you know of any other service men, buried in this cemetery, who died while in service let CCGS know.

**Choctaw Cemetery Houses**



Above picture taken around 1900 in Fort Towson Cemetery. Picture property of Oklahoma Historical Society.

1

## Odie Miller

Odie was an accomplished pipeline welder for the Local Union 798.

He was a member of Masonic Lodges in both Valliant and Ft. Towson, Oklahoma.



2

## Woodsmen of the World

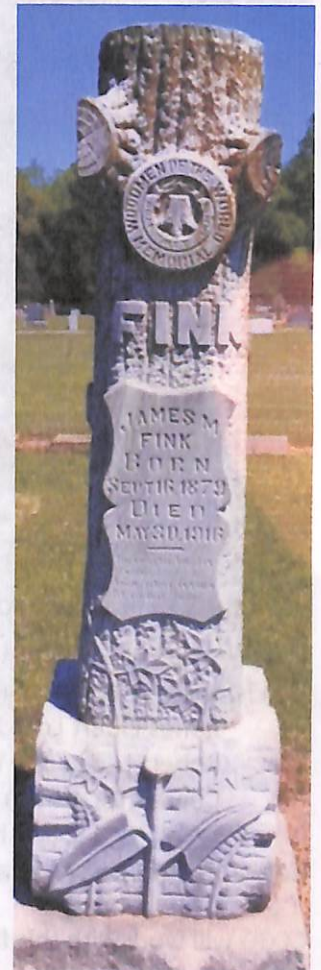
The headstones were provided by WoodmenLife Insurance Company when a policy holder died.



Look around.

How many similar headstones can you see?

I count 12 but I know there are many more!



3

James E. Loar Sr.



The James E. Loar Sr. \* was the father of a military family. James E. fought in WWI and was wounded in Germany. He survived his wounds to return to the United States. Three (3) of his sons fought in WWII and the fourth fought in Korea.

James Elbert Loar Jr. WWII, Navy

Robert Lee Loar – WWII, Army Air Corp \*

Charles Dickenson Loar – WWII, Navy \*

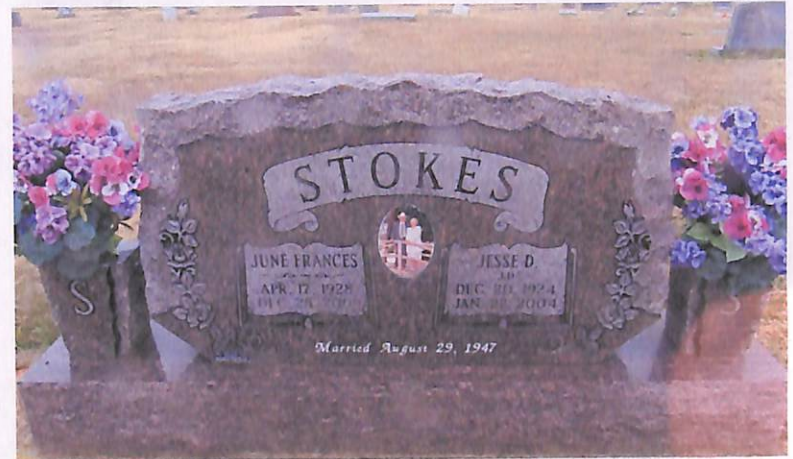
Frank Neal Loar – Korea, Army \*

Can you find other Loar's in the cemetery?

CCGG will work with this family to get military headstones for those marked with '\*'.  
 \* - 12 -

4

J. D. Stokes



Jesse Stokes was a 'home town' boy who returned to his home after serving in WWII. He enlisted in November of 1944 in the Navy and was released in April 1946.

For the rest of his life he served his community. Jesse served as mayor for many years. He worked at guiding Fort Towson through the many small town challenges.

Jesse and his wife June, raised five (5) children in this area: Donald, Ronald, Vera Kay, Nikki and Melinda.

## 5 The Chapel and Rock Fence

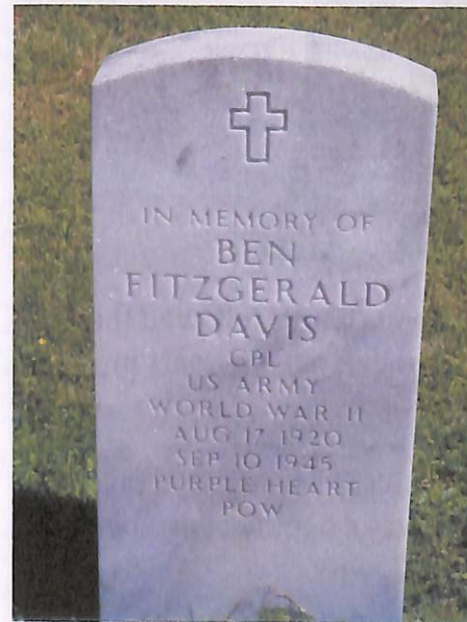


The cemetery is surrounded by a 3 / 4 mile long, rock wall that the WPA built in 1937-1938 defining the burial site. They also added a lovely rock chapel that is still in use today. The cemetery has a long history of over 194 years of serving the Fort Towson community, making it the oldest continually used cemetery in Choctaw County.

The fence and chapel is listed on the Oklahoma Landmark Inventory.

## 6 Ben Fitzgerald Davis

Ben enlisted on 11 Feb 1941 for WWII and was stationed in the Philippines in the Pacific Theatre. When the Philippines fell he was captured by the Japanese. He was marched and transported to the Chikko Osaka POW camp where he spent the next 3 years being worked by the Japanese in the port city of Osaka. He spent over 3 years living and surviving the horrendous POW experience. He was liberated by American forces on 1 Sep 1945.



On 10 Sep 1945, while Ben was returning home to the US, the plane crashed at sea and all aboard were presumed dead. Their bodies never recovered.

Ben never made it home. He gave the ultimate sacrifice, his life!



7

## Clarence and Tilley Key



“The Show Must Go On” famous words followed this couple as they performed through out the years in various wild, west show and circuses.

Clarence served in WWI, as well as serving as Acting Chief of the Choctaw’s. He was a deputy constable then a constable in Choctaw County.

Choctaw Country Genealogical Society, Article “Circus” by Larry Moore: Vol. 2, Issue 42, April 2015, p. 59 – 60.

8

## G. C. Hopkins

G. C. Hopkins owned and operated the Hopkins Service Station across from the Fire Department. He served as a volunteer fireman and the town Fire Chief for many years. His early work helped develop the Ft. Towson Volunteer Department that serves the town today. It was at a fire where G. C. suffered smoke inhalation that contributed to his death. He was dedicated to being a fireman and serving his community.



**9****Reverend Norman and Bertha Micco**

Norman Micco was married to Wyndle David's sister, Bertha. Bertha and Norman raised three (3) children in the area.

Norman earned his living by working for the State of Oklahoma as a painter but spent his life ministering to the souls of people. Bertha and Norman loved to sing as they attended various Indian churches through out their lives.

Brother Micco was instrumental in starting and supporting the Osage Baptist Church. Today this church is known as the Victory Baptist Church in Hugo.

Brother Micco was dedicated to administering to his flock through out his years in the community.

**10****Wyndle David**

Wyndle met people with a smile on his face and his hand ready for a handshake.

Wyndle worked for Kerr & McGee. He owned and operated David's Timber Co. for many years. He served on the Ft. Towson School Board, was a KEDDO board member and served three terms as Choctaw County Commissioner for District 3.

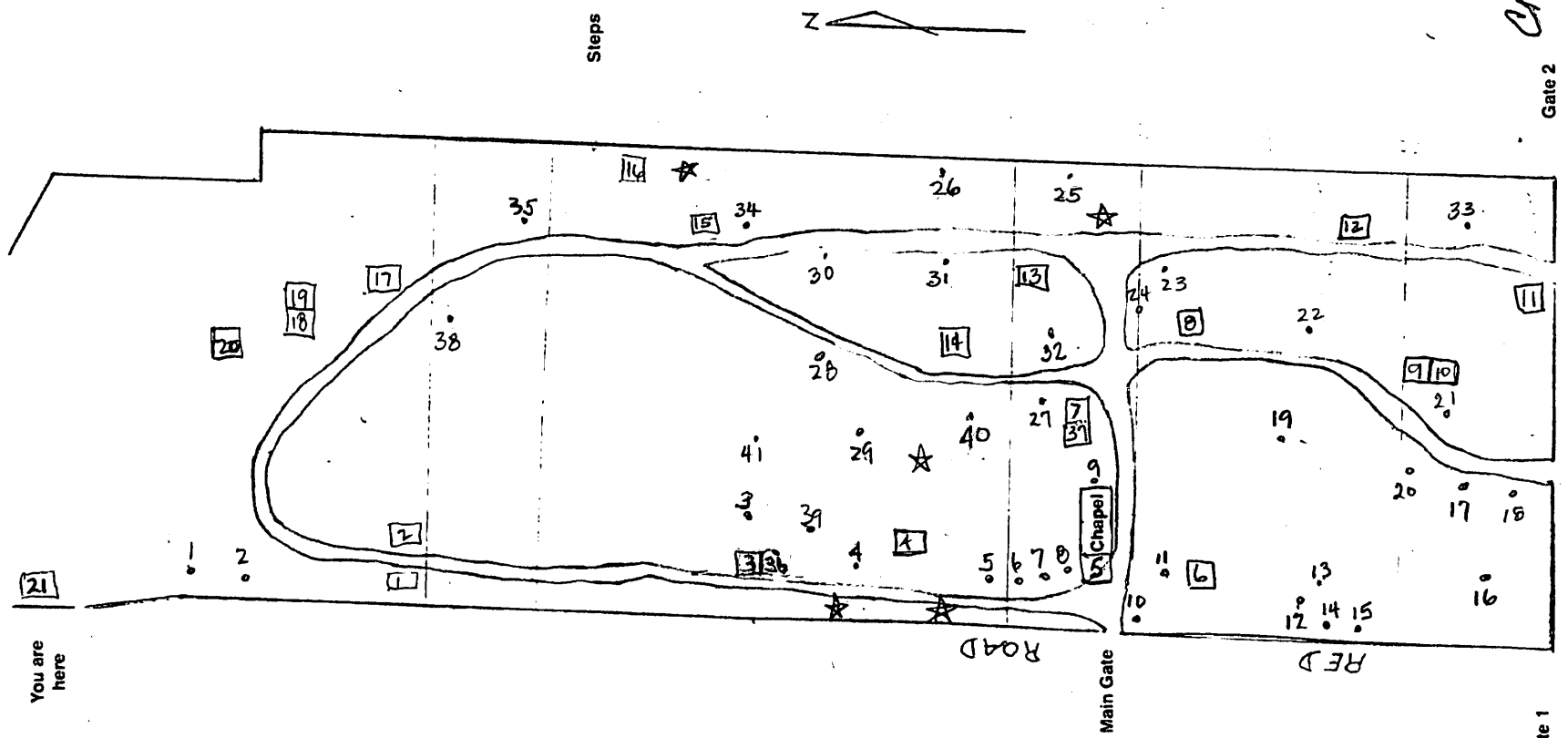
Wyndle and his wife, Nadine, started David Home Healthcare. David was instrumental in contributing to the current Fort Towson town and the Choctaw county.



Cempenit 1987

Gate 2

Gate 1



2018 Fort Towson Cemetery Tour

Cemetery map courtesy of Chester Merritt and the Fort Towson Cemetery Association

**11** Chester Merritt

After serving our country in the Navy from 1942 – 1945, Chester attended University of Oklahoma graduating with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Chester worked as an Electrical Engineer for the Public Service Company of Oklahoma. Upon retiring, Chester returned to Ft. Towson. He became involved in the Ft. Towson Cemetery Association.

As you look along the rock walls you will see numbers painted on the wall.



These numbers were used to grid the burial locations as he mapped the cemetery. His work today is used by the current Ft. Towson Cemetery Association to manage the cemetery.



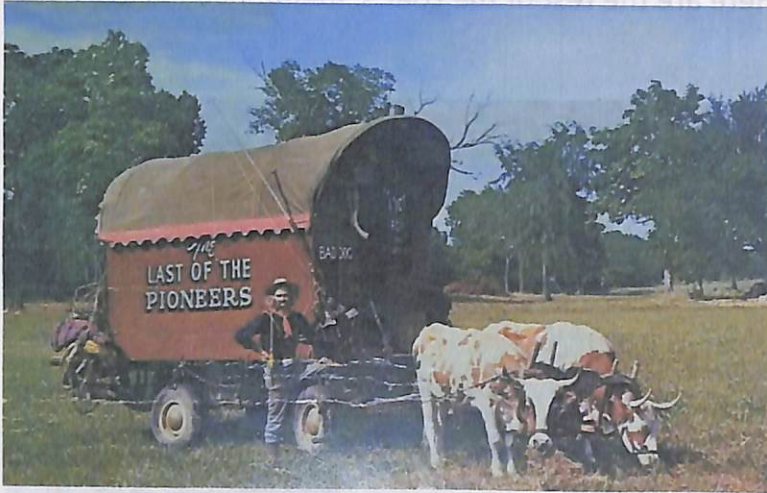
**12** And the rest of the Loar's ...

Here are the rest of the Loar's, mentioned in # 3.



Today, descendants of James E Loar, Sr. continue to live in the Fort Towson area.

**13** Vernon Ray, known as "Booger Ray"



Booger Ray was an iconic character who traveled the American roads in the 1960's & 1970's. He travelled from place to place in his modern wagon pulled by his oxen or his mules.

In March of 1987, he appeared on the Johnny Carson Show discussing his life style.

He was born and raised and buried in Fort Towson.

**14** Charles Ray "Heavy" Collins

Charles or as he was known, Heavy, served as County Clerk in Ft. Towson for 26 years. He saw many things change in this town over his years in office. He was involved in local politics and was a member of the Mason's. He loved the outdoors and kept himself busy by hunting, camping and riding his mules.



15

## Dorothy Jane Orton



This monument is located at Fort Towson Historical site.

Dorothy was a woman ahead of her time.

Early in the 1940's she joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC) to help with the war effort.

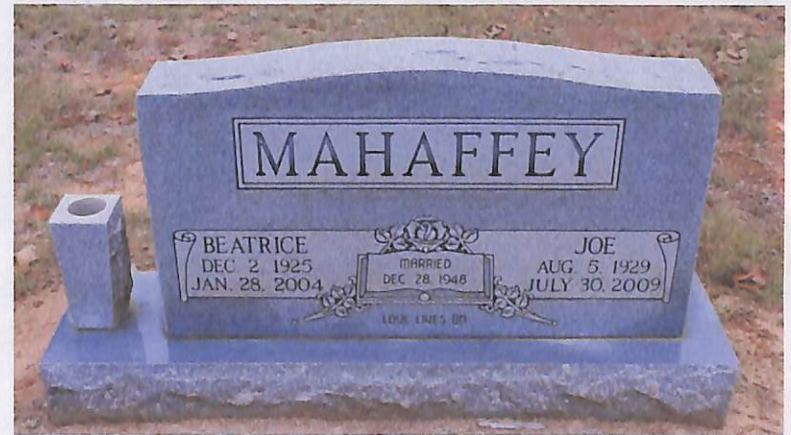
She served 12 years in the WAC's and rose to the rank of Captain. After returning to Fort Towson, she served as the Ft. Towson Post mistress. She also, worked on the Ft. Towson Commission. The Commissions dedicated efforts secured the Ft. Towson fort area to be recognized by the state of Oklahoma as a historic site, Fort Towson Historical Site.

16

## Joe Mahaffey

Joe was a family man who with his wife raised 4 children; Regina, Joyce, Wayne and Michael.

Joe was a rancher who enjoyed fishing and duck hunting. He had a good sense of humor that kept his friends on their toes.





Jimmie	Born: abt. 1884 Died: maybe 1886, unmarked in Ft. Towson
David, son	Born: 1893 Died: 1893
Cleopatra, daughter	Born: 21 Dec 1890 Died: 11 Aug 1905
Rufus, son	Born: 8 Oct 1886 Died: 7 Sep 1905
Nannie, wife	Born: abt. 1867 Died: 28 Nov 1905
Jane, Mother	Born: 3 Mar 1837 Died: 2 May 1909
Edward Oscar Wilson, son	Born: 7 Feb 1895 Died 7 Oct 1918

## William W. Wilson Family , continued

In a matter of four months William W. Wilson lost two of his three children and his wife. The cause of their deaths is unknown but tragedy often occurred in those times.

Not long after Mr. Wilson lost his family, his mother died and she was buried next to his first wife. A few years later, his oldest son, Oscar, caught pneumonia and died. With Oscar's death, all of Mr. Wilson's first family were dead.

During this time Mr. Wilson was guiding Ft. Towson from being a town in Indian Territory to becoming a town in a new state, Oklahoma.

He became the local banker. He remarried and became a prominent founding father of this town.

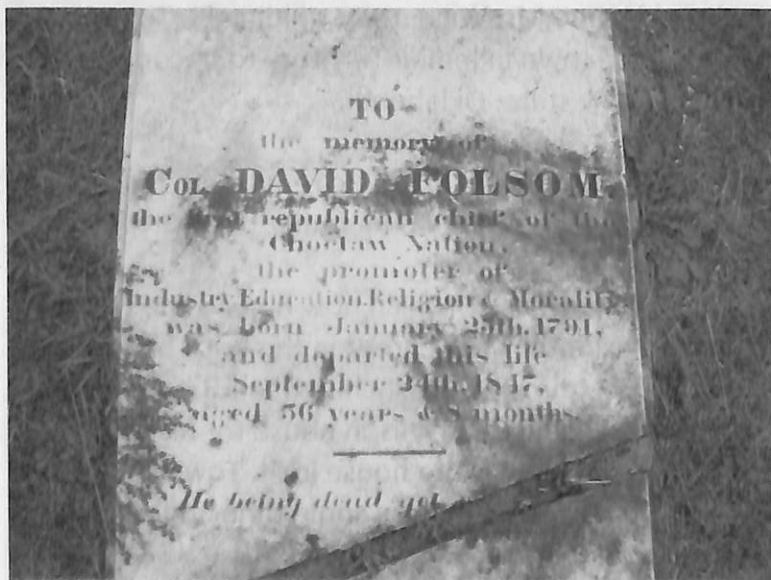
He built the local bank, which now houses the Ft. Towson museum on the corner in the brick building. He built the Church of Christ church for people to worship in. He built the Wilson house for his second wife. The beautiful white house in Ft. Towson still exists. You may want to take some time and visit the newly renovated house.

18

### Chief Colonel David Folsom

Chief Folsom's epitaph reads:

To the memory of Col David Folsom  
The first republican chief of the Choctaw  
Nation the promoter of  
Industry, Education, Religion and  
Morality, was born January 25, 1791  
And departed this life September 24, 1847  
Aged 56 years and 8 months  
He being dead yet liveth.



19

### Colonel J. H. Nail

Joel H. Nail was Chief Folsom's brother-in-law. Rhoda Nail, Chief Folsom's first wife and Joel H Nail were siblings. Chief Folsom and Rhoda named one of their sons after her brother, 'Henry Nail'.



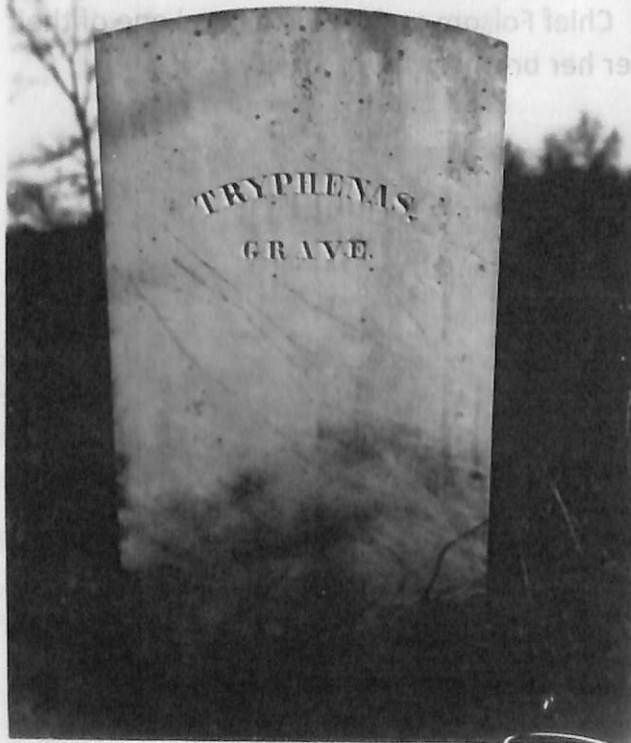
J. H. Nail's epitaph reads:

Sacred to the memory of Col.  
J. H. Nail of the Choctaw Nation  
who died at his residence  
near Fort Towson August 24<sup>th</sup> 1846  
in the 52<sup>nd</sup> year of his age.



## Tryphenas Stewart

Oklahoma  
Historical  
Society®



Her life was cut short by death. She lived at Mayhew, where her husband served as postmaster. She came to Ft. Towson in hopes of recovery but alas it was not to be.

## Martha Jackson

Oklahoma  
Historical  
Society



Martha's life began before the civil war and ended in the 1930's or 1940's.

She was born and lived during slavery then transitioned from a slave to citizen of the United States.

Martha is buried in an unmarked grave.

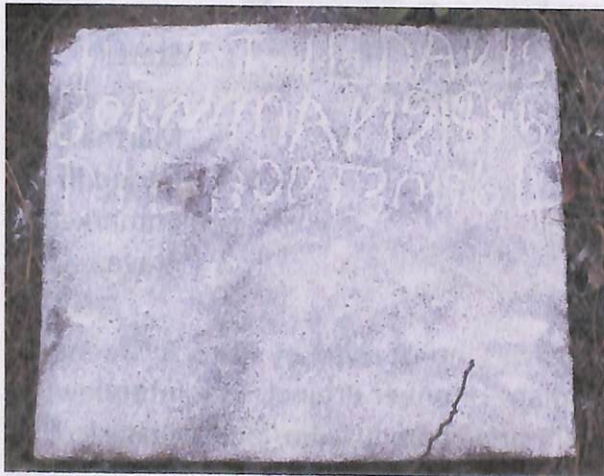
In 1937, Martha was interviewed by Hazel B Greene for the WPA Indian – Pioneer Project. Her interview: <https://digital.libraries.ou.edu/cdm/landingpage/collec tion/indianpp>

21

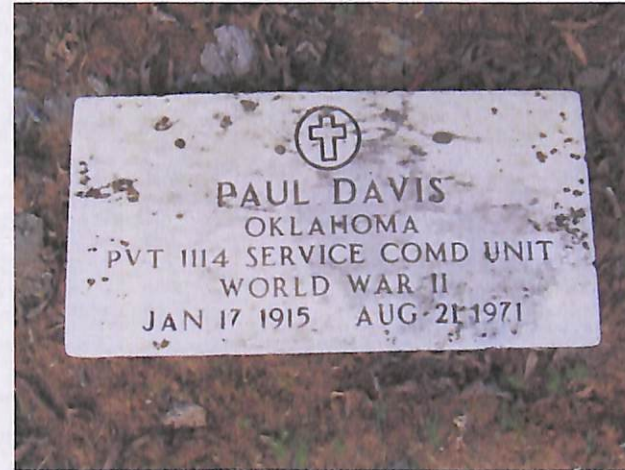
Hettie or Hattie Davis



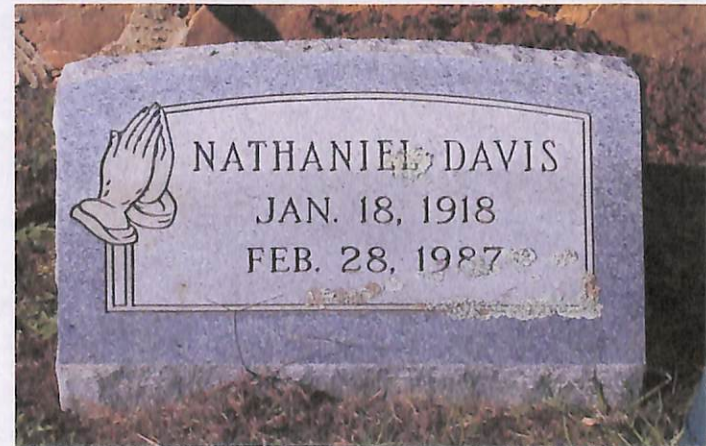
Hettie, and her husband Green, raised their family in Ft. Towson



Hettie or Hattie Davis, continued



Hattie is surrounded by 2 of her children, Nathaniel and Paul.



**Reserved for Personal notes:**

**A word from Choctaw County Genealogical Society (CCGS)**

**CCGS works to preserve Choctaw County genealogy, whether it is the distant genealogy of Indian Territory or the recent of yester year. We want to preserve the people of Choctaw County who were part of this counties history.**

**Our recent work includes enumerating burials within the county and taking pictures of the headstones. Sometimes this is a single burial on an old homestead or a forgotten community burial or the cemeteries used today. We go to each, document their location and take pictures of the headstones. The pictures are added to FindaGrave.com so you can see them.**

**You can help us by letting us know of any burials that you may know of. We also want to make sure all veterans have a military headstone. If you know of a veteran from the Civil War to today, without a headstone in Choctaw County, see one of the CCGS members or let us know by email at: [choctawcountyokgensoc@live.com](mailto:choctawcountyokgensoc@live.com)**

**Enjoy .....**

## **Contributors:**

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