

# Three Rivers Historian

Summer

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## Early Ranches Fueled Local Economies

**F**ollowing the Civil War, Indian Territory saw an explosion in the growth of ranching as an important industry. Beef had been scarce during the conflict between the states and railroads used to haul cattle had been destroyed. Enterprising businessmen in the Territory saw an opportunity to supply a hungry market and they quickly increased their herds to meet demand.

Many of the ranches that came into being at that time covered thousands of acres of land. At first these ranges were not fenced; cattle roamed at will across the rich grassland. Fall and spring roundups were cooperative efforts among the ranchers. Dozens of ranch hands were employed for the roundups, putting much needed cash into the small communities springing up among these huge cattle outfits.



Clarence Turner, a Muskogee businessman, along with his partner Chief Pleasant Porter may have been among the first ranchers to fence their cattle domains. Turner's daughter stated in an interview that he had three ranches. The C.A.

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Bar was located at Oktaha, the S Bar encompassed present-day Wainwright and his Hearts Cross Ranch was located near Inola. All fed the economy of these towns while fattening cattle for market.

Other Muskogee businessmen who made their fortunes in cattle were Frederick Severs whose Pecan Grove Ranch stretched between Muskogee and Okmulgee. H.B. Spaulding fenced thousands of acres around Checotah and Gid Sleeper, known for his lavish barbecues, had a ranch between Wagoner and Okay.

Generally ranchers worked together to maintain feed lots, oversee annual roundups and ship trainloads of beeves. But occasionally a ranching feud would break out. The Hester “H” Ranch and the Davis “Windowpane” Ranch swapped brands and lead in the Porum Range War.

Even so, ranching was key to the support of small towns. Russell Campbell’s herd of Hereford cattle gave the town of Warner its original name, so important was it to the area. Benjamin Marshall, a Creek leader, developed a ranch at Clarksville and Porter while George Perryman, of another prominent Creek family, owned a large ranch that gave rise to the town of Tulsa.

Two ranches were important to the Haskell area economy. The Mule Shoe Ranch, owned by N.B. Moore, treasurer of the Creek Nation, was an important gathering place. It gave rise to the little community of Sawokla which later became Haskell. The Simmons Ranch, where millionaire freedman Jake Simmons grew up, was also significant to Haskell’s economy.

The allotment system effectively put an end to the thousand-acre ranches that had for many years provided employment and economic benefit to Indian Territory. Ranching survives today as

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# **Warner-Borum-Warner Ranch: A Centennial Operation**

*Brand new state!*

*Brand new state, gonna treat you great!*

*Gonna give you barley, carrots and potatoes,*

*Pasture for the cattle,*

*Spinach and tomatoes!*

*Flowers on the prairie where the June bugs zoom,*

*Plenty of air and plenty of room,*

*Plenty of room to swing a rope!*

*Plenty of heart and plenty of hope.*

Swinging their rope with more than a million others, the Warner and Borum families celebrated the arrival of statehood, and became citizens of a brand new state.

Both families came to America before the Revolution, and fought to establish an independent country. Forging into the unknown, establishing relationships, building a future, and having a strong sense of community, was in their genes, as was a love of the land.

The Warner's "got off the boat" in Massachusetts; generations migrated through the northeast until Seth Warner settled in Scott County, Iowa. The opening of Kiowa-Comanche lands for settlement, plus rail connections, opened opportunities in Lawton, Oklahoma Territory, for anyone willing to leave the refinements of established cities. This new town was booming. Seth's son, Elbridge, then about forty, was stirred with excitement of these growing lands, and in 1904, moved his wife and young son from Davenport to start a bank in Oklahoma Territory.

But, in Lawton, he heard more and more about Muskogee,

up in the Indian Territory. Land was plentiful there; land the Dawes Commission had surveyed and allotted for individuals. Almost all of it was for sale.

Elbridge soon sold the bank in Lawton and set up business with the Bell Brothers in Muskogee, as the Iowa Land and Trust Company. Warner's dreams were set back during this move when he returned to Lawton to find his wife had died in his absence. With plenty of heart and plenty of hope, he, his young son William, and his mother made their home in Muskogee.

The Borums landed in Virginia and, over the years, traveled a southern route through Tennessee to Scott County, Illinois. From here, young Stephen Douglas went to Veterinary school in Canada and started his family life at Winchester, Illinois. The same stories of an incredibly growing town in Indian Territory reached Borum's ears, and the same forty-something sense of adventure moved him to pack the family belongings and put everyone on a train to Muskogee.

He easily found work as a veterinarian—transportation was by train or horse, and hundreds traveled daily to and from the bustling town. In 1906, Borum's oldest son, Rollin C., brought his new wife, Ruby Peak, to Muskogee, and he found employment as a bookkeeper at the Iowa Land and Trust Company.

In 1909, Stephen, Carrie, Fred, and Mildred Borum lived at 18th and Okmulgee. Stephen was still practicing veterinary medicine and operating a grocery store at 30th and Okmulgee. Fred was in school and Mildred worked as a stenographer at Muskogee Gas and Electric. Rollin was keeping the accounts for the Iowa Land and Trust, but lived near the grocery store. Elbridge Warner had remarried and lived with his new wife Gertrude and son William at 1110 Boston.

The momentous event of 1906 was the purchase of 160 acres of land west of town, the foundation of the Warner-Borum-

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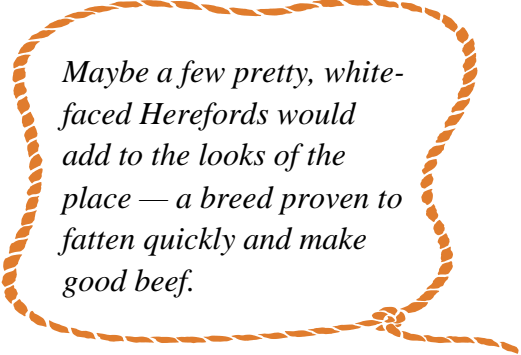
Warner Ranch. Astute real estate dealers, Elbridge and R.C. consistently watched for properties that showed promise for resale. But this good acreage was a keeper. Sharecroppers could farm it. It would make a “gathering point” for smaller farms in the area to bring their grains. Bins were built; the crops came in, and were fed to the cattle and hogs.

Within a year, an additional 160 acres was acquired right across the road from the first purchase. For a time, the growth of the land holdings surely exceeded the growth of the grains; as they acquired a quarter here, a half there, a section here. Now and then, more livestock were acquired, some through default loans.

In 1919, six carloads of corn were unloaded at Beland for E.S. Warner, so the livestock holdings must have grown to populate the land holdings which had grown to about 1,000 acres.

Also in 1919, the First Pure Bred Cow Sale was held in Muskogee—Aberdeen Angus sold for an average price of \$500 (for perspective, the average annual salary in 1919 was \$725).

Maybe a few pretty, white-faced Herefords would add to the looks of the place—a breed proven to fatten quickly and make good beef.



*Maybe a few pretty, white-faced Herefords would add to the looks of the place — a breed proven to fatten quickly and make good beef.*

Fred Borum had become a military man and was no longer at home; but, Stephen had knowledge of animals. R. C., Elbridge and now, William, could manage a ranch and still keep up with the real estate business. R.C. had sons Albert (old enough to show hogs and cattle at the Fairs) and little Richard would grow

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into this naturally.

Stewardship of the land was an early priority for the partners. Oklahoma A & M College was beginning to study Soil Conservation and researchers from the school had partnered with the ranch to develop the first watershed in Oklahoma—The Pecan Watershed.

Ponds were built and the Bermuda sprigging began. The first ponds and plantings were at the direction of the Soil Conservation Service, but the lessons of maintaining plenty of water and grass for the stock was not lost on the W-B-W. Pond building and Bermuda sprigging was ongoing for the life of the ranch. In the early twenties, when the wheat market bottomed out, land that had been farmed was seeded (Bermuda) and converted to grazing land.

In 1921, Muskogee had its first million dollar construction year. While the city continued its explosive growth, the county had attained a reputation as the home of purebred cattle and hogs. The Warner's had moved to the corner of Country Club and University Avenue, the Borum's to 41st and West Okmulgee, where Stephen's grocery had expanded to include a service station for the increasing number of automobiles on the road.

Business offices were still located in the Iowa Building (though it was now known as Muskogee National Bank Building) and the Warners and Borums were selling and leasing city and country property. They also sold insurance, oil leases, registered Hereford cattle and Duroc hogs. Notes, mortgages and installment loans were made on all of the above, so, there were occasions when they had a piece of property back to sell again.

Management of the Warner Apartments at 711-717 South Third Street; and management of the construction, rental, and sale of small, inexpensive homes throughout the city was another side-line. Investment land was purchased, but any property obtained close to the developing ranch was not for resale.

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In 1926, after twenty years of buying, selling, and trading land and livestock, (all of which was both jointly and separately owned) the first written partnership agreement was drawn. Elbridge was 65 years old and no doubt aware that a formal document should exist to clarify matters should there be a death among the partners. The agreement, signed Warner-Borum-Warner continued business as usual.

A handwritten ledger covering 1925-1928 is filled with the meticulous bookkeeping necessary for keeping up with registered cattle.

- The name and registration number of each animal
- Monthly counts of cattle specifying the pasture where each cow, calf, heifer, bull was located
- Number tattooed, vaccinated and earmarked
- Movement of stock from one pasture to another
- Those sold, with registration numbers recorded, and to whom
- Breeding—with cow and bull registration numbers recorded—follow-up with date of calf birth and calf registration number
- Deaths—place and cause

In 1926, 403 registered cattle and 9 grade cattle were on the ranch, having just about every movement they made recorded. In addition to keeping the ledger, the registration information all had to be filed with the American Hereford Association. The same ledger also recorded the farming operation which included:

- 490 tons of hay sold and shipped via a variety of rail companies (the hay accounting also recorded the number of bundles of bale ties bought and who used them)
- 652 bushels of corn share-cropped on the ranch holdings, and it appears about 1500 bushels were bought from area farmers
- 239 bushels of oats grown on ranch holdings and 1,000 bushels seem to have been purchased at 32 – 39 cents a bushel

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- Purchases of gasoline in 55-gallon drums (\$9 average per drum; 15 cents per gallon) and bulk purchasing of motor and transmission oil

So, the ranch was, by now, a major operation largely overseen by R.C.; while, the Warner's focused on the town holdings which were also extensive. When extra hands were needed at the ranch, two needs could be met. A visit to the "low-rent housing," owned by Iowa Land and Trust, would find some tenants in need of work. Haying would have been a time for extra hands. Seventeen teams of mules were the ranch's work animals, and the baler was stationary with wagon loads of hay brought to it, baled, and then hauled to the barn.

Cattle were sold to neighboring ranchers; but, large shipments of stock were sold and shipped to Fort Worth, Kansas City, and ranches throughout the state. Ten cars were shipped to an Ardmore ranch. The cattle were driven from the ranch, down the road six miles to Summit, where there were holding pens at the railroad. Care was taken to keep the herd calm as it moved, not just for maintaining weight on the animals, but to keep good neighbors.

Both families were active with the Muskogee State Fair, not only showing their own prize-winning livestock, but also in sitting on the Fair Board. They helped the Muskogee Fair to grow into one of the most respected in the state. For more than 50 years, at least one of these two families served on the Fair Board.

The ranching operation from its beginning invested in protecting lands with soil and land conservation measures; the ongoing goal with each new land acquisition was locating ponds so that a cow was never more than a quarter mile away from water. R. C., and later, Richard, stayed involved with Oklahoma State University's agricultural and soil conservation boards. The information learned from these agencies was put into ranch



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standard operations. In turn, the ranch was able to provide feedback into the school's research projects.

In 1936, 25-year-old Albert Borum moved his family to the ranch where he managed the cattle. Prior to this, he had ridden to the ranch daily (leaving at 4 a.m. and not getting home until sometimes 10 p.m.); his working day remained long, but his travel time was shortened.

It was about this same time, federal funds were allocated for low-interest loans to electric cooperatives. W.S. Warner took an active role in getting rural electrification in Muskogee County. Life became a little easier for all country folk. The ranch updated buildings and was able to improve many operations.

By the late 30's, the ranch was running 5 registered to 3 commercial cows marked with the Triangle, the original brand of W-B-W. For a time, registered stock were only marked on the horns, but rustling eventually became a problem that warranted branding all the stock.

In 1940, Richard moved from town to ranch headquarters. His duties would be managing the pasture and feed. R. C. instigated the Junior Livestock Show at the Downtown Farmer's Market, Elgin and 3rd Street in Muskogee. This, too, began a tradition:- a Borum, and usually a Warner, was on the board of the Junior Livestock Show for more than 50 years, living the philosophy: "If you get young people started off on a good foot, they usually make a success of themselves." The Borums also stayed involved with local and state F.F.A. and 4-H organizations.

Inoculations and immunizations had always been carried out on the ranch's cattle. When a brucellosis vaccine was available (1940), the W-B-W was the first ranch in Oklahoma to inoculate their entire herd. Too many were protecting only a part of their herds, which was not going to eliminate the fatal disease. Once the example was set, others followed.

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Around 1940, R.C.'s Rock House at Headquarters was built. This eliminated some travel during gas rationing, created a gracious host site for entertaining, and walls and shelves to display the Championship ribbons and trophies accumulating. Ruby could host Home Extension groups in the up-to-date kitchen and dining room (and also show off canned goods in the over-sized pantry). The huge fire pit in the side yard had hooks for two large pots, one filled with oil to fry chicken, the other filled with water for corn on the cob. This, and more, was then served at tables of large concrete slabs mounted on metal pipes. A concrete shuffleboard court at the front of the yard was used for other games. Prospective stock buyers enjoyed the ranch's hospitality, as did the cowboys at round-up time, and many cherished memories were made here for four generations of Borums.

World War II left the ranch short-handed. Running fewer registered stock could eliminate some of the mountains of paperwork necessary for the registered cattle. The ratio became 7 commercial head to 3 registered and was maintained at this level for the life of the ranch (not that they were out of registered stock raising.) In 1945, W-B-W was proudly present for a registered Hereford sale at the Turner ranch as buyers. One animal at this sale sold for \$15,000, so it was still a lucrative practice to run some registered stock.

In the late 40s, a new style hay baler came on the scene, rolling the hay into small round bales (the same size as the common square bales) but, using less baling twine. W-B-W bought one of these new balers, an Allis Chalmers, and set to work. When the hay was brought to the barn, it was stacked as the hay had always been stacked.

Only a rancher with several hundred head of cattle to feed could describe the good feeling of looking at the barn full of hay to get through the winter. Imagine the look on their faces when

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they came out the next morning to discover that those round bales didn't stack quite the same as square bales. Round bales roll. Once the rolling started, the sides of the barn exploded outwards, and that un-stacked hay was now everywhere.

Soon after the war, the drives to railroad pens at Summit stopped. Albert said that so many "city slickers" moved to the country, you couldn't get the cows down the road for the cars. Trucks and trailers were now large and powerful enough to move a large load of beef.

In 1948, the partners agreed that R.C., Albert, and Richard would live full-time at the ranch to focus on ranch management. The Warners would manage the town properties. In December of that year, Elbridge died. The town business now fell strongly to W.S.'s shoulders; however, Bill Jr.'s military commitment would be over in a few years so he would be home to help. When Bill, Jr., did get home, his first assignment was to help with the construction of the "Show Barn," which was to become the show-piece of the ranch.

The outer edge of the barn was concrete floored, assuring dry footing for buyers looking over the cattle. All of the several stalls were easily accessible and lined with straw. Each stall had a watering "hole" that was constantly filled from a trough near the main barn, via gravity-flow into the individual stalls. A float kept the water level below an overflow point. Each animal had not only its own water, but feed trough as well. Hay was constant and the grain was distributed when needed.

The grain distribution was an interesting operation all its own. Varied grains and molasses were taken from overhead storage bins at one end of the barn, and then placed into an "elevator." Here the feed was mixed, then lifted through an exhaust tube to fill a wooden bateau-shaped box. This "boat" moved on an overhead rail that ran the perimeter of the stalls.

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Mike Borum tells of making his own fun as a child by taking a running leap onto the boat. The momentum usually assured him of a ride the length and through one curve of the rail.

At one end of the barn was the confining stall where one animal at a time could be held for toenail trimming and polishing, horn polishing, and the grooming that was better done with the animal confined. On the back edge of the barn were four “shower stalls” where the animals were bathed and scrubbed.

The show cattle were allowed out of the barn at night, into a pasture adjoining the barn, where they could graze that good Bermuda and were put back into the cool barn the next morning. This avoided any weight loss due to heat. The buildings at ranch headquarters included the Mill Shed, the Tack Room, the Main Barn and the Scale House. Built of sturdy materials by craftsmen, seventy plus years later they still stand strong with their telephone pole beams, 2 x 12 and 2 x 20 cross bracing, 2 x 8 stalls. The tongue and groove detailing in one barn’s wall is a piece of art.

In front of the Scale House was a drive-on scale, large enough to accommodate a semi-load of stock or feed. At the gathering pens, as each head walked through the loading chute, it passed over a scale for individual weight. A 5,000-gallon water tower, standing tall amongst the pens and barns and fed from a thirteen-acre lake just back of the headquarters, kept the many troughs full, and served the three Borum homes across the road.

Bill, Jr.’s barn building experience convinced him that he would like to work the “town” side of the business; so his father hired him to make repairs at the rent houses and collect rents, saying it would be good experience for him.

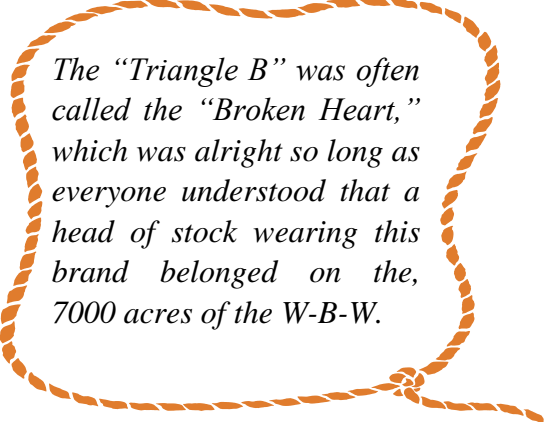
In 1950, Oklahoma passed brand registration guidelines and the W-B-W registered their new brand of a Triangle with a “B” attached to one side.

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The Triangle could be easily altered, by use of a “running iron” to become any other brand. The price of beef was going up, and too much of it was leaving the W-B-W in the dead of night to be re-branded and sold by strangers. Adding the “B” made disposition of W-B-W beef more difficult for rustlers.

The stock now wearing the Triangle could have the new brand by forging only a “B” iron, and applying it next to the existing Triangle. When these were wearing the new brand, the iron could be completed by welding the Triangle onto the iron. The “Triangle B” was often called the “Broken Heart,” which was alright so long as everyone understood that a head of stock wearing this brand belonged on the, now, 7000 acres of the W-B-W.

The ranch was producing 250,000 pounds of beef a year, raising about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the grain needed for feeding ranch cattle. More than adequate hay was grown for the ranch’s stock, with 150 tons surplus being sold.



*The “Triangle B” was often called the “Broken Heart,” which was alright so long as everyone understood that a head of stock wearing this brand belonged on the, 7000 acres of the W-B-W.*

Skelly Oil Company recognized the ranch with their Agricultural Achievement Award in 1950. The annual Farm Study Tour was at the ranch this year, studying successes to share around the country. A few years later, the Muskegee County Soil Conservation District (R.C. was a supervisor) won the Goodyear Award for best performance in planning soil work, accomplishment of those plans, and educating the public to the benefits of conservation.

In 1952, R.C. and W.S. did some trading amongst themselves

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(W.S. now holding all the town interests and R.C. obtaining a larger portion of the ranch holdings). Again, business went on as usual, the only difference being names on deeds.

Land holdings continued to grow. R. C. had long ago said that he only wanted to own property that was touching his, which included much. When the Stebbins Ranch was acquired in 1968, the ranch proper's size was more than 10,000 acres. Other ranch holdings, some in neighboring counties, were investment land, or land that was farmed for grains and feed.

R.C. Borum died in 1969. He came to Muskogee, barely twenty years old, with a young bride and an overabundance of energy. Mr. Warner hired him as a bookkeeper, but soon became aware of his talents and skills. There can be no doubt he learned a lot of business skills from E.S. and a lot of livestock from his father. His two fine sons knew well the ranching business, and had learned how and when to pinch pennies at their father's knee. W.S. and Bill, Jr., partnered with the Borum brothers—all was in good hands.

In 1970, drought again dried up eastern Oklahoma. When many farmers and ranchers panicked and sold as much of their stock as possible, the W-B-W cattle “stayed home.”

There was plenty of land, and the price of beef was too insignificant to haul it to market. Instead of selling short, this ranch increased the size of their herd; numbers would increase the dollars realized from sales. Pond building had proven its value in this time of drought.

The energy crunch of the mid-70's brought about several changes in ranch operations. Cattle in outlying areas were “bunched” in pastures closer to headquarters to cut the driving distance at feeding time. The “big” round hay balers proved to be energy efficient by baling more hay with less fuel. One man with a tractor and a five-bale trailer could get around the ranch to feed

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every other pasture every other day.

In 1980, the Warner-Borum-Warner Ranch was featured in an *American Hereford Journal* article. Names like Domino, Hazlett, Onward, Mischief, royal names among Herford breeders, all of which had been a part of the ranch stock, were sprinkled through the article. The ranch was now running 950 grade cows producing market calves and 350 registered cows producing replacement heifers. The author of the article stated that it would take a sharper eye than most cattlemen have to judge which of the cows have their names and numbers on an official paper. They all looked that good.

W.S. Warner, Sr., died in 1985. He came as a toddler, and, very literally, grew up with Oklahoma and Muskogee. He was always there to lend what he could in the development of city, county, and state entities that built a strong community.

When Richard died, in 1995, and Albert was nearing eighty, a hard review had to be done as to the future of the ranch. The only likeness to the ranching industry of past years was cattle grazing in the pasture. There were major differences in the care and feeding of those cattle. Three generations of Warners and Borums had worked together building what had become unmanageable by the remaining family. So, in 1998, the ranch went on the market.













No one could be found to take over the entire operation, so the property was broken into smaller, affordable acreages. Good stewards of the land will long appreciate those Bermuda pastures, as their stock drinks from one of the many strategically placed ponds; and, more good beef will be sold from the old W-B-W lands.

It would be unfair to let this story of the ranch not recognize the character and fiber of the enterprising men who built it. Their interest was not to build a land empire and their time and

energy was not devoted solely to any dirt and buildings they owned. There was a town “a-growing” too, throughout this time frame, and Warners and Borums were heavily involved in making Muskogee a strong community.

Both families lived lives of service, and lived it with the same diligent “hands on” spirit they applied at the ranch, assuming leadership positions in their churches, in city and county

## Some Famous Brands and Breeds Of the Three Forks Region

<p><b>Dr. Leo E. Bennett,</b> Eufala. Range near Eufala. Toned cattle and horses branded <b>B</b> on left jaw.</p> 	<p><b>J. W. BISHOP,</b> Chickasha. Breed <b>A</b> left hip Breed on jaw + Mark, split and moderate in right ear, crop underhill in left ear. Some branded on both hips, side and jaw. Hoss sold without bill of sale. Some branded with small cross on left jaw.</p> <p><b>H. C. FISHER,</b> Fishershow. Range on Lacey Creek, five miles northwest of Chickasha Station. Marks crop and underhill in right and swivel-tail and un- derhill in left ear. Brand, if on other side and hip. Brought cattle if <b>F</b> on other or hip and side and <b>F</b> on jaw.</p> 
<p><b>Joshua Burdett,</b> Eufala. Breed on other side of hip. Mark, moderate in right ear. Brand 3 miles west of Chickasha on Free- land creek. Hosses brand- ed when an oxle on left hip. Brought cattle in other brands and marks.</p> 	<p><b>W. GENTRY,</b> Chickasha. Range on George creek. Breeded in one of more places some underhill left ear and half crop, some various marks, Hosses on left shoulder.</p> <p><b>GEO. ZUFALL,</b> Methuen. Range on George's Fork. Some <b>Z</b> </p> 
<p><b>Amos Fisher,</b> Red Fork, Range at Burleys. Breeded <b>A F</b> Cattle branded <b>AY</b> Hosses branded on left thigh.</p> 	<p><b>W. Harrison,</b> Chickasha. Range 1/2 mile west of Chickasha on Deep Fork. Some her enter if.</p> 
<p><b>P. H. Blackstone,</b> Methuen. Breed on hip side crop. Brought chest crop various and marks. Brought on other hip or side of jaw. Hosses branded on both side of jaw. Some <b>J</b></p> 	<p><b>J. P. Davidson,</b> Methuen. Breeded <b>J D</b> on left shoulder, hip and side underhill and crop in left ear. Hosses branded same on left shoulder, only let hoss let <b>SD</b>. Range six miles west of Methuen.</p> 
<p><b>THAM,</b> Eufala. Breed on hip side crop and marks. Brought on other hip or side of jaw. Hosses branded on both side of jaw. Some <b>J</b></p> 	<p><b>R. A. EVANS,</b> P. O. Muskogee, Range at Brushy Mountain, 8 miles S. E. of Muskogee.</p> 
<p><b>MRS. J. J. JOLINTON</b> F. O. Red Fork, Ind. T.</p> 	



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governments, in community businesses and institutions, in service organizations, and in civic organizations.

They never stopped pursuing learning; they freely shared what they learned with any who might benefit. They never stopped reaching out to help others. A legacy bred into and inherited by their children and grandchildren: give, serve, be an asset to your neighbors—no matter where they live. It has been passed to good hands.

—Karen Wagner

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## From Our Archives

Three Rivers Museum has received donations of several branding irons from the various ranches that existed around the Three Forks regions over the years. Mike Borum donated the Triangle B brand featured in this photo.

These brands are on display in the Ranching Exhibit in the main hall of Three Rivers Museum. Horse shoes, saddles, blankets, hats and other ranching tools are also part of this display.



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## Upcoming Events

### **Aug 17 Appreciation Day 10:00 a.m.**

The museum will recognize the many individuals who have contributed to its strength and success through the years.

### **Sep 14 Historic Cemetery Walking Tours, 10:30 am to 3:00 pm**

Take the Trolley from Three Rivers Museum to the historic Greenhill Cemetery for a guided walking tour of the final resting place of many of Muskogee's prominent citizens. Sadler Arts Academy students portray several of these individuals.

### **Sep 21 Coffeehouse Night, 7:00 pm**

A night of music and fun outside on the Back Dock. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a time of old-fashioned fun.

### **Oct 4 Bass Reeves Legacy Lawmen & Outlaws Tour, 5:30 p.m. See: [bassreeveslegacytour.com](http://bassreeveslegacytour.com)**

Ride a vintage trolley through the life and times of Bass Reeves and learn about the legacy of intrepid lawmen taming the wild west of Muskogee, I.T. Advance tickets required and are available on the website above.



### **Oct 5 Muskogee's Heritage Days Festival, 10:00 a.m.**

Come join in the celebration of Muskogee's colorful past. For more information: [www.muskogeeheritagedays.com](http://www.muskogeeheritagedays.com)

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## We Need Your Support

On July 20, Three Rivers Museum took possession of the Oak Grove Schoolhouse after it had been moved from its historic location near Wybark in Wagoner County. This African-American, one-room school was donated to the museum by Mark and Mitzi Bowser. Museum staff and volunteers will restore the school and develop a teaching curriculum for students.

This effort will require funds above the normal costs associated with the museum and donations are being solicited now.

Visit [3riversmuseum.com](http://3riversmuseum.com) to learn more about making a donation to the Oak Grove School Restoration. For a minimum gift of \$50, you will receive a commemorative brick to be placed in a



*The interior of the schoolhouse is braced for the move to the museum*



*Morgan Towing maneuvers the school-*

## Upcoming Events *cont.*

**Oct 18, 19 and 25, 26 Haunted History Trolley Tours, 5:30 p.m.**

Have a hauntingly good time visiting area sites to hear the ghostly tales, unusual experiences and eerie events. Advance tickets required and tours sell out quickly. Purchase tickets and find more information at: [www.hauntedhistorytrolleytours.com](http://www.hauntedhistorytrolleytours.com)

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Buy a Brick  
Leave a Legacy!

Support the

 **Oak Grove**  
S C H O O L  
R E S T O R A T I O N