

Bradshaw Family Genealogy Notes

Oklahoma (including Indian Territory)

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Delaware Co., Hilderbrand Cemetery {1119}

Located in Section 30 of T24N R22E

Bradshaw, J. H.	d. 1907	#111452
Bradshaw, Rutha J.	d. 1883	#111452/1
Wood, ----	d. 1888	#11145255

Delaware Co., Zena Cemetery {14311}

Sweetwater, Bessie	b. 1897		#11145258
Sweetwater, John	b. 1895	d. 1966	#11145258/1

Heritage of the Hills, A Delaware County History (Delaware County Historical Society, 1979), pp. 440-442 (Wood Family) {14310}

“The history of the Wood family in Delaware County begins with William Wood who married Nancy Osburn. They lived in the vicinity of Hiawassie, Georgia. Their six children were Joseph, Jerry, Jack, Frank, Jessie Champion, and Amanda. Amanda was the first to start the long trek to Indian Territory. She settled near the present community of Zena. She and her husband were the parents of two sons, George Hogan, an early day sheriff, and Tom Hogan, a Baptist preacher. Her last years were spent in the home of her son Tom. She was buried in the Zena Cemetery in 1876.

A brother of Amanda, Jessie Champion Wood, married Amanda Melvina Ward also coming from South Carolina. One of the members of this group was Aunt Sallie England who settled near the Wood family on Honey Creek. She lived to be 110 years of age. Jessie and Amanda settled on Peters Prairie for a while during the Civil War. Amanda's family, G.H. Ward and his wife Polly, were Cherokee Indians who come to the territory along with the Woods family. They settled a few miles northwest of the Polson cemetery. G.H. Ward is buried in the old Ward cemetery, directly in front of the home place. A son, Van Velt, got his allotment on the home place which is now owned by the Hardings.

Jessie and Amanda then moved to Courthouse Prairie, now known as Zena Prairie. They lived near the courthouse which was the first in the area. It was later moved to Courthouse Hollow. Jessie died at an early age and was buried in the Ward cemetery near his son, Little Joe. Amanda lived on in the home place with her son Henry P. and his wife Georgia.

When the Five Civilized Tribes filed their claims for the allotment of land, Amanda filed a claim on some land near Maysville, Arkansas. Several members of her family were settled in this part of the Indian Nation. Her son, Henry P., and some of his children filed claims near the home place. They lived there many years and the place is known as the old H.P. Wood place. There was an old schoolhouse nearby where the first free schooling was held. An Indian lady, Fannie Ridge, was the teacher. She was the daughter of Mose Ridge.

Amanda Melvina died in the home of her daughter, Priscilla Plank, at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. She was buried there in the White Rose Cemetery.

The family story now features a son of Jessie and Amanda, Henry Prince and his wife Georgia Hogan Wood. Georgia was the daughter of Jehu and Cindy Hogan. Henry and Georgia lived

in the home place of Jessie and Amanda. Eight children, including twins who died at birth, were born here. Houston, Sherman, and Evaline all died early in life.

In January of 1906, a tragedy struck the home. Little Evaline wandered away during a blizzard, trying to find her sister's home. She became lost. Hundreds of men came from as far away as Joplin to join in the search. In homes throughout the area food was kept hot on the chance that any of the searchers would come by. She was found nine days later by an Indian, Lige Hildebrand, whose wife had read the coffee grounds and told him where to search.

After this tragedy and several other deaths in the family, Henry sold the home place and bought the Dennis store and home. They operated the store and post office for a few years and also established the first telephone office in their home.

Georgia died suddenly of a heart attack in 1917. The four children who remained moved to Washington, taking Henry with them. He died and was buried in Raymond, Washington, in 1931.

Another son of Jessie and Amanda Wood was James Frank [#1114525/1]. He and Melinda Bradshaw [#1114525] were married at an early age. After a short stay in Missouri, they settled in Woodward Hollow. All but one of their nine children were born here. They were the parents of Madge Wood (Mrs. Bee Sherman) and Bessie Wood (Mrs. John Sweetwater). These sisters now live near each other in Jay. Ben settled near Zena.

The men in the community would cut pine logs, haul them to the mouth of Woodward Hollow and tie them in rafts. When a rise came in the river, they would float them down to Ft. Gibson to the sawmill.

They also caught large catfish and hauled them to Joplin where there was always a good market for them.

Although Frank was an arthritic, he was a good manager and his family was taught to work. There was always plenty of food and other necessities. The women made lye soap and learned to be thrifty housewives as was the rule in those days.

This was a musical family so they never lacked for entertainment. They could play the fiddle, guitar, banjo, and mandolin.

When the Dawes Commission gave the Indians the right to file for their allotments, Frank filed for eight hundred acres in Woodward Hollow, East Hollow, and surrounding hills. They increased their crops, had large orchards, and more neighbors. Among these were life long friends, George and Mary Bacon and the Lois Jackson family.

In 1912, Frank and Melindy sold their home. In the 1930's, a large part of this area was sold to the Grand River Dam Authority. Frank and Melindy are buried in the Zena Cemetery.

The oldest son of Jessie and Amanda was W.H. (Bill) Wood. It is believed that he was born while his parents were on their way to Indian Territory in 1853. His first wife was a Fields. Charley Wood, father of Lewis Wood of Jay, was born to this union.

His second wife was Zenith Parish, a part Shawnee Indian. She was called Scene. It is believed that the Zena community was named for her. They built a home and store one-fourth mile north of present day Zena. A short distance west stood a large General Store and blacksmith shop. A few years later this store was moved and is now being operated by Lizzie and John Hampton. The old well in front of the store furnished water for weary travelers and their livestock.

Other businesses were erected, including a doctor's office, another store, and a large building for school and church. This was an active community with annual Fourth of July picnics where General McCready would drill the young people to march in honor of this day. A religious movie was shown during one of these picnics, the first that the people had ever seen.

Around 1910, a circus came to Zena and stayed several days.

The last school at Zena, Indian Territory, was located about where the Tom Williams home stands, across the road from the Kelly Store. The writer remembers the day Oklahoma became a state. She heard the cannons firing in Vinita.

Baptist church services were held in the school building. The writer's Aunt Georgia Hogan Wood's father, John Hogan, was the pastor there for several years.

Bill Wood was buried in the Zena Cemetery in 1919. Nannie Wood was the daughter of Jessie and Amanda Ward Wood. She married Mort Miller. After Mort died, she married Joe Reed. They lived on what is known as the Old Joe Reed Place. The house still stands on the south edge of Zena.

One of their daughters, Etta, married Ross Mode. Their daughter, Bernice Mode Wilson, lives in Grove. The town of Bernice on Monkey Island was named for her.

-Bessie Sweetwater [#11145258]'

Heritage of the Hills, A Delaware County History (Delaware County Historical Society, 1979), pp. 330-336 (Dennis)

“Dennis Store was built about 1906. Peter Dennis, a fullblood Cherokee Indian, used his emigrant money and built the first store and house there. The store derives its name from this man. The house is still standing, and is owned by Jimmy Caudill, who makes his home there. Peter Dennis was the father of Jim Dennis, who passed away on October 13, 1975, at Jay, Oklahoma. He also had four daughters: Nancy, Rachel, Jennie, and Susan. Rachel was the mother of Cephus Sourjohn of Jay.

Peter Dennis sold the store to H.P. Wood, also known as Uncle Henry. Wood operated the store, and his nephew, Columbus Wood [#11145254 ?], had a telephone office and post office in a separate building down near the road. The store was two or three hundred yards off the road. Columbus' wife, Kate, took care of the post office. His Uncle Frank Wood [#1114525/1] owned and operated a sawmill, and Columbus once delivered a load of lumber to a box car on the railroad at Bernice. The stack slipped and fell on him, and he died two or three days later. His uncle, H.P. Wood, then took over the post office and telephone business, and Zona Stewart ran it for him. Later, Walter Hedge took over the post office, and the telephone office closed down. H.P. Wood sold the store to Charley Testerman, who operated it until he sold to T.K. Hogan. He in turn sold to Houston Mosby, and Mosby sold to Bill Underwood. It is undetermined when the post office was put in the store building, but it was there in 1932, when Hugh Wilson bought the business.

Opal Wilson was postmistress, and also did most of the store managing. I, Anna Lee Brewster, will give a more detailed description of the store, as Hugh and Opal Wilson were my father and mother.

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When the lake was built, some of the old timers had to move to different parts of the country. Some even went to California and were buried there. Others moved across the lake, while some went to the Kenwood area. It was never the same, but new people moved in, and we made new friends.

There was no church at Dennis, but different preachers used the Oak Grove schoolhouse to have revivals. While we were there, the Church of Christ met for Bible Study and church every Sunday. In the summer time, some congregations built brush arbors. Nearly every summer,

there was a meeting held on the big flat rocks on the west side of the river where the ferry crossed. If anyone was to be baptized, the river was there to be used.

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The oldest house still standing today was built by Peter Hilderbrand before the Civil War, and it had slave quarters underneath the house. Pete Hilderbrand, his wife, and some others were buried in a small family plot near the house. When the lake was to be built, their graves were moved to the present day Hilderbrand Cemetery. The house, or farm, was Annie Klaus' allotment from the Department of the Interior. Later, it was in the name of Annie and J.R. Cromwell. It then went to M.B. and W.L. Daugherty. After that, it became the property of J.R. Mode, and he in turn sold it to Jim Going, who lived there until it was sold to the Grand River Dam Authority in 1938. Jeff Lindly bought it and moved the house to its present location. It is located in a beautiful spot along the lake, and Jeff Lindly's Point is a fisherman's paradise.

Woodward Hollow was always an interesting place. It had a natural bridge wide enough to cross, if one was brave enough, and many huckleberries. One could take a lunch and pick berries all day and visit with neighbors. There are still huckleberries there today. At one time, the WPA had a project going at Woodward Hollow, under President Roosevelt's administration. This gave jobs to several people. They were digging into the side of the mountain where some caves were located where they found several skeletons. They were presumed to be a tribe of Indians, judging from the beads, cups and other Indian relics found there. It looked as though some illness had wiped them out, as opposed to being killed, for some were sitting up, some were lying down, and some were in other positions when they were found. The Historical Society from Oklahoma City took over, and the bones and other artifacts are now in the museum there.

In 1937, land was being cleared for the lake, and many local people were hired to clear land, move houses, or tear them down and burn them. The Indian Cemetery, known as the Hilderbrand Cemetery, had to be moved from the river bottom to its present location one mile south and three-quarters of a mile west of the Oak Grove school. It was the only cemetery in this community, so most of the white people were buried at Needmore, also known as Ralston Cemetery. [The original village of Needmore was about one-half mile north of the south edge of the present site of Bernice. It was on the west side of Horse Creek.] Some were buried at McGlothen or Zena.

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Before they had mail carriers as we know them today, Jim Creason, who lived approximately three or three and one-half miles south of Zena, went to Zena and carried the mail on foot to Grove. He had a trail over the hills and hollows to make a short cut. A few years later, Dennis had a post office. This was when H.P. Wood owned the store. The mail carriers were Bill Benge, Robert Caywood, Otis Wood, Sina Horst, Auda and Flora Kephart, and Claude and Nola Caswell. Nola still carries the mail today.

The mail changed from Grove to Jay when Auda Kephart was the carrier. At this time, there was a ferry across Honey Creek, where Honey Creek Bridge is today.

In 1956, when President Eisenhower cut off all fourth class post offices in his economy program, the Dennis post office sent out its last mail on January 31 of that year. The store remained open until May 1956 when it was closed, and the Hugh Wilsons moved to Jay. Mrs. Wilson still lives there.

-Submitted by Anna Lee Wilson Brewster with the help of the two oldest living citizens of that community. They have lived there all their lives and are still quite active. They fish and hunt frequently. These two people are Ben Wood [#11145256] who is 86, and Luman Bacon who is 89. (Ben Wood has since died on March 25, 1976. Mrs. Opal Wilson has since died.)

Dewey Co., Evergreen/Leedey Cemetery {11059}

Located in SW Section 10 of T15 R20; from Leedey, 1.5 miles east on north side of road

Bradshaw, Mary S.	b. 1848	d. 1937	#111447/1
Butler, A. A.	b. 6 Sep 1877	d. 31 May 1947	#1114475/1 ?
Butler, Vallie	b. 1888	d. 1928	#1114475 ?
Butler, ---- (infant dau. of A. A. & Vallie Butler)			#1114475x ?

Tulsa Co., Bixby, Leonard-Marker Funeral Home, Funeral Records {14312}

Fulks, Opal Mae

#11145273

b. 3 May 1904, MO

d. 23 Mar 1987

spouse: Acy Andrew Fulks

father: Perry L. Bradshaw

mother: Eliza Jane Brown