

# OLIVE HILL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August 2011 No. 23

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## From the Chairman

The first Memorial Day was declared in 1868 as a day to honor those Americans who fought and died in the Civil War. In the early Twentieth Century, the holiday was extended to honor all 1.3 million Americans who died in the service, from the Declaration of Independence until today.

In the beginning - and into my childhood - it was called Decoration Day, and I have fond memories of my sister Kathryn and I going with our parents (Lawrence and Berta Bailey Lay), my grandmother (Elizabeth McKeage Bailey), Uncle Jim (Bailey), Uncle Pete (Fred Bailey) and usually many others, to Olive Hill for Decoration Day. Kathryn and I were assigned specific graves to care for and after we pulled weeds and cut off dead limbs, we got to put flowers and shells and anything else we'd brought to decorate.

I don't think I knew it was also called Memorial Day and had to do with war veterans. It was sometimes the one day in the year that Olive Hill got really cleaned up and decorated. Remember, this was before lawn mowers and on-site water. I remember sickles and scythes and baskets full of larkspur, bachelor buttons & roses from Grandma's garden. Everyone knew to bring buckets of water and "vases" made out of decorated coffee cans.

Until Grandma's death in 1944, we usually ended up at her house with all the cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends.

This year at Olive Hill, following the annual meeting of OHCA, there was a memorial service for Kathryn who died in March. Her son, Roy, conducted a beautiful service and all her children, most of her grandchildren and one of her great-grandchildren joined in to celebrate her life and console Kay's husband, Pren. In spite of the Oklahoma wind, it was a beautiful day and as I visited some of the historical graves we used to decorate, I thought about the fact that there is nobody left who shares those memories and I resolved to double my efforts to continue telling these stories until a sufficient number of young OHCA members know them well enough to continue to pass them along in the future.

- Fran Morris, OHCA Chairman



OLIVE HILL CEMETERY - 2008



**Fran Morris**

**Linda Brooke Stabler**

Elected to lead the Olive Hill Cemetery Association next year were, Fran Morris elected Chairman and Linda Brooke Stabler re-elected Secretary / Treasurer.

We all thank Peggy S. Hoshall for serving as Association chairman this past year. We deeply appreciate the involvement of all our members who help accomplish OHCA goals.

## News and Notes

This year on Memorial Day we had lots of Association members and guests out at the cemetery as we remembered Kathryn Hollingsworth, the great granddaughter of the founder Olive Hand Bailey. In response to questions from those of you who were there, the tree and shrubs near the Hollingsworth stone are a Live Oak, a Wax Myrtle and a Vitex. Other new plants include two Shantung Maple trees, a Ginkgo, two Crepe Myrtles, three Altheas and a Forsythia. The new mulch in the Baby Garden is crushed pink granite, and it's doing a great job of keeping the weeds down. Two photinia along the front fence bit the dust and have been replaced with two more Vitex, one of my favorites, and so far the toughest plant to tolerate the droughts and heat waves we have had. At this writing, the temperature in Oklahoma City is 104 degrees. I thought when I left the Arizona desert I'd also left those long stretches of 100+ degree days behind. We are watering every other day at Olive Hill but most plants are suffering. The older trees - cedars, elm and bur oak - are fine. They have been through similar Oklahoma summers and stand as encouragement to our caretakers.

- Linda Brooke Stabler, OHCA Secretary/Treasurer



A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mary Kathryn Lay Hollingsworth was held at Olive Hill Cemetery on Memorial Day 2011. Kathryn Lay Hollingsworth passed away on Mar. 16, 2011. She was born Mary Kathryn Lay on Feb. 5, 1927 in Norman, Oklahoma. She was the fourth child of Lawrence Lay and Berta Bailey Lay. Kay was graduated from Britton High School at age 16 and attended Cottey College in Missouri and then the University of Oklahoma. On Dec. 22, 1945 Kay married Pren Hollingsworth in Farmersville, TX.

To Pren she was a beloved wife and best friend. They shared a loving and vibrant life. To cherish her and all her own memories she bequeathed, Kay leaves her devoted husband of 65 years, Pren; 3 children, Maura Ramage, of Orlando, FL; Roy Hollingsworth III and his wife Diane, of Houston, TX; Donna Hocking of Duncanville, TX. She also leaves her 8 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren and her sister, Fran Morris of OKC. A memorial stone was placed at Olive Hill Cemetery.



Robert F. "Bob" Young died on June 27, 2011, at his residence in Edmond, Oklahoma. Bob was born in Mason City, Illinois, on Apr. 19, 1916 the son of Robert Clinton Young and Nellie Mae Olson. He was predeceased by his wife of 38 years, Margaret Lay Young, and his wife of 32 years, Georgia L. Young. Bob was a self-taught woodworking craftsman who designed and built custom furnishings for many years in his own establishment, Bob Young Cabinet Shop, located in Britton, Oklahoma. He was an avid fisherman,

as well as a bowler who participated in league bowling well into his 90s. He is survived by his four children, Robert L. Young of Brookshire, Texas; Ann Bond of San Antonio, Texas; Barbara Graham of Marietta, Georgia; Jean Young of Marietta, Georgia. Bob is also survived by 7 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren. In the fall, a memorial stone will be placed at Olive Hill Cemetery near the memorial stone for his wife Margaret Lay Young.

### HISTORICAL NOTES

**Elcania Mills** was born Jan 29, 1838 in Rockcastle, Kentucky. Nothing is presently known about his parents or family or their nationality. Married (#1) Amanda McElhany and had one child, Ora Price (male) Mar. 16, 1862 in California (Elcania joined the Army in 1865). We do not know what happened to Amanda. Ora Price Mills lived his adult life (possibly never left California) in San Jose, California. Elcania then married (#2) Mary Mahala Fleenor (or Fleener) and had 2 children. Hattie Belle, about 1871 in Missouri and George W. (b. June 9, 1873 - d. Sept. 4, 1874). Mary died July 15, 1874, leaving Elcania with 2 small children. Elcania then married a widow, (#3) Mary Ann (Tays) Sides on Dec. 9, 1874. They had three daughters, Minnie Tays (8/31/1876), Fannie M. (1/13/1878) and Lula Emma (12/31/1879). Elcania volunteered for the Army of the United States on March 28, 1865 in San Francisco, California for three years. He served in Co. B, 4th Regiment California Infantry. Elcania made the run into Oklahoma Territory in 1889 and claimed 160 acres of land in Sec.3, T12N-R4W, which is now in the southwestern end of Lake Hefner. He apparently farmed this land until his death in Sept. 5, 1899.

*-Information provided by Beverly Ford Fearnow*

**[Elcania and Mary Tays Mills are memorialized at Olive Hill Cemetery]**

**Olive Hill Cemetery**  
is located at  
10501 N. Rockwell,  
Oklahoma City

**Fran Morris**  
is OHCA Chairman

**Linda Brooke Stabler**  
is OHCA Secretary/Treasurer

**Contact OHCA**  
about cemetery business at:  
1724 NW 42nd St.  
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